

Study #3 Outline

Faith for the End-Times

1. John 14:26

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

–What is the promise here? —That the Holy Spirit will teach us all things.

–Do we want to be taught by the Holy Spirit? If so, what must we do?

a. *Review and Herald*, March 22, 1887; (quotation #3-1)

There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out his Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation. ... When the way is prepared for the Spirit of God, the blessing will come.

–If we want to be taught by the Holy Spirit we must “clear the way by removing every hindrance” —get rid of anything that might be standing between us and God, and open ourselves up to Him.

Part 1 **The Importance of Faith**

2. Proverbs 22:3

Wise people foresee trouble coming and avoid it, but foolish people keep going and suffer.

–What potential trouble have we been warned about in the following quotation that we would be wise to foresee and avoid?

a. *Great Controversy*, page 621-622; (quotation #3-2)

The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger—a faith that will not faint though severely tried. . . .

Those who exercise but little faith now, are in the greatest danger of falling under the power of satanic delusions and the decree to compel the conscience. And even if they endure the test they will be plunged into deeper distress and anguish in the time of trouble, because they have never made it a habit to trust in God. The lessons of faith which they have neglected they will be forced to learn under a terrible pressure of discouragement.

–Those who exercise little faith now will have more distress during the Time of Trouble. The Time of Trouble will be bad enough as it is! Why make things worse on us?

- So if we want to avoid extra suffering during the Time of Trouble, what should we do? We should develop the habit of trusting God and exercising Faith now

–So let's study about Faith. Notice the role Faith played in Eve's encounter with the serpent at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

3. Genesis 3:1-6

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "

Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

–God and Satan were telling Eve exactly the opposite! God was essentially saying, 'Don't eat this fruit, it will be bad for you.' Whereas Satan said, 'Eat the fruit, it will be good for you!'

- a. So Eve's choice was based on: Who did she believe? Who did she trust? Who did she have Faith in? Unfortunately, she made the wrong choice.

–Notice what the following quotation says about "every failure."

- b. *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 657; (quotation #3-3)

Every failure on the part of the children of God is due to their lack of faith.

–"Every failure" is due to a "*lack of Faith*" —so we still have the same issue that Eve had!

- c. Since everything went wrong on this planet over the issue of Faith, Faith is essential to make things right again.

–But look at what Jesus says about finding Faith when He comes.

4. Luke 18:8

. . . Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?

–From the way Jesus words this statement, it sounds like it is doubtful that He will find any Faith when He comes!

a. May we determine that although He may not find much Faith on the earth, at least He will find it in us!

–So we need to learn what Faith is, and how to exercise it.

Part 2 **The ‘Four Steps to Great Faith’**

5. *Education*, page 253; (quotation #3-4)

How to exercise faith should be made very plain.

–As important as Faith is, it is probably safe to say that all the stories in the Bible are an illustration of Faith. The people in the story either exercised Faith, or showed a lack of Faith, and in the story, we get to see the results.

–Looking at the Bible’s stories this way, we begin to notice a pattern. Some stories illustrate this pattern very well, with other stories you might have to ‘read between the lines’ a bit to see the pattern. So let’s look at some of the Bible’s stories that will help us discover this pattern.

6. Luke 7:1-10 –The centurion with ‘Great Faith’

–This story is a good illustration of the pattern which, (for lack of a better term), we will call the ‘Four Steps to Great Faith.’ As we will describe this pattern here, we will be generalizing a bit based on the other stories and teaching in the Bible.

Now when He concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum. And a certain centurion’s servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die. So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant. And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, “for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue.”

Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, “Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof. Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man placed under authority, having

soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick.

—Jesus said that this centurion didn't just have faith, he had 'Great Faith!' —greater even than what He had found in Israel! —which would include His own disciples! (because they were Israelites). Would you like to have this kind of Great Faith? Let's study this story to find out how we can have this same kind of Great Faith.

—What is the first thing we find out about the centurion, (aside from the fact that he is a centurion)? He had a sick servant —he recognized his need. So the first step is to:

(1) Recognize our Need

—This is significant because Laodicea, symbolic of the church in the last days, doesn't recognize its need —Laodicea doesn't even get to the first 'step!'

- Revelation 3:17

Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.

—The second 'step' is what the centurion did about his need.

(2) Take our need to Jesus

—But how we come to Jesus is significant:

- Notice that the Jews say the centurion deserves for Jesus to do this for him. And all through the 'Gospels' we find that the Jews feel entitled to God's blessings, (because they are children of the promises made to Abraham). But note that the centurion himself says *he isn't worthy*. —Like the centurion, Great Faith has true humility.
- Unlike Lucifer, who wanted to have even God's position, (see Isaiah 14:12-15), the centurion was content to fill his place in the chain of command. —Great Faith is submissive.
- And as he comes to Jesus, he trusts that Jesus will do what needs to be done to heal the servant —Great Faith trusts God's wisdom and God's way of doing things, (see Isaiah 55:8-9).

- So if we would have Great Faith, when we take our need to Jesus, we need to come to Him with an attitude of humble, submissive, trust.

–The third ‘step’ is what the centurion asked Jesus for to accomplish the healing. He asked Jesus to just —say the word. So ‘step’ three is to:

(3) Obtain the Word of God regarding our situation

–The centurion may not have known much about God or Jesus, but he recognized that when Jesus said something, it happened! There is *creative power* in God’s word. Remember the old memory verse?

- Psalm 33:6, 9

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

For He spoke, and it was done;
He commanded, and it stood fast.

–Before we go to the next ‘step,’ we need to bring out a point that we don’t find in this particular story but which some people get tangled up with. Although the Centurion was able to physically take his need directly to Jesus and obtain the Word regarding his situation, we may have to search the Word to find out what it says about our situations. Remember Jesus promised,

- Matthew 7:7

. . . Seek, and you will find; . . .

–If we don’t “seek,” can we expect to “find?”

–Remember also what Jesus said about the servant who buried his talent.

Matthew 25:26

But his lord answered and said to him, “You wicked and lazy servant, . . .”

