

In these twenty-four brief lessons no attempt has been made to give more than a sampling of the various lines of information, instruction and counsel set forth in these books. Literally scores of equally vital topics await your further study of these precious volumes. We have tried to lay a firm foundation for the continuing profitable and interesting study of the Spirit of Prophecy – reading and rereading, comparing passage with passage, and turning often to your Bible, “the greater light” to which “the lesser light” of the Spirit of Prophecy writings ever leads.

Begin your more intensive study with whatever book you have at hand. Either read chapter-by-chapter, or consult CD Rom or the index of the volume you choose (or the general *Index to the Writings of Ellen White*) for help in exploring a specific topic about which you have wanted to know more. Let the CD Rom or the *Index* direct your study, subject by subject. Some individuals have blended the two methods with great personal profit. Another most helpful guide to topical study is C. L. Taylor’s *Outline Studies From the Testimonies*, a new and enlarged edition of which is now available.

If you do not now possess all the Ellen White books, read those you have – and then add others as you have opportunity. The ten books of the SOP that the EG White Estate and the General Conference have made available for the world field is a good start to have the basic books of the SOP in your possession. Check with your Conference for copies of this special 10 book edition.

As you study, remember that for the most part the Spirit of Prophecy counsels are primarily message to you personally. Your name may not appear in the books, but before you have read many pages you will find something that seems to have been written for you, at just this time. Remember, too, that Ellen White practiced the truth revealed to her in visions. Like Paul, she could say, “I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision.” Acts 26:19. You and I need to be obedient. And the prospect that we shall be is in direction proportion to our personal awareness and acceptance of the divine principles revealed as meant for us individually.

Again we say that to benefit any individual, the counsels must be wholeheartedly accepted, consistently applied, and sincerely brought to bear upon his daily life. The chastening of the Lord may sometimes by “grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. – Hebrews 12:11.

As you turn to the test sheet, you will find a number of heart questions that will help you to evaluate the lesions you have been studying. We earnestly invite you to “think of these things.”

And now with a twinge of regret we come to the end of this course – but we hope it has “whetted you appetite” to know more and still more of God’s wonderful PROPHETIC GUIDANCE IN THE ADVENT MOVEMENT.

Remember: **Believe in the Lord you God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. – 2 Chronicles 20:20.**

PROPHETIC GUIDANCE IN THE ADVENT MOVEMENT

THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY AND MY LIFE

Test Questions – Lesson 24

1. Answer these questions:

- Do we now have more – or less – evidence for belief that did (a) Thomas and other disciples who knew Jesus in person?
.....
(b) those who personally saw and heard Ellen G. White “in action”?
.....

2. On what do you base your conclusion?
.....
.....

3. In the meeting at Washington, H., of which Mrs. Farnsworth wrote, how were the young people affected?
.....
.....

3. Answer these questions:

- How many points are listed in Section 3 as reason why some people oppose or are indifferent to the Spirit of Prophecy?
.....
- Of these stumbling blocks, which do you recognize as most dangerous to your spiritual life and experience?
.....
.....



When the nature and mission of the Spirit of Prophecy was made clear to Mrs. S.M.I Henry, to what did she liken it?
.....
.....

2. Supply the words missing from this statement by A.G Daniells, who was long president of the General Conference:

During out of the years of my presidency of the General Conference, Mrs. White was my
.....

disregarded and He gave you up to Ways.”

5. Underline the words in parentheses which make this statement express your conviction:

Now that many years have passed since Mrs. White’s death, it is (more) (less) important that we clearly understand the nature and influence of the testimonies.

6. Please answer these decision questions:

- Do you accept Christ anew as your Lord and Saviour from sin?
.....
- Do you purpose to read and heed the messages He has sent through the Spirit of Prophecy?
.....

4. Fill in the words missing from this statement made by the angel concerning indifference to God’s messages through the Spirit of Prophecy:

“My Father taught, but would
..... taught. He spoke through, but you

3. Will you try to help your Adventist friends by encouraging them to enroll?
.....

THINK ON THESE THINGS (No written answer)

Are you satisfied to be living today? Or would you prefer to have live when Ellen G. White was beginning her work? Or perhaps when Jesus ministered in Judea and Galilee? Why?

