

H

Sermon title: **Heart Work for the Last Days**

Scripture: **Luke 21:34-36**

Opening Hymn: **Open My Eyes** (326)

Closing Hymn: **Beyond the Sunset** (to be provided)

Dates Given:

Take Along:

1. Copies of **10 Days in the Upper Room**
2. Score to **Beyond the Sunset**
3. Signup sheet

Bulletin insert [here](#).

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To The Reader or Presenter

This series of three sermons (#4 is being rewritten) have dual uses: 1) To be presented to a live audience; and 2) a study guide on end-time events and prophecy. In both cases, the overall objective of the series is 1) to awake the sleeping and those in Laodicea to search their hearts to see if they are really ready for the Lord's return; and 2) give them an idea of how to be ready.

A great deal of extra information is available when using this series of presentations. This information is primarily in the form of links to the original source material (online articles, scripture, and the writings of Ellen White). In addition, there are extra hidden slides in several places that contain additional, related information (yellow **H** triangle in the upper left corner as on this slide). Slides preceding these hidden slides have a yellow →triangle in the lower right corner.



Clicking that arrow will show these hidden slide(s).

Presenters are encouraged to examine the hidden slides and modify the presentation as appropriate. Also, when you need to add information or you see other significant changes, please email me at skculp@gmail.com. The news is daily showing the rapid progress towards the final Sunday law. Some of this information might be appropriate to add to or replace current slides. This is particularly true of presentations 1 and 2. Thus, **this series of messages should be living documents and open sourced.**

The presentations normally take about 90 minutes. If, however, these presentations are being given during a limited time frame like a sermon, there are a couple of features to help you compress the presentation time to about 45 minutes.

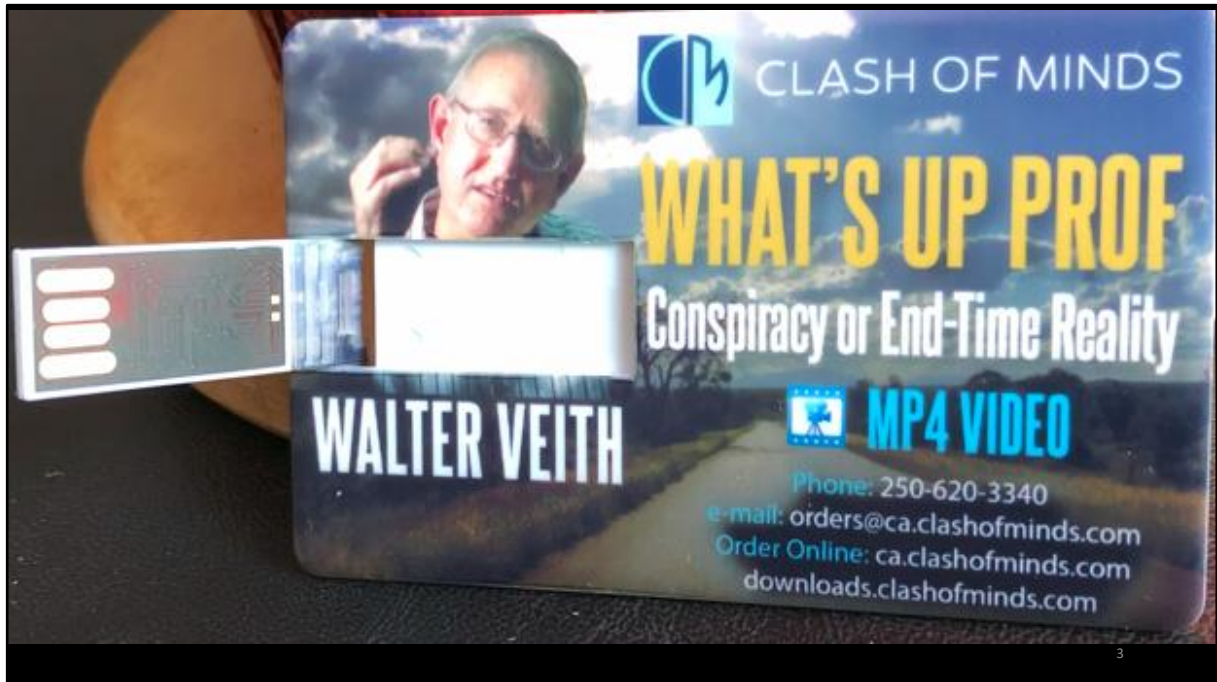
First, the instructions with some slides direct the reading only the bold type on the slide (when time is short). Secondly, there are some visible slides that can be skipped without loss of the message. These are marked with a yellow + triangle in the upper-right corner as shown here. You can just skip these slides when time is pressing.