–Even though he claimed to be a ‘servant’ of the master, he was called “wicked” and “lazy,” and cast out of the master’s kingdom at the end of the story.

--The master had given this servant a talent to take care of, and by safely burying it, he assumed that he was doing what he had been asked to do. After he buried the talent, he felt he was free to do whatever he wanted for the rest of time the master was gone. Here we see that he was actually serving himself, not the master! No wonder he was cast out.

–There have been those who have said, “If I only knew what God wanted me to do, I’d do it.” And like the servant in this parable, even though they are given plenty of time to “seek” for the Word of God regarding their situation, they are too lazy to find out what they should do. Let’s not be deceived here. Jesus considers willful ignorance to be “wicked and lazy.”

–Once the centurion obtained the word, (see also Matthew 8:13), he went home and found the servant healed. So ‘step’ four is to:

(4) Act on the Word of God

–We’ll talk more about this fourth ‘step’ in the next couple of stories we look at.

–To summarize, the Four Steps to Great Faith are:

- (1) Recognize our Need
- (2) Take our need to Jesus —with an attitude of humble, submissive, trust
- (3) Obtain the Word of God regarding our situation
- (4) Act on the Word of God

–This next story illustrates these same Four Steps

7. 2 Kings 5 –The story of Naaman the leper.

- (1) Naaman Recognized his Need —He had leprosy
- (2) He Took his need to Jesus —Via the prophet Elisha
- (3) He Obtained the Word of God regarding his situation —‘Go wash in the Jordan river seven times’
- (4) However, he didn’t want to Act on the Word. He even got mad about it! But, when he calmed down and listened to the advice of his servant, he Acted on the Word and was healed.

a. Like Naaman, we don’t always want to do what God tells us to do. We don’t want to Act on the Word

b. But when we do Act on the Word, God fulfills His promises for us.

–Before we leave this story, let’s notice what Naaman says in verse 11 right after he was told to wash in the river,

But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, “Indeed, I said to myself, ‘He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.’”

–God frequently doesn't do what we expect Him to do! Remember Isaiah 55:8-9.

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord.
“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts.”

–So it is important for us to follow the counsel in Proverbs 3:5-6.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.

–Let's live by Faith! —“trusting in *the Lord*,” and *not* leaning on *our own* understanding —like Naaman did at first. Let's acknowledge God in all our ways and be willing to take the time to seek Him and what He has said in His Word regarding our situations, and then to Act in harmony with His Word.

–There is also another point in this story that we need to bring out. Naaman's focus was simply on being healed. Whereas, rather than just meeting his need, God was more interested in teaching him some important lessons in character development. To be more specific: from his response, we see that Naaman needed to develop humility and submissiveness. He also needed to learn the importance of personal cleanliness. Because, although there is a high risk that the children of lepers will also get leprosy, they won't get the disease if they will simply develop the habit of washing themselves regularly —so even if you have to wash in a muddy river, it is better than not washing at all! Similarly, when we Take our Needs to Jesus, our focus may just be on what our need is at the time. However, we can expect that along with meeting our needs, Jesus will also be trying to teach us some important character development lessons.

Part 3 **Jacob's Faith for Jacob's Time of Trouble**

8. Genesis 31:1-3, 17-18 –The Four Steps illustrated in the story of Jacob

Genesis 31:1-3

Now Jacob heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, “Jacob has taken away all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has acquired all this wealth.” And Jacob saw the countenance of Laban, and indeed it was not favorable toward him as before.

–Things aren't going well between him and Uncle Laban any more.

(1) Jacob Recognizes his Need

(2) He Takes his Need to Jesus

–Although this second ‘step’ isn’t specifically mentioned in this story, it’s safe to assume that Jacob Took his Need to Jesus because in the very next verse God answers and tells him what to do.

Genesis 31:3

Then the Lord said to Jacob, “Return to the land of your fathers and to your family, and I will be with you.”

(3) He Obtains the Word of God regarding his situation

Genesis 31:17-18

Then Jacob rose and set his sons and his wives on camels. And he carried away all his livestock and all his possessions which he had gained, his acquired livestock which he had gained in Padan Aram, to go to his father Isaac in the land of Canaan.

(4) He Acts on the Word of God

a. But, as in Faith, Jacob Acts on the Word, he gets into trouble.

Genesis 32:3-6

Then Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. . . . Then the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, “We came to your brother Esau, and he also is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him.”

–Esau is coming after him with 400 men! Imagine what Satan is tempting Jacob with at this point. ‘You’ve tried this “Acting in Faith” thing. Now look at all the trouble it has gotten you into! You and your family are all going to get killed! You had better give up on Faith, and get out of here!’

–So what is Jacob going to do? Is he going to give up on Faith?

• James 1:2-3

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

–All of our trials and temptations, including all we will be going through during the Time of Trouble, as intense as that is going to be, are just a test of our Faith. Are going to stay faithful, or are we going to let go of our Faith?

• John 6:66-69

From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?”

But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

–Satan knows that as long as we stay connected to Jesus, (see John 15:4-5), he can’t get us, (see John 10:28-29). So he is constantly trying to tempt us to *choose* to let go of God. Are we going to continue to hang on to our Faith in God? Or are we going to let go of Him?

b. Jeremiah 30:7

Alas! For that day is great,
So that none is like it;
And it is the time of Jacob’s trouble,
But he shall be saved out of it.

–It is called “the time of Jacob’s trouble” to call our attention to Jacob’s story, and because we will need the same kind of Faith that Jacob had in order to make it through ‘Jacob’s Time of Trouble.’

–So, what does Jacob do?

c. Genesis 32:9-12 –Jacob continues to Act in Faith. He Takes his new Need to Jesus in prayer.

Then Jacob said, “O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the Lord who said to me, ‘Return to your country and to your family, and I will deal well with you’: I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies. Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and attack me and the mother with the children. For You said, ‘I will surely treat you well, and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.’ ”

–Based on Jacob’s prayer here, we find Four Additional Points describing Jacob’s Faith:

- (1) Persist in Faith, and continue to take any new needs to Jesus —Notice that like Peter in John 6:68, Jacob says, ‘I will not let You go!’ (Genesis 32:26.)