Has any sin or inconsistency in your life been revealed to you through your study of the Spirit of Prophecy? What have you done about correcting this? Have you found peace by putting away this wrongdoing? Or is there inner turmoil because you are unwilling or lack of faith? Do you recognize these experience as evidence of God’s love in seeking to save your souls?

Should on hesitate or refuse to read the Spirit of Prophecy because the messages reveal personal weaknesses?



PROPHETIC GUIDANCE

GUIDING TEXT: And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, Oh Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. – 2 Chronicles 20:20.

1. See and Believe – Believe Without Seeing

Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou has seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed. – John 20:29.

Upon this point Mrs. White commented:

... The faith of Thomas would have been more pleasing to Christ if he had been willing to believe upon the testimony of his brethren. Should the world now follow the example Thomas, no one would believe unto salvation; for all who receive Christ must do so through the testimony of others. Many who are given to doubt excuse themselves by saying that if they had the evidence which Thomas had from his companions, they would believe. They do not believe that they have not only that evidence, but much more. – *Desire of Ages*, p. 807.

We who have lived to see the fruitage of the Christian faith, and have witnessed its world-girdling, expansion, surely have much more evidence for faith in the resurrected Christ than did Thomas and the disciples, who, with a small number of believers, were His only followers. Those who lived and walked and talked with Jesus were blessed; but, at least in part, they walked by sight. Those who have not seen Him in person must walk wholly in faith; but their faith is based on clear and certain evidences, and they receive the great blessing that God gives to the faith-full.

Nearly a half century has passed since God’s messenger, Ellen White, lived and moved among us. None living today knew her, heard her speak, and personally witnessed the wisdom and power of Christ at work in her ministry. This generation of eyewitnesses has passed. They had the evidence before them: they saw and heard; they believed and were blessed. We of the present and oncoming generations must believe entirely by faith. Yet we are blessed with more evidences upon which to base our faith than had the pioneers.

We have seen the prophecies fulfilled and fulfilling. The world-wide outreach of the three angels’ messages is evidence that the movement is led by God, harmony with the predictions of His messengers. We have seen the fruit of her writings in the lives of men and women. In the light of these facts, do we fully believe and accept the Spirit of Prophecy? or are some still inclined to be doubting Thomases?

Since the testimony of eyewitnesses constitutes a strong basis for confidence, and because most of us have not seen or heard Mrs. White in action, in this concluding lesson we present as it were a cap-sheaf of evidences that will be helpful to all.

First, the testimony of Mrs. Vesta J. Farnsworth concerning her husband, Eugene Farnsworth, and his father, as given in a letter written at St. Helena, California, on December 1921, to her nephew,

Prof. Guy Jorgensen. This account of God’s direct intervention in the life of an inconsistent believer, and his subsequent réclamation, includes the conversion of the son. By this episode the young man was won to Christ and also convinced that Mrs. White was divinely inspired. Here is Mrs. Farnsworth’s letter:

Your Uncle Eugene was seventy-three years old this week, and has spend forty-eight years of his life as a S. D. A. minister. He was converted before he was twenty in a meeting held at his home church [Washington, N. H.] conducted by Elder and Sister White and Elder J. N. Andrews, so he has been in touch with these laborers, or was while they lived, and hence knows something of their manner of life, and the fruits of the message they bore . . .

At the meeting . . . when Sister White rose to speak, her first remark was, “I have seen this congregation before.” . . . She then went on to give messages to different individuals present. To one came reproof, to another a message of comfort and encouragement. The Spirit of the Lord was present in power. All knew that she had previously had no opportunity of knowing these persons, and they were convinced that only God could give her a deep insight into character which her remarks revealed. The lad Eugene sat silent, thinking, and in his heart he said, “I wish she would tackle the case of my father.” Soon she turned toward the father and said, “This brother is living a double life. He is using tobacco, and that is not the worst of it, - he is deceiving his brethren, trying to make them believe that he does not use it.” The people all thought she had made a great mistake, but the boy and his brother and the mother of the family knew what Sister White said was true. Eugene has often seen him spit on the snow, and then

cover the stain with his foot so no mark was left. After the testimony borne by Sister White, the father rose, confessed that what she had said was the truth, promised to overcome the habit, and eventually did so.