Again, please send me suggestions of any kind. If you make significant changes, please send those to me so I can put them up on the web for others to use or merge your changes into mine.

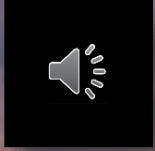
May God bless you as you share these presentations and the Three Angels Message. **The Lord is indeed very soon to come and we need to alert everyone to be awake and ready!!!** Thanks, Ken Culp

2



Hold up a sample flash drive and describe:

- Full menu to simplify selection and viewing videos.
- Videos for you to view and understand the last days and how to be ready.
- Great tool to give to others.
- Will discuss briefly after potluck.
- Will pass out free copies.
- If interested but not available after potluck, please see me after church.



Last Day Signs – 3 Revival and Reformation

Yet I will not forget you.
See, I have inscribed you
on the palms of My hands.
(Isaiah 49:15-16)

The LORD hath appeared of
old unto me, saying, Yea, I
have loved thee with an
everlasting love: therefore
with lovingkindness have I
drawn thee. (Jeremiah 31:3)

[** Volume check; click on speaker.**]

[* * * Be Excited * * *]

- As we shall see, this message is a combination of
 - The Elijah Message
 - First Angel's Message
 - The True Witness to the Laodiceans
- This a tough message but urgent message.
- **** Shall I sugar coat it or tell it like it is? [pause]**
- **Okay, let's reason together first before we jump in.**

Prior Messages

- Overwhelming evidence we are entering the “Time of Jacob’s Trouble” which ends with Christ’s return!
- Secular events, web sources reveal world preparation for **total control of every aspect of our lives.**
- AI and digital currency will control ability to buy or sell.
- Amazing and rapid spread of Gospel.
- The “Beast’s” push for a one-world religion,
- Sunday law now being implemented in various places.
- All the power brokers call for a one-world government.

5

Albert Pike Letter (see part 2)

- A 1880 letter by **Satanist** Albert Pike describes three impending world wars. His description of the first two world wars closely matches world history:
- WW1: Rise of atheistic communism in Russia overthrowing Czars and destroying other governments to weaken religions.
- WW2: Defeat of Nazism and new nation of Israel in Palestine.
- WW3: **A war of total attrition with no victors** between Zionism and the Moslem world.

([Click here](#) to see more slides with details on Pike's Letter)

[Read slide first, then briefly that Satan is not a prophet but that God has chosen to allow Satan to work this plan]

*** To use content from part 2, follow these directions (**read below before clicking link**):

1. Click link.
2. Read slides with notes
3. After chart of Satan's control, **press ESC to return to this presentation**

The Outline for Today

1. Discuss calls to be ready for the last days and **warnings that only a very few will be ready**. Both scripture verses and the writings of Ellen White will be reviewed.
2. Discuss the perils of the last days (“such as never was before”) and how the struggles of those days are to be a time of **great personal growth** as we **allow the Lord to refine and purify us as gold**.
3. Heart work needed for us to “stand” in those days.
4. An appeal to be ready. Thoughts on “heart work” plus possible corporate and individual actions.

7

Warnings and Calls to be Ready



- We have arrived at the most significant point in the presentation series around which all three presentations are centered:
- Standing in the last days requires heart work without which we will be deceived and lose heaven.
- Most of us know when changes are needed in our spiritual lives but amidst the pressures of life, it's hard to change. Right?
- However, when we understand the great sense of urgency then ... [pause]
- "Please fasten your seat belts and move your seat backs and tray tables to their full and locked position."