(2) Be in the situation we are in *because we have been doing what God told us to do* —Notice that Jacob reminds God that *He* was the One who told him to “Return to your country and to your family.”

(3) *Humbly* claim God’s promises —Notice how, like the centurion, Jacob says, “I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies.” His recognizes that his sin had caused this problem in the first place. But now he is being obedient, so he can humbly claim God’s promise and pray, “Deliver me, I pray, . . . For *You said*, ‘I will surely treat you well.’”

–See Genesis 32:13-20, and notice that after Jacob prays, he sends presents to Esau attempting to appease him.

–What’s happening now? Is Jacob trying to save himself, just in case God doesn’t come through for him? Does this show that Jacob is still human, and has a few things to learn yet about trusting wholly in God? Before we answer these questions, let’s look at a couple other examples in Scripture.

- Hebrews 11:7

By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, . . .

–So when Noah was building the ark, he was Acting in Faith. Notice what the following quotations says about Noah’s faith, about the way the ark was built, and about his need to trust wholly in God.

Patriarchs and Prophets, page 95; (quotation #3-5)

All that man could do was done to render the work perfect, yet the ark could not of itself have withstood the storm which was to come upon the earth. God alone could preserve His servants upon the tempestuous waters. While Noah was giving his warning message to the world, his works testified of his sincerity. It was thus that his faith was perfected and made evident. He gave the world an example of believing just what God says. All that he possessed, he invested in the ark. . . . Every blow struck upon the ark was a witness to the people.

–Remember, Noah was Acting in Faith when he was building the ark. His example is even in the famous ‘Faith Chapter! Yet, “*All that man could do was done.*” And “*All that he possessed, he invested in the ark.*”

–Notice also that even though they did all that they could do, it says that, “the ark could not of itself have withstood the storm which was to come upon the earth. *God alone* could preserve His servants upon the tempestuous waters.”

—Now, we may ask: If *God alone* could save them, why did they have to spend a *hundred and twenty years* of their time, and *all* that they possessed to build it? And why did they have to be so particular in the way it was built? Can it be that our idea of what Faith is nowadays needs to change? Let's look at another example.

• *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 290; (quotation #3-6)

God in His providence brought the Hebrews into the mountain fastnesses before the sea, that He might manifest His power in their deliverance and signally humble the pride of their oppressors. He might have saved them in any other way, but He chose this method in order to test their faith and strengthen their trust in Him. The people were weary and terrified, yet if they had held back when Moses bade them advance, God would never have opened the path for them. It was "by faith" that "they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land." Hebrews 11:29. In marching down to the very water, they showed that they believed the word of God as spoken by Moses. They did all that was in their power to do, and then the Mighty One of Israel divided the sea to make a path for their feet.

The great lesson here taught is for all time. Often the Christian life is beset by dangers, and duty seems hard to perform. The imagination pictures impending ruin before and bondage or death behind. Yet the voice of God speaks clearly, "Go forward." We should obey this command, even though our eyes cannot penetrate the darkness, and we feel the cold waves about our feet. The obstacles that hinder our progress will never disappear before a halting, doubting spirit. Those who defer obedience till every shadow of uncertainty disappears and there remains no risk of failure or defeat, will never obey at all. Unbelief whispers, "Let us wait till the obstructions are removed, and we can see our way clearly;" but faith courageously urges an advance, hoping all things, believing all things.

—Notice that God "might have saved them in any other way, but He chose this method in order to *test their faith* and *strengthen their trust in Him*." So God had the people do what they did here in order to strengthen their faith and trust in Him.

—Notice also that, like Noah, "They did all that was in their power to do, and *then* the Mighty One of Israel divided the sea to make a path for their feet." Can it be that trusting wholly in God *includes* doing all that is in our power to do?

—Now, our human reasoning would tell us that if we do any little part of it then it is not *wholly* God's doing. But apparently that is the problem —this is *human* reasoning, and God doesn't think the same way we do! (See Isaiah 55:8-9.)

—Here we find that Acting in Faith means to "*Go Forward*" in Faith, not just to pray about it and then sit back, expecting God to take care of everything for us!

—If we *expect* God to take care of everything for us, then wouldn't that show that we actually felt entitled, and that we *are* worthy for God to do things for us —and

because sensing our unworthiness is an important part of true Faith, it therefore wouldn't be true faith?

—While we are looking at this quotation, let's also notice that it says that God "*might* have saved them in any other way, but *He chose* this method." We need to be careful that we don't try to tell God how to save us! This would not be being either humble or submissive. Remember, Lucifer was the one who thought God should change the way He had things planned out to make things more suitable and agreeable. (See PP 38.) So, let's let God be God, and let Him choose how He is going to take care of us.

—Jacob knew that God had told him to go back to his home and family. He also knew that if he was going to do this, he would somehow *have* to make peace with Esau. So by sending Esau presents Jacob wasn't stepping aside from Faith, he was doing all that was in his power to 'Go Forward' in Faith. Therefore, the fourth Additional Point is to:

(4) Do all that is in our power to do to 'Go Forward' in Faith

d. Genesis 32:29, 33:4 —That night, after wrestling with the Angel, God blesses Jacob. He also gave Esau a dream. And later the next day, Jacob and Esau meet in peace.

Part 4 **The 'Faith of Jesus'**

9. Revelation 14:12

Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

—Notice that this verse comes right after verses 6-11 —which are the Three Angel's Messages! Those who make it through to the end will have heeded the 3 Angel's Messages, and they need to have the "Faith of Jesus."

—Since we will need the "Faith of Jesus" to make it through *our greatest trial*, we can expect to find the Faith of Jesus demonstrated at *His greatest trial* —which was in the garden of Gethsemane. Notice Jesus' prayer,

a. Matthew 26:39

He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

—Jesus, in His "humanity shrunk from the last, crowning sacrifice." —*Desire of Ages*, page 690; (quotation #3-7). He dreaded having to go through what He was going to

experience in the next 20, or so, hours. But His prayer reveals a complete trust in, and submission to God plan.

b. This was necessary in order to counter Lucifer's claim that God's plan needed to be changed.