About twenty young people were converted at that time, many of whom have been laborers in this cause as long as they lived, and some are still working. It was such experiences as these that gave the early believers in the message confidence that Sister White was chosen of God for a special work. – Ellen White Estate Document File, No. 475.

Second, the testimony of Roy M. Johnson, son of the well-known Bible teacher, O. A. Johnson, in a letter to Arthur L. White, December 9, 1957. Here we see how Spirit of Prophecy statements relating to the Johnson family were accurately fulfilled:

As you probably know I was kept out of the church until I was 59 years of age because of doubts cast in my mind by my foreman in Battle Creek in 1901 when our grandmother had just returned from Australia. Only when I resolved that doubt . . . was I finally baptised in 1940 Predictions made by your grandmother have touched me and my family three times I was working at the Review and Herald in December, 1902, on a rush commercial order at 7:30 in the evening when I smelled fire. The lights went out and I nearly strangled before I escaped down the fire escape. In a message sent to the manager by Mrs. White in November 1901, and later published in Volume 8 of the *Testimonies* [pp. 90 – 103], special warning was given that “calamity will overtake the publishing house” unless there was a change in the type of commercial work being done and in the manner in which the employees were treated. It was beautiful to read right after the fire the sweet letter your grandmother wrote the management of Review and Herald, stating how glad she was that no employees lost their lives in the fire. She said it was because she was shown that everyone would have another chance. I am gratefully that I have had that chance.

When I was baptized by Elder Nelson at the Guthrie camp meeting in 1940 Elder Smithwick held my watch and papers. When I came out of the water he wanted to know if I was the son of O. A. Johnson.

He told me that he studied the Bible with father at Walla Walla College. He said that they would often talk about his two unconverted sons, Roy and Harry. He used to grieve about the failure of us boys giving our hearts to Jesus. He said, however, he had been lately comforted when Mrs. White send word to him by mutual friends for him to quit worrying, as she had been shown that his sons would return to the faith.

Harry died some eight years ago of cancer, in a sanitarium at Pasadena Saturday morning. I had been unable to go to him because my wife had had a serious operation. I called my sister-in-law to tell her that I would be able to reach Pasadena Saturday morning. She told me over the phone that it was too late because when she had told him she looked for me over the weekend he ask her, “Who is Roy?”

At Wednesday night prayer meeting special prayer was made for Harry because he formerly lived here and many of the church people knew him personally. Prayer was made to the effect that if it was God’s will he should be healed that this might occur, and if not, that he would give his heart to Jesus before he passed away.

When I got off the train Saturday morning my sister-in-law met me, and when I went into Harry’s room he was so glad to see me. The moment that we were alone he said that Wednesday night while in great pain he managed to get out of bed, crawl to the window, and pray the first since we were boys together in the family circle.

He told me what a wicked man he had been and had me call Elder Richards of the Voice of Prophecy. He said he wished to be on the church rolls before he died. He was taken into the church on profession faith a week later and died ten days after my arrival, - the happiest man you ever saw.

2. How Spirit of Prophecy Counsels Affected a General Conference President

A.G. Daniell’s experience will prove helpful. He was president of the General Conference from 1901-1922. As he neared the close of his life, he bore witness to the importance of the Spirit of Prophecy counsels in his life and work

During fifteen out of twenty-one years of my presidency of the General Conference, Mrs. White was my chief early counselor. My responsibilities were heavy all of the time. My dangers were great. Often my perplexities were bewildering and almost crushing.

Until nearly the close of her life, in 1915, Mrs. White continued to take an active part in all the major interests of the cause to which she had given unreserved devotion for seventy-one years. The great problems in both home and foreign lands which her messages urged upon me led to scores of personal interviews, and brought many messages of instruction and warning, and sometimes of needed reproof.