Ellen White's Warnings (LDE 172.1)

“It is a solemn statement that I make to the church, that **not one in twenty whose names are registered upon the church books are prepared** to close their earthly history, and would be as verily without God and without hope in the world as the common sinner!”

[Read Slide Twice]

- If that number applies to those of us here, only a handful of people in this room will be ready for the testing of the last days.
- However, if we were to conduct a secret survey, only a few of us would worried about being ready.
- This was me until recently: no worries.
- So, I ask you to consider the possibility that this number may apply to you and action will be required on your part.
- The good news is that we can all be prepared; it is a choice.
- Let's push on.



Why One in Twenty?

“I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen, and was shown that it would be **caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans**. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a **shaking** among God's people.” ([CET 176.1](#))

10

[Read below and then slide]

- Ellen white described our lack of readiness as the Laodicean Condition.

Why One in Twenty?

“Those who have had opportunities to hear and receive of the truth and who have united with the Seventh-day Adventist church, calling themselves the commandment-keeping people of God, and yet possess no more vitality and consecration to God than do the nominal churches, **will receive the plagues of God just as verily as the churches who oppose the law of God.**” ([LDE 172.1](#))

11



[→ to more Ellen White Warnings]

[Read slide first]

- Truth does nothing for us if it does not go deep into the heart and change us.
- Truth has to be assimilated.

A dark, artistic photograph of a trumpet lying horizontally, serving as the background for the slide.**H**

Why One in Twenty?

“I saw that the testimony of the True Witness has not been half heeded. The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded. This testimony must work deep repentance; all who truly receive it will obey it, and be purified.” (CET 176.2) Another great reference is 1T 186.1-2.

12

[Read slide first]

- This is the message of the parable of the 10 virgins:
 - All know and understand the Adventist message but in the foolish five, it had not worked a heart change!
 - Here's another clarification.

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Why One in Twenty?

“Are God's People Prepared for False Miracles? It is fully time that every responsible worker should take his stand firmly on the word of God. **This word is to be our defense when Satan works with such lying wonders that if it were possible he would deceive the very elect.** It is then that those who have not stood firmly for the truth will unite with the unbelieving who love and make a lie. When these wonders are performed, when the sick are healed and other marvels are wrought, they will be deceived. Are we prepared for the perilous times that are right upon us? or are we standing where we will fall an easy prey to the wiles of the devil?” ([5MR Miracles](#) 352.1)

13

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Why One in Twenty?

“Many Will Go From Us, Giving Heed to Seducing Spirits—A superficial faith results in a superficial experience.... The light given me has been very forcible that many would go out from us, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils. The Lord desires that every soul who claims to believe the truth shall have an intelligent knowledge of what is truth. False prophets will arise, and will deceive many. ([5MR Miracles](#) 352.3)

14

[Read highlighted on slide only then below]

- So one problem is a superficial faith.

A dark, atmospheric background image featuring a hand holding a megaphone, with light rays emanating from it, suggesting a call to attention or proclamation.

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Why One in Twenty?

“Everything is to be shaken that can be shaken. Then does it not become every one to understand the reasons of our faith? In place of having so many sermons, there should be a more close searching of the Word of God, opening the Scriptures text by text, and searching for the strong evidence that sustain the fundamental doctrines that have brought us where we now are, upon the platform of eternal truth.” ([5MR Miracles 352.3](#))

15

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Why One in Twenty?

“The numbers of this company [of believers] had lessened. Some had been shaken out and left by the way. **The careless and indifferent, who did not join with those who prized victory and salvation enough to perseveringly plead and agonize for it, did not obtain it,** and they were left behind in darkness, and their places were immediately filled by others taking hold of the truth and coming into the ranks. Evil angels still pressed around them, but could have no power over them.” ([CET 177.1](#))

16

[Read below first]

- This comes from Ellen White’s article on the Shaking.

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Ellen White's Warnings

“The history of the rebellion of Dathan and Abiram is being repeated, and will be repeated till the close of time. Who will be on the Lord's side? Who will be deceived, **and in their turn become deceivers?**”

“The Lord is soon to come. There must be a refining, winnowing process **in every church**, for there are among us wicked men who do not love the truth or honor God.”