Patriarchs and Prophets, page 38; (quotation #3-8)

[Lucifer] While claiming for himself perfect loyalty to God, he urged that changes in the order and laws of heaven were necessary for the stability of the divine government.

c. The 'Faith of Jesus' believes that God's way is best, and therefore it leads us to choose His way:

Education, page 253; (quotation #3-9)

Faith is trusting God —believing that He loves us and knows best what is for our good. Thus, instead of our own, it leads us to choose His way. . . .

Ministry of Healing, page 479 / *Desire of Ages*, pages 224 225; (quotation #3-10)

God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him.

—Believing that in the end, God's way will work out for the best is what sustained Jesus though all that He suffered during His life on earth.

Hebrews 12:2

. . . For the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, . . .

Acts of the Apostles, page 601; (quotation #3-11)

What sustained the Son of God during His life of toil and sacrifice? He saw the results of the travail of His soul and was satisfied. Looking into eternity, He beheld the happiness of those who through His humiliation had received pardon and everlasting life. His ear caught the shout of the redeemed. He heard the ransomed ones singing the song of Moses and the Lamb.

—Similarly, we may dread having to go through the things that we will experience during the Time of Trouble. However, in all these things we can continue to trust that, in the end, it will be seen that God's way really is the best —and, we will also have the opportunity to help counter Lucifer's claim by our Faith and submission to God's plan.

Part 5 **Faith -vs- Presumption**

10. *The Desire of Ages*, page 126; (quotation #3-12)

But faith is in no sense allied to presumption. Only he who has true faith is secure against presumption. For presumption is Satan's counterfeit of faith. Faith claims God's promises, and brings forth fruit in obedience. Presumption also claims the promises, but uses them as Satan did, to excuse transgression. . . . Genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of the Scriptures.

–“Presumption is Satan's counterfeit of faith.” So we need to study a bit about presumption.

a. “Only he who has true faith is secure against presumption.”

–How important then that we have true Faith!

b. *Testimonies to the Church Vol. 4*, page 44-45; (quotation #3-13)

Presumption is a common temptation, and as Satan assails men with this, he obtains the victory nine times out of ten. ... The promises of God are not for us rashly to claim while we rush on recklessly into danger, violating the laws of nature and disregarding prudence and the judgment with which God has endowed us. This is the most flagrant presumption.

–When Satan tempts us with presumption he obtains the victory 9 times out of ten! This is because,

• *Confrontation*, page 48; (quotation #3-14)

The sin of presumption lies close beside the virtue of perfect faith and confidence in God.

– “Presumption lies *close beside* ... faith.” How important then that we understand what Faith is, and what it is not!

–Jesus’ second ‘temptation in the wilderness’ was to be presumptuous.

11. Matthew 4:5-6

Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’ and, ‘In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

–Why would throwing yourself off a pinnacle of the temple even be a temptation? Consider what Jesus was at this point —just a relatively unknown Galilean peasant. How was He even going to get people to listen to Him and His message? Remember also that the Jews were always asking for a sign. So, if He were to throw Himself off of the temple, and have the angels catch Him and bear Him gently to the ground, it would have given Jesus’ ministry instant recognition!

a. But Jesus wanted to be known for healing the sick, (both physically and spiritually), and for teaching God’s Word —not for spectacular special effects!

b. *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 3*, page 482; (quotation #3-15)

Satan urges men into places where God does not require them to go, and presents scripture to justify his suggestions.

–Notice how Satan twisted the scripture as he tempted Jesus. He does the same thing with us! So it is important for us to know what the Bible says.

c. *Confrontation*, pages 84-86; (quotation #3-16)

There are many who fail to distinguish between the rashness of presumption and the intelligent confidence of faith. ...

God has given man precious promises upon conditions of faith and obedience; but they are not to sustain him in any rash act. If men needlessly place themselves in peril, and go where God does not require them to go, and self-confidently expose themselves to danger, disregarding the dictates of reason, God will not work a miracle to relieve them. He will not send His angels to preserve any from being burned if they choose to place themselves in the fire.

–God won’t work a miracle if we needlessly place ourselves in danger.

d. To put it simply then, presumption is claiming God’s promises without Acting in harmony with the Word.

Part 6 **Should We, or Should We Not Physically Prepare**

12. As an illustration of what we have been talking about in this study, let’s consider a question that has important implications for all of us: Should we, or should we not physically prepare for the end-times? To put it another way, would physically preparing be Acting in Faith or would it actually show a *lack* of Faith?

–Let’s begin by looking at a quotation that is commonly referred to when discussing this topic.

13. *Early Writings*, pages 56; (quotation #3-17)

The Lord has shown me repeatedly that it is contrary to the Bible to make any provision for our temporal wants in the time of trouble.

–Are we being told in here here *not* to physically prepare for the Time of Trouble? Many believe that this is exactly what it's saying.

–But it is not that simple. Let's look at another quotation which has very similar sentence structure.

a. *Country Living*, pages 9-10, (Letter 5, 1904; also on 2SM 141); (quotation #3-18)

Again and again the Lord has instructed that our people are to take their families away from the cities, into the country, where they can raise their own provisions; for in the future the problem of buying and selling will be a very serious one.

–Notice that both of these quotations deal with instructions that have been given repeatedly. Both are also referring to the Time of Trouble, since that is when we won't be able to buy or sell.

–Yet, one quote says that we are *not* to make *any* provisions, whereas the other tells us to get set up in the country where we *can* raise our own provisions. What do we do with these quotations? They seem to be saying just the opposite!

b. *Great Controversy* page 371; (quotation #3-19)

One saying of the Saviour must not be made to destroy another.

–Obviously, we need to study this more deeply!