In this present year of our Lord 1935, Mrs. White has been at rest twenty years, while I have been toiling on. I had had twenty-three years of direct observation of her lifework. Since her death I have now had twenty additional years for thoughtful reflection and study of that life and its fruits. Now, at an advanced age, with the constraint of expressing only sober, honest truths, I can say that it is my deep conviction that Mrs. White’s life far transcends the life of anyone I have ever known or with whom I have been associated. She was uniformly pleasant, cheerful, and courageous. She was never careless, flippant, or in any way cheap in conversation or manner of life. She was the personification of serious earnestness regarding the things of the kingdom. I never once heart her boast of the gracious gift God has bestowed upon her, or of the marvelous results of her endeavours. She did rejoice in the fruitage, but gave all the glory to Him who wrought through her.

I realize that these are grave statements, but they come from the deepest conviction and soundest judgment that I am capable of rendering. They are uttered in the sobering atmosphere of my last illness, as I face the Judge of all the earth, before whose presence I realize that I soon shall stand. – *Abiding Gift of Prophecy*, pp. 367, 368.

These experiences represent evidences that could be multiplied by scores. The people concerned believed because they were personal eyewitnesses. Ellen White has not been dead for many years, but the full weight of evidence, cumulative and convicting, speaks with dramatic effectiveness.

3. Why Some Fail to Benefit by the Spirit of Prophecy

Seventh-day Adventists officially believe in and endorse the Ellen White writings. They have no argument with the Spirit of Prophecy. By many – too many – neglect to read the counsels, and few reject or disbelieve some of the messages. Why?

Elder D. E. Rebok states in reply:

Opposition or indifference to the Spirit of Prophecy and spiritual gifts in general grows out of:

- A failure to accept . . . the . . . great facts of faith on which Christianity is based.
- A failure to read enough of, or all of, the writing of Ellen White to thoroughly understand her over-all and well-balanced instruction on any given topic.
- A failure to understand the proper relation of her writings to the Scriptures, and of the whole Bible to the one and only great fundamental requirement for salvation and an entrance into the kingdom of heaven.
- A failure to grasp the true nature of her writings with respect to inspiration and infallibility.
- A failure to recognize the principle of time and place in connection with the counsel she has given.
- A failure to acknowledge that the counsels given in the early days of the message are safe counsel for these its closing days.
- A failure to recognize that while sufficient evidence is given to convince the honest of heart, the Lord does not purpose to remove the opportunity of doubt or to take away the hooks upon which doubts may be hung. The Lord requires the exercise of faith.
- A failure to recognize that the veracity of the Spirit of Prophecy counsels cannot be appraised by the changing dictums of science, or the prejudiced or molded assertions of historians.
- An unwillingness to make a personal sacrifice of some personally cherished habit, custom, or practice that seems out of harmony with the counsel given in the pattern for Christian living as set forth in the writings of Ellen White. Individual opposition stems from the point where a men’s “darling” tastes, fancy, whim, habit, or practice is touched. He gets rid of that particular item by doing away with all. – *Believe His Prophets*, pp. 309-311.

It would be well for any doubter to look within the heart to see if any of these points may explain his personal attitude toward this gift. We recommend that you, the student, secure and read D. E. Rebok’s excellent book, *Believe His Prophets*. It is a very readable collection of camp-meeting sermons on the Spirit of Prophecy in the remnant church.

4. On Guard Against Danger

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought of God. – John 3:19-21.

One great danger the church is indifference to or rejection of light of heavenly origin. To regard with indifference the solemn warning of the Holy Spirit is to shut oneself away from God’s gracious heavenly light and blessing; and this is fraught with great peril. It was of those who are indifferent to the light that these words were spoken in an early vision:

. . . In the time of trouble I heard them cry to God in agony. “Why didst Thou not show us our wrongs, that we might have got right and been ready for this time?” Then an angel pointed to them and said, “My Father taught, but you would not be taught. He spoke through visions, but you disregarded His voice, and He gave you up to your own ways, to be filled with your own doings.” – Vision of January 5, 1849, in *Selected Messages*, Book I, p. 40.