([LDE 172.1](#))

17

**H**

Ellen White's Warnings (DA 676.5)

“My Father is the husbandman. Every branch in Me that bears not fruit He takes away.” While the graft is outwardly united with the vine, there may be no vital connection. Then there will be no growth or fruitfulness. **So there may be an apparent connection with Christ without a real union with Him by faith. ...**

18

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Ellen White's Warnings (DA 676.5)

“... A profession of religion places men in the church, but the character and conduct show whether they are in connection with Christ. If they bear no fruit, they are false branches. Their separation from Christ involves a ruin as complete as that represented by the dead branch. “If a man abide not in Me,” said Christ, “he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”

19

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Ellen White's Warnings (GC 608.2)

“As the storm approaches, **a large class** who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, **abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition!** By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and **when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side.**” (1 of 2)

20

[Read highlighted only then below]

- These are frightening thoughts. I'm forced to ask myself “might I be someone that would abandon the truth and join the opposition”?

One in Twenty!

What are our choices in handling the 1 in 20?

1. We can **reject** this number by:
 - A. Ignoring it,
 - B. saying It's not true,
 - C. assuming that we are ready or can easily get ready.
2. **Accept** the possibility that this is true which implies that we **may** need major changes and should discover what those are.

21

[Read question portion of slide first]

- This is some heavy lumber. We have two choices in handling such information:

[Next]

- When I hear these kind of warnings, I tend to zone out and started thinking about lunch.
- It's easy to think that this is just sensationalism or shock therapy. Please don't do that.
- **These are perilous times that demand our attention.**

[Next]

- At this point, I'm only asking that we admit the **possibility** that there may be significant changes needed in our lives.
- **So, are you still with me?**
- **Let's expand on this concept of only a few being saved.**

Q: How Should We React to 1 in 20?

¹² Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but **rejoice** to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with **exceeding joy.**"

(1 Peter 4:12-13)

A: Rejoice

22

[Read Question; pause; then next]

[Read slide then below]

- **Rejoice** because these trials are necessary to purify us and prepare us for heaven.
- **For those that have made the necessary preparations, we will hear:**
 - "Well done my good and faithful servant."
- **Though these will be the worst of times, we know:**
 - **God will be in control**
 - He has **tailored our trials specifically for us** because He knows that we can handle them and **we will be purified by them.**
- **We have read the book and we know that God wins and we shall be delivered!!**

- **So how are we to react?**

[Press next to show "A: Rejoice"]

The Laodicean Condition



- One in 20 being saved results from the **Laodicean condition**.
- Ellen White indicated this will be the primary issue in the church in the last days just as it was in 1844!
- **Adventists are particularly susceptible because we “have the truth”** and can be deceived by Satan to think that our **correct knowledge is sufficient for our salvation**.
- Since EGW indicates this is a church-wide issue, **the church can and should play a major role** in shining the light on Jesus and **building every member up to be ready for the Lord’s return!!**

23

[Read slide first]

- When changes are needed in our lives, Christ can make those changes **if we are willing to work with him!**

The Laodicean Condition

¹⁵ I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 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!”** (Revelation 3:15-17)

24



[→ some explanation of the Laodicean Condition]

[Read slide first then below]

- The operative phrase is “do not know!”

[If sermon, skip remaining comments]

- Overlooking our own faults is part of our fallen nature, we are easily deceived by Satan into thinking that we are good enough!
- Satan stands ever vigilant to keep us away from any action that would correct any defects in our character.
- ***** As a matter of fact, right now Satan does not want those of you to whom it applies to listen to the rest of this message!**

Personal Testimony

- I started down this line of study and reasoning because I was in Laodicea! I was comfortable with just playing church.
- Thus, my object is to make sure that we **all**, as a church are wholly following the Lord and ready for the tough times ahead.
- **I want all of us to be in the first resurrection!**

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The Laodicean Condition

- Christ uses the phrase “**vomit you out of my mouth.**” Why?
 - The “**hot**” are firmly in the kingdom.
 - The “**cold**” have the potential to be shown their need.
 - The “**warm**” don’t see any need to change and won’t listen or hear words of warning. **This the hardest group to reach with the Gospel!**

25

Summary of Ellen White's Warnings

“We are in the shaking time, the time when everything that can be shaken will be shaken. **The Lord will not excuse those who know the truth if they do not in word and deed obey His commands!**” (LDE 172.1)

26

[Read highlighted only then below]

- Ellen White tends to present this in the negative: the results of not being **ready**.
- However, we have a choice: be the 1 in 20 that is saved or be in the 19 or so that are lost.
- We will continue emphasizing this choice as we continue.