–In looking at the rest of the paragraph of the *Early Writings*, page 56 quotation, (which we will read in a minute), we find a definite wilderness context. Which would indicate that this quotation refers to the time when we flee to the “most desolate and solitary places” during the final part of the Time of Trouble during the time when the Seven Last Plagues are being poured out. On the other hand the time when we are not able to buy or sell will happen during the first part of the Time of Trouble, before the Plagues and our flight to the wilderness. (Remember, the Close of Probation happens just before the Plagues, so it is roughly the dividing point between the first and last parts of the Time of Trouble.) So the simple explanation, is that these two quotes are giving us different instructions for these two different time periods.

c. So, do the ‘rules’ change after the Close of Probation as some have implied? In other words, *are* we supposed to prepare for not being able to buy or sell, but *not* supposed to prepare for fleeing to the most desolate and solitary places? Or to put it another way, there are those who feel that *before* the Close of Probation, we have to ‘do our part’ in providing for our provisions, but *after* Probation Closes we are not supposed to do anything and just “trust wholly in God.”

–However, Malachi 3:6 says, “I am the Lord, I do not change,” and Hebrews 13:8 says, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” So, since God doesn’t change, the ‘rules’ must not change either!

d. Before we go any further with this, let’s read the rest of the paragraph of the *Early Writings*, page 56-57 quotation and the first sentence of the following paragraph. As we read it, notice the wilderness context. Notice also that the main issue here is “trusting wholly in God” —just like Noah, Jacob and Jesus did.

The Lord has shown me repeatedly that it is contrary to the Bible to make any provision for our temporal wants in the time of trouble. I saw that if the saints had food laid up by them or in the field in the time of trouble, when sword, famine, and pestilence are in the land, it would be taken from them by violent hands and strangers would reap their fields. Then will be the time for us to trust wholly in God, and He will sustain us. I saw that our bread and water will be sure at that time, and that we shall not lack or suffer hunger; for God is able to spread a table for us in the wilderness. If necessary He would send ravens to feed us, as He did to feed Elijah, or rain manna from heaven, as He did for the Israelites.

Houses and lands will be of no use to the saints in the time of trouble, for they will then have to flee before infuriated mobs, and at that time their possessions cannot be disposed of to advance the cause of present truth.

–Notice in this last sentence that, the “cause of present truth” cannot be advanced. So this quotation is referring to after the Close of Probation when every case has already been decided and there is no point in further evangelism.

–Also note that this sentences starts out, “houses and lands will be of no use to the saints,” during this part of the Time of Trouble. During the time when we will be raising our own provisions, “houses and lands” *will* be of use to the saints. But after we flee from our country homes to live in the “most desolate and solitary places,” we obviously won’t have any “use” for them anymore.

–So all this goes together with the wilderness context in the first paragraph and lets us know that this quotation is referring to the final part of the Time of Trouble.

–Keep in mind that the main issue in this whole quotation is about our need to “trust wholly in God.”

–Let’s look at another quotation. Notice that it is also about the “necessity of trusting in God,” and refers to lessons Jesus gave that apply “through *all* ages” —there is no change in the ‘rules’ here!

14. *Steps to Christ*, page 123; (quotation #3-20)

In His Sermon on the Mount, Christ taught His disciples precious lessons in regard to the necessity of trusting in God. These lessons were designed to encourage the

children of God through all ages, and they have come down to our time full of instruction and comfort. The Saviour pointed His followers to the birds of the air as they warbled their carols of praise, unencumbered with thoughts of care, for "they sow not, neither do they reap." And yet the great Father provides for their needs. The Saviour asks, "Are ye not much better than they?" Matthew 6:26. The great Provider for man and beast opens His hand and supplies all His creatures. The birds of the air are not beneath His notice. He does not drop the food into their bills, but He makes provision for their needs. They must gather the grains He has scattered for them. They must prepare the material for their little nests. They must feed their young.

- a. This quote is about God providing for the birds, and if He provides for the birds, how much more will He provide for us! But, notice that "He does not drop the food into their bills!"
- b. The birds have to go out and gather, and then make what they need from what God provides in nature.

–One of the "lessons" here is that although God has promised to provide for us, He isn't going to drop the food in our mouths! That isn't the way He works.

15. Where will we be in the very end, during "Jacob's Time of Trouble?" (Jeremiah 30:7)

–We'll be in the wilderness

- a. Why will we be there?

–Because Jesus told us to, "flee to the mountains" during this time.



–Note that this goes along with the 2nd Additional Point of Jacob's prayer: to be in the situation we are in because we have been Acting according to the Word.

–Since God has promised to provide for us, we can claim the following promise, which goes with the 3rd Additional Point of Jacob's prayer.

16. Isaiah 33:16

He will dwell on high;
His place of defense will be the fortress of rocks;
Bread will be given him,
His water will be sure.

–But how is God going to provide for us?

- a. There *are* quotations that say, “angels provided them food and water,” (see EW 201). And, the last sentence of the first paragraph of the Early Writings, page 56-57 quotation that we have been studying, talks about God sending “ravens to feed us,” or raining “manna from heaven.” However, as we learned earlier, even though God has promised to provide for us, He isn’t going to drop the food into our mouths —that simply isn’t the way He works. And in the same way, He probably won’t just hand it to us, ready to eat, either. So, if we *expect* that God *is* going to do this for us, wouldn’t that be the same a bird expecting God to drop the food into its bill? And wouldn’t that essentially be feeling that we ‘deserve’ for Him to do this? Which would not be the humility part of faith we talked about earlier, and therefore it would not be true Faith.
- b. Let’s re-read that last sentence of the first paragraph of that Early Writings, page 56-57 quotation, (#3-14), which we have been studying. Pay special attention to the first two words. It says,

If necessary He would send ravens to feed us, as He did to feed Elijah, or rain manna from heaven, as He did for the Israelites.

- So how is God planning to provide for us if the ravens and manna *aren’t* necessary?
- The sentence just before this one talks about God being able to “spread a table for us in the wilderness,” which sounds very similar to how He provides for the birds.
- c. In other words, just like the birds, we too will have to to out and gather and make what we need from what God provides in nature. “If necessary” He will have the angels, or ravens, or manna feed us. But since the ‘rules’ don’t change, we should plan on, and prepare for, gathering and making things from what has for us in nature. This means we are going to have to learn about wild edible plants and the other resources that God has placed in nature.