During the past century, a few men who led out in apostasies from the Advent Movement received messages from the Spirit of Prophecy, cautioning and warning them concerning their wrong course of action. But most of these men, instead of heeding the warnings become offended. In order to justify their rebellions spirit, they began to question the inspiration of the testimonies; then, in order to “save face,” they wholly repudiated the inspired messages. Yet, in days of their loyalty, all of them were sturdy defenders of Ellen White. What was the trouble? They loved self and their own opinions better than Christ and His way, as pointed out to them by the counsels of God’s messenger.

Another major problem that we all have is to make changes in our lives that are called for by the testimonies from the Lord. As long ago as 1885 Mrs. White wrote:

. . . Many who have backslidden from the truth assign as a reason for their course, that they do not have faith in the Testimonies. Investigation reveals the fact that they had some sinful habit that God has condemned through the Testimonies. The question now is, Will they yield their idol which God condemns, or will they continue in their wrong course of indulgence, and reject the light of God has given them, reproving the very things in which they delight? The question to be settled with them is, Shall I deny myself, and receive as of God the Testimonies which reprove my sins, or shall I reject the Testimonies because they reprove my sins? – *Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 32.

The great truths set forth in *Desire of Ages*, *Steps to Christ*, *Christ’s Object Lessons*, and *Great Controversy* suggest no problem of acceptance to sincere Seventh-day Adventists. The test comes to each of us in our own personal relationship, our acceptance or rejection of those counsels which cut across or touch closely our way of life or some cherished practice.

Those who have tested the Spirit of Prophecy messages and fully accepted them as the voice of God to their own hearts, unhesitatingly declare that these inspired counsels have exercised transforming power in their lives and labours.

5. Importance of Reading and Studying the Spirit of Prophecy Writings

We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history. – *Life Sketches*, p. 196.

This security in the days to come is promised on condition that we know our history, and know the Spirit of Prophecy counsels that have light the pathway of the Advent believers. One cannot forget that which he never knew. And we cannot know the Lord’s “teaching in our past history” without an honest and earnest study of the Spirit of Prophecy books and the counsels they hold for each of us. The importance of such knowledge increases with each passing year.

. . . As the end draws near . . . it becomes more important for those who accept the present truth to have a clear understanding of the nature and influence of the Testimonies, which God in His providence has linked with the work of the third angel’s message from its very rise. – *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 654.

And again as she neared the close of her ministry, Mrs. White wrote:

. . . The instruction that was given in the early days of the message is to be held as safe instruction to follow in these its closing days. Those who are indifferent to this light and instruction must not expect to escape the snares which we have been plainly told will cause the rejecters of light to stumble, and fall, and be snared, and be taken. – *Selected Messages*, Book I, p. 41.

It is not difficult to understand Mrs. White’s concern, and the concern of leaders of the church today, because many Seventh-day Adventist are not acquainting themselves with the counsels given. It is to be hoped that today a larger proportion of our members are familiar with these inspired messages than when Mrs. White penned these revealing words:

The volumes of the “Spirit of Prophecy” should be in every family, and should be read aloud in the family circle. More than one half of our people know little or nothing of the contents of these books, and they are losing much by their neglect.

The “Testimonies” contain instruction which meets the case of all, both parents and children. Should these be read aloud to the entire family, the children as well as the parents would be benefited by their counsels, warning, and reproofs. – *Review and Herald*, December 26, 1882.

The peril of neglecting the light the Lord has given is made clear in this statement:

Many are going directly contrary to the light which God has given to his people, because they do not read the books which contain the light and knowledge, in cautions, reproofs and warnings. – *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 681.

6. Foundation for Careful, Fruitful Study

Through this course of study you have become acquainted with Ellen White, not only as the Lord’s messenger in her public ministry, but also a wife and mother in her home and a neighbour in her community. Evidence has been piled upon evidence that she was, indeed, called of God to do a special work for His people in these last days. You have learned much of how God spoke to her, and how she transmitted the inspired messages to the church and the world. If you had not done so before, you have, in pursuing these lessons, read some of the counsels presented in the Spirit of Prophecy books.