- Some native groups had a concept that they called the ‘sacred hunt.’ It is essentially the same as Matthew 7:7, Philippians 4:19 put together.

. . . Seek, and you will find . . .

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

- The native concept was that as they prayed and went out hunting, the Creator would somehow bring them and what they needed together –which is essentially the same lesson that we got from the birds. In other word, Jesus said “Seek, and you will find.” This is a conditional promise. If we don’t “seek,” God isn’t going to drop it in our laps. But as we “seek,” He will “provide.”

- This goes together with the *Desire of Ages*, page 126 quotation we looked at earlier, “Faith claims God's promises, and brings forth fruit in obedience” —doing

our part in “seeking”— “Presumption also claims the promises, but uses them as Satan did, to excuse transgression” —lazily expecting God to drop the food in our laps.

d. We will also need to know what to “seek” for.

—For example, suppose that in the wilderness that God leads us to a big patch of wild edibles. But because we haven’t prepared and learned about wild edible plants, we don’t recognize that we can eat them. Would it be God’s fault or our fault that we go hungry?

—Similarly, in Matthew 6:25, Jesus pointed out that there is more to life than just food. And there is a lot more to life in the wilderness than just wild edible plants. So, since we *have been told* that we *will be* living in the wilderness, would it be God’s fault, or our fault, that we end up uncomfortable, or cold, as well as hungry if we don’t “Go Forward” in Faith and prepare by doing what we can to learn what to gather and how to make things from what He provides in nature?

17. Before we close, let’s go back take one more look at that first sentence of the *Early Writings*, page 56 quotation.

The Lord has shown me repeatedly that it is contrary to the Bible to make any provision for our temporal wants in the time of trouble.

—So what does it mean to not “make any provision for our temporal wants?”

a. Looking at the context, the very next sentence says,

I saw that if the saints had food laid up by them or in the field in the time of trouble, when sword, famine, and pestilence are in the land, it would be taken from them by violent hands and strangers would reap their fields.

—In other words, we should not try to stock up enough “provisions” to last until Jesus comes —something we might be tempted to do given our current ‘consumer mentality.’

b. And by extension, we shouldn’t try to carry enough “provisions” to last until Jesus comes in our backpacks when we flee either! Besides, that would make for a really heavy pack! If we had to flee from an angry mob, as we read about earlier we would probably drop that pack and run —ending up with nothing! Our packs therefore, should be light-weight and low-bulk —something we can “flee” with— containing only key equipment for wilderness living, and an initial supply of provisions.

18. Let’s look at one last example.

Patriarchs and Prophets, page 290

God in His providence brought the Hebrews into the mountain fastnesses before the sea, that He might manifest His power in their deliverance and signally humble the pride of their oppressors. He might have saved them in any other way, but He chose this method in order to test their faith and strengthen their trust in Him. The people were weary and terrified, yet if they had held back when Moses bade them advance, God would never have opened the path for them. It was "by faith" that "they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land." Hebrews 11:29. In marching down to the very water, they showed that they believed the word of God as spoken by Moses. They did all that was in their power to do, and then the Mighty One of Israel divided the sea to make a path for their feet.

The great lesson here taught is for all time. Often the Christian life is beset by dangers, and duty seems hard to perform. The imagination pictures impending ruin before and bondage or death behind. Yet the voice of God speaks clearly, "Go forward." We should obey this command, even though our eyes cannot penetrate the darkness, and we feel the cold waves about our feet. The obstacles that hinder our progress will never disappear before a halting, doubting spirit. Those who defer obedience till every shadow of uncertainty disappears and there remains no risk of failure or defeat, will never obey at all. Unbelief whispers, "Let us wait till the obstructions are removed, and we can see our way clearly;" but faith courageously urges an advance, hoping all things, believing all things.

–To put all these ideas together, to “trust wholly in God” means to trust in who and what God really is. To trust in *His* wisdom and in the way *He* chooses to do things. *Not* to lean on our own understanding, imposing *our* way of thinking and doing things on Him and expecting Him to live up to our ideals, (see Prov 3:5-6). Then, we “Go Forward” in Faith, doing all that is in our power to do—which, in this case, would include doing all we can to prepare for what we have been “divinely warned” is going to happen.

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~ to prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord ~

Study Guide #3

Faith for the End-Times

1. Jn 14:26 –Do we want to be _____ by the Holy Spirit?
 - a. RH 3/22/1887 –If so, we must _____ the way by _____ every hindrance
- Part 1 2. Prov 22:3 –Wise people foresee trouble coming and _____ it, but foolish people keep going and suffer
 - a. GC 621-622 –Those who exercise little _____ now will have more difficulty
 - To avoid additional suffering in the Time of Trouble, we should develop the habit of _____ in God and exercising _____ now
3. Gen 3:1-6 –God and Satan were saying the exact _____
 - a. So Eve’s choice was based on: who did she _____
 - b. PP 657 –“Every failure” is due to a lack of _____
 - c. Since everything went wrong over faith, faith is essential to make things _____
4. Lk 18:8 –“When the Son of Man comes, will He really find _____ on the earth?”
 - a. Let’s determine that He will at least find faith in _____
5. Ed 253 –“How to exercise faith should be made very _____ .”
- Part 2 6. Lk 7:1-10 –The centurion with ‘ _____ faith’ → Four Steps to Great Faith
 - (1) Recognize our _____
 - Rev 3:17 –Note: Laodicea does not recognize its _____
 - (2) Take our need to _____
 - The Jews say he _____ for Jesus to do this —He says he isn’t _____
 - He is content to fill _____ in the chain of command —Lucifer wasn’t
 - He _____ that Jesus will do what needs to be done —he trusts God’s way
 - Come to Jesus with an attitude of _____ , _____ , _____
 - (3) Obtain the _____ of God regarding our situation
 - Ps 33:6, 9 –Recognizing the _____ of God’s Word
 - Matt 7:7, 25:26 –Be careful that we aren’t too lazy to _____ out the Word
 - (4) _____ on the Word
7. 2 Kings 5 –The 4 Steps illustrated in the story of _____
 - a. Like Naaman, sometimes we _____ want to Act on the Word
 - b. But when we _____ , God fulfills His promises for us

- Part 3 8. Gen 31:1-3, 17-18 –The 4 Steps illustrated in the story of _____
- a. Gen 32:3-6 –As Jacob, in faith Acts on the Word, he gets into _____
 - Ja 1:2-3 –All our trials and temptations are a _____ of our faith
 - Jn 6:68 –Are we going to _____ hanging on to God? Or let go?
 - b. Jer 30:7–We’ll need Jacob’s _____ to make it through Jacob’s Time of Trouble
 - c. Gen 32:9-29 –Jacob’s prays and Goes Forward in Faith
 - (1) _____ in faith: takes any new need to Jesus, ‘I will not let You go,’
 - (2) Be in the situation, because we’re doing what _____ us to do
 - (3) Humbly claim God’s _____ —‘I don’t *deserve* anything’
 - (4) Do _____ that is in our power to do to Go _____ in Faith
 - Heb 11:7, PP 95 – _____ man could do was _____, yet God _____ could save
 - PP 290 –God doesn’t open the way until we Go _____ in Faith
 - > We need to let God _____ how He will save us (PP 38)
 - d. Gen 32:29, 33:4 –God _____ Jacob, and he and Esau meet in peace
- Part 4 9. Rev 14:12 –To make it through the trials ahead, we will need the Faith of _____
- a. Matt 26:39 –In His humanity Jesus didn’t want to go through what He was facing, (DA 690), but His prayer reveals a complete trust in, and submission to God _____
 - b. PP 38, Ed 253, MH 479, Heb 12:2, AA 601 –Unlike Lucifer who felt that _____ needed to be made in God’s plan, the ‘Faith of Jesus’ leads us to _____ God’s way
- Part 5 10. DA 126 –“ _____ is Satan’s counterfeit of faith”
- a. “Only he who has _____ is secure against presumption.”
 - b. 4T 44-45 –When Satan tempts us with it he obtains the victory _____ times out of ten
 - Con 48 –This is because “presumption lies _____ ... faith”
11. Matt 4:5-6 –Throwing Himself off the temple would give Jesus’ ministry instant _____
- a. But He wanted known for: _____ and _____ the Word, not special effects
 - b. 3T 482 –“Satan urges men into places where God does _____ require them to go, and presents _____ to justify his suggestions.”
 - c. Con 84-86 –God won’t work a miracle if we needlessly place ourselves in _____
 - d. Presumption = claiming God’s promises without _____ in harmony with the word
- Part 6 12. Example: Is physically preparing for the end-times acting in faith or not? _____
13. EW 56-57 –Have we been told *not* to prepare for the Time of Trouble? _____
- a. CL 9-10 –When we are not able to Buy/Sell we are to _____ our own provisions
 - b. GC 371–“One saying of the Saviour must not be made to _____ another.”

- c. So do the 'rules' change after the Close of Probation? _____ (Mal 3:6, Heb 13:8)
- d. Note that the main issue in EW 56 is "trusting _____ in God" (like Noah, Jacob, and Jesus)
14. SC 123 –The "necessity of _____ in God," lessons that apply "through _____ ages"
- a. God provides for the birds, but, "He does not _____ the food into their _____"
- b. Birds have to gather and make what they need from what God provides _____
15. Where are we in the very end? (Jer 30:7) —In the _____
- a. Why are we there? — _____ said, _____ to the _____
16. Isa 33:16 –God has _____ to provide for us —How?
- a. If we expect Him to just hand food to us, wouldn't that = us 'deserving' for Him to do this? and therefore ≠ _____
- b. EW 56 "If necessary" –But what if manna _____ necessary?
- c. We'll get what we need from what God provides _____
- Matt 7:7, Phil 4:19 –As we _____, He will _____ (native 'sacred hunt')
- d. If we don't do all we can to learn what to gather and how to make things, will it be God's fault, or our fault, that we're uncomfortable, or cold, or hungry? _____
17. So what does it mean to not "make any provision for our temporal wants?"
- a. We should not try to _____ enough "provisions" to last until Jesus comes
- b. Similarly, we shouldn't try to _____ enough "provisions" to last until Jesus comes
18. PP 290 –We need to trust in the _____ God chooses and do _____ that is in our power to do —which would include preparing!



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~ to prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord ~

#3-1. *Review and Herald*, March 22, 1887

There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out his Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation. ... When the way is prepared for the Spirit of God, the blessing will come.

#3-2. *Great Controversy*, page 621-622

The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger—a faith that will not faint though severely tried. The period of probation is granted to all to prepare for that time. Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His victory is an evidence of the power of importunate prayer. All who will lay hold of God's promises, as he did, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded. Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonize before God, to pray long and earnestly for His blessing, will not obtain it. Wrestling with God—how few know what it is! How few have ever had their souls drawn out after God with intensity of desire until every power is on the stretch. When waves of despair which no language can express sweep over the suppliant, how few cling with unyielding faith to the promises of God.

Those who exercise but little faith now, are in the greatest danger of falling under the power of satanic delusions and the decree to compel the conscience. And even if they endure the test they will be plunged into deeper distress and anguish in the time of trouble, because they have never made it a habit to trust in God. The lessons of faith which they have neglected they will be forced to learn under a terrible pressure of discouragement.

#3-3. *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 657

Every failure on the part of the children of God is due to their lack of faith.

#3-4. *Education*, page 253

How to exercise faith should be made very plain.

#3-5. *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 95

All that man could do was done to render the work perfect, yet the ark could not of itself have withstood the storm which was to come upon the earth. God alone could preserve His servants upon the tempestuous waters.

While Noah was giving his warning message to the world, his works testified of his sincerity. It was thus that his faith was perfected and made evident. He gave the world an example of believing just what God says. All that he possessed, he invested in the ark. ... Every blow struck upon the ark was a witness to the people.

#3-6. *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 290

God in His providence brought the Hebrews into the mountain fastnesses before the sea, that He might manifest His power in their deliverance and signally humble the pride of their oppressors. He might have saved them in any other way, but He chose this method in order to test their faith and strengthen their trust in Him. The people were weary and terrified, yet if they had held back when Moses bade them advance, God would never have opened the path for them. It was "by faith" that "they passed through

the Red Sea as by dry land." Hebrews 11:29. In marching down to the very water, they showed that they believed the word of God as spoken by Moses. They did all that was in their power to do, and then the Mighty One of Israel divided the sea to make a path for their feet.

The great lesson here taught is for all time. Often the Christian life is beset by dangers, and duty seems hard to perform. The imagination pictures impending ruin before and bondage or death behind. Yet the voice of God speaks clearly, "Go forward." We should obey this command, even though our eyes cannot penetrate the darkness, and we feel the cold waves about our feet. The obstacles that hinder our progress will never disappear before a halting, doubting spirit. Those who defer obedience till every shadow of uncertainty disappears and there remains no risk of failure or defeat, will never obey at all. Unbelief whispers, "Let us wait till the obstructions are removed, and we can see our way clearly;" but faith courageously urges an advance, hoping all things, believing all things.

#3-7. *Desire of Ages*, page 690

Three times has He uttered that prayer. Three times has humanity shrunk from the last, crowning sacrifice.

#3-8 *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 38

[Lucifer] While claiming for himself perfect loyalty to God, he urged that changes in the order and laws of heaven were necessary for the stability of the divine government.

#3-9. *Education*, page 253

Faith is trusting God —believing that He loves us and knows best what is for our good. Thus, instead of our own, it leads us to choose His way. In place of our ignorance, it accepts His wisdom; in place of our weakness, His strength; in place of our sinfulness, His righteousness.

#3-10. *Ministry of Healing*, page 479 / *Desire of Ages*, pages 224 225

God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him.

#3-11. *Acts of the Apostles*, page 601

What sustained the Son of God during His life of toil and sacrifice? He saw the results of the travail of His soul and was satisfied. Looking into eternity, He beheld the happiness of those who through His humiliation had received pardon and everlasting life. His ear caught the shout of the redeemed. He heard the ransomed ones singing the song of Moses and the Lamb.

#3-12. *The Desire of Ages*, page 126

But faith is in no sense allied to presumption. Only he who has true faith is secure against presumption. For presumption is Satan's counterfeit of faith. Faith claims God's promises, and brings forth fruit in obedience. Presumption also claims the promises, but uses them as Satan did, to excuse transgression. . . . Genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of the Scriptures.

#3-13. *Testimonies to the Church Vol. 4*, page 44-45

Presumption is a common temptation, and as Satan assails men with this, he obtains the victory nine times out of ten. ... The promises of God are not for us rashly to claim while we rush on recklessly into danger, violating the laws of nature and disregarding prudence and the judgment with which God has endowed us. This is the most flagrant presumption.

#3-14. *Confrontation*, page 48

The sin of presumption lies close beside the virtue of perfect faith and confidence in God.

#3-15. *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 3*, page 482

Satan urges men into places where God does not require them to go, and presents scripture to justify his suggestions.

#3-16. *Confrontation*, pages 84-86

There are many who fail to distinguish between the rashness of presumption and the intelligent confidence of faith. ...

God has given man precious promises upon conditions of faith and obedience; but they are not to sustain him in any rash act. If men needlessly place themselves in peril, and go where God does not require them to go, and self-confidently expose themselves to danger, disregarding the dictates of reason, God will not work a miracle to relieve them. He will not send His angels to preserve any from being burned if they choose to place themselves in the fire.

#3-17. *Early Writings*, pages 56-57

The Lord has shown me repeatedly that it is contrary to the Bible to make any provision for our temporal wants in the time of trouble. I saw that if the saints had food laid up by them or in the field in the time of trouble, when sword, famine, and pestilence are in the land, it would be taken from them by violent hands and strangers would reap their fields. Then will be the time for us to trust wholly in God, and He will sustain us. I saw that our bread and water will be sure at that time, and that we shall not lack or suffer hunger; for God is able to spread a table for us in the wilderness. If necessary He would send ravens to feed us, as He did to feed Elijah, or rain manna from heaven, as He did for the Israelites.

Houses and lands will be of no use to the saints in the time of trouble, for they will then have to flee before infuriated mobs, and at that time their possessions cannot be disposed of to advance the cause of present truth.

#3-18. *Country Living*, pages 9-10, (Letter 5, 1904; also on 2SM 141)

Again and again the Lord has instructed that our people are to take their families away from the cities, into the country, where they can raise their own provisions; for in the future the problem of buying and selling will be a very serious one. We should now begin to heed the instruction given us over and over again: Get out of the cities into rural districts, where the houses are not crowded closely together, and where you will be free from the interference of enemies.

#3-19. *Great Controversy* page 371

One saying of the Saviour must not be made to destroy another.

#3-20. *Steps to Christ*, page 123

In His Sermon on the Mount, Christ taught His disciples precious lessons in regard to the necessity of trusting in God. These lessons were designed to encourage the children of God through all ages, and they have come down to our time full of instruction and comfort. The Saviour pointed His followers to the birds of the air as they warbled their carols of praise, unencumbered with thoughts of care, for "they sow not, neither do they reap." And yet the great Father provides for their needs. The Saviour asks, "Are ye not much better than they?" Matthew 6:26. The great Provider for man and beast opens His hand and supplies all His creatures. The birds of the air are not beneath His notice. He does not drop the food into their bills, but He makes provision for their needs. They must gather the grains He has scattered for them. They must prepare the material for their little nests. They must feed their young.

#3-21. *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 290

God in His providence brought the Hebrews into the mountain fastnesses before the sea, that He might manifest His power in their deliverance and signally humble the pride of their oppressors. He might have saved them in any other way, but He chose this method in order to test their faith and strengthen their trust in Him. The people were weary and terrified, yet if they had held back when Moses bade them advance, God would never have opened the path for them. It was "by faith" that "they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land." Hebrews 11:29. In marching down to the very water, they showed that they believed the word of God as spoken by Moses. They did all that was in their power to do, and then the Mighty One of Israel divided the sea to make a path for their feet.

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