[Next]

Warnings from Christ

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’.”
(Matthew 7:21-23)

[Read slide first]

- Let me rephrase:
 - *Have we not taught Sabbath School? Served on boards? Served as Elder, Deacon, Deaconess...*
 - *Have we not studied and understood all the Adventist doctrine and end time scenarios?*
- But Christs response is still “I never knew you.”
- Bottom line:
 - A knowledge of the truth and seeking salvation by works will not save us.
 - A heart change must accompany a knowledge of the truth.
 - Then, works become a love response to that heart change.

Warnings from Christ

“¹³ Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” (Matthew 7:13-14)

- “Few” here corresponds to Ellen White’s “Not 1 in 20”.

Warnings from Christ

³⁴ And **take heed** to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and **cares of this life**, and so that day come upon you unawares. ³⁵ For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ **Watch** ye therefore, and **pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.**" (Luke 21:34-36)

29

[Read slide first]

- 14 Times Christ says **watch** or **take heed** as applied to being ready for these last days.
- 24 times in the New Testament.

Bottom line: We have been warned. What we do with that warning is our choice.

The Perils of the Last Days:

- Underestimating the greatness of the struggle
- Not being spiritually prepared.

30

A Time Such as Never Has Been

“At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands *watch* over the sons of your people; **and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time.** And at that time **your people shall be delivered**, every one who is found written in the book.” (Daniel 12:1)

For detailed analysis of the persecutions and issues that will be experienced in last days, watch this [Walter Veith video](#). For a related article on the Third Angel’s Message, read this [EGW article](#).

31

[Read slide first]

- *** It will be our privilege to suffer in the last days. [Rephrase for emphasis]
- *** However, our struggles are necessary to refine us as pure gold and fit us for heaven.
- More on this as we continue

A Time Such as Never Has Been

“The persecutions of Protestants by Romanism [Dark Ages], by which the religion of Jesus Christ was almost annihilated, **will be more than rivaled** when Protestantism and popery are combined.

The commandment-keeping people of God ere long will be placed in a most trying position; but all those who have walked in the light, and diffused the light, will realize that God interposes in their behalf.”

([Mar 194.3](#))

32



[*** Read below first]

- **Yes**, the trying of the last days will be very tough but **God promises to get us through the trials as he refines us like gold.**

**H**

A Time Such as Never Has Been

“Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; ²⁶ In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; ²⁷ In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.” (2 Corinthians 11:25-27)

33

[Read above then ...]

Now let's speculate a bit on our day...

H

Anti-Hate Speech Surveillance Technology

Roxanne is marketed as a multiplatform analytical tool to evaluate speech and facial patterns in order to create visual mapping for authorities and identity suspects. ROXANNE is a new breed of surveillance technology in the process of development and currently being backed by both An Garda Síochána and the PSNI to bring into use. It is a biometrics based platform ostensibly to monitor and crack down on organized crime. An additional application of ROXANNE which its creators advertise freely is the ability to monitor those guilty of alleged hate speech and political extremism. ([View article](#))

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Hate speech, political extremism:

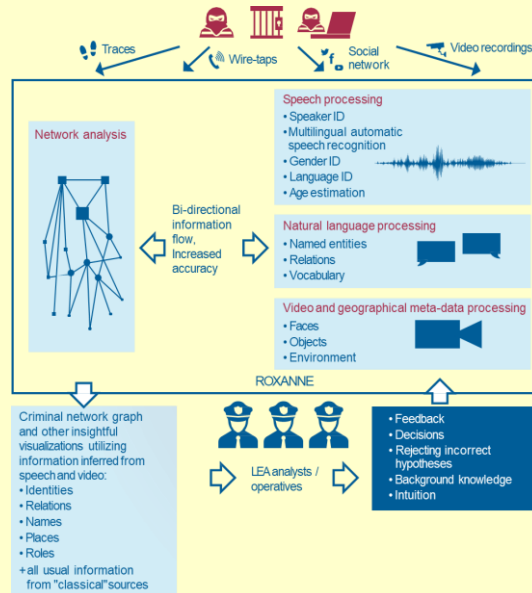
1. Those that believe in seven literal days of creation
2. Those that say that there is no global warming
3. Those that keep the Sabbath
4. Republicans
5. Conservatives
6. Those that use the wrong pronouns.
7. And the list goes on to anyone that is not an enthusiastic supporter of all the current list of items currently considered as "politically correct".

The object is complete thought control to create a people incapable of turning towards God.

Praise God that He will cut this time short or else not even the very elect would survive!

H

Anti-Hate Speech Surveillance Technology



35

H

Evangelicals Are a Very Important Problem

French Minister of Interior Gérald Darmanin:

“ **“Evangelicals are a very important problem”**, only to add, “obviously not [a problem] of the same nature than the Islamism that makes terrorist attacks and deaths”.

One day before, speaking about the controversial anti-separatism law that is expected to be passed soon, he told radio broadcaster *France Inter*: “We cannot discuss with people who refuse to write on paper that the **law of the Republic is superior to the law of God**”.”. ([View 2/4/2021 article](#))

36

- This is a direct attack on God and God's law.
- Not a surprise coming from France but a sign of the times.

A dark, artistic photograph of a trumpet, likely a French horn or similar instrument, lying horizontally. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the metallic texture of the instrument against a dark, moody background. The image serves as a background for the text overlay.

H

A Time Such as Never Has Been

“... and when they had called for the apostles and beaten *them*, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ **So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.** ⁴² And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus *as* the Christ.”
(Acts 5:40-42)

The New World Order (NOW)

“...it is lawful for a man to succor his own need by means of another’s property by taking it either openly or secretly; nor is this, properly speaking, theft and robbery... It is not theft, properly speaking, to take secretly and use another’s property in a case of extreme need; because that which he takes for the support of his life becomes his own property by reason of that need...In a case of a like need, a man may also take secretly another’s property in order to succor his neighbor in need.”

(7th article of Thomas Aquinas)

[“You Will Own Nothing and Be Happy” \(WEF Video\)](#)

[Read Amazing Discoveries Article on NWO](#)

38



[→ For more on Common Property & New World Order & scriptures of tough times]

[Read highlight on slide only]

- Thus, it ok to steal.
- **Q:** So, who determines the need? [Pause]
- **A:** the one who perceives their need.
- Result is Chaos

Chaos

- The person with the need determines the need.
- They are instructed to just take it, by force if necessary

A faint, dark background image of a classical statue head, possibly of a philosopher or religious figure, is visible behind the text.

H

The New World Order

“Common Property

Thomas Aquinas is a Catholic philosopher and theologian. ... His thinking is apparently “foundational for understanding the economic thought of the Roman Church-State.” Aquinas believes in the socialist idea of communal possessions. He wrote *in Summa Theologiae* article, **“the possession of all things in common is the natural law...”**

H

The New World Order

Redistribution of Wealth

John Paul II wrote this in *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis (On Social Concern)* in 1987: .."the goods of this world are originally meant for all. The right to private property is valid and necessary, but it does not nullify the value of this principle. Private property, in fact, is under a 'social mortgage', which means that it has an intrinsically social function, based upon and justified precisely by the principle of the universal destination of goods."

**H**

The New World Order

Common Property

So, as Rome sees it, property is for common good. You may own it, but it is for common good. **Whatever you have that is more than you need will be given to others.** In South Africa, if your house is vacant, squatters may come in to occupy your home, and nothing is done to remove them, while you continue to pay the bills. Similarly, police don't come when you are robbed (per Walter Veith).

41

Our Attitude Towards the Tough Times

² My brethren, **count it all joy** when you fall into divers trials [temptations]; ³ Knowing this, that the trying of your faith works patience. ⁴ **But let patience have her perfect work, that you may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.**" (James 1:2-4)

[Read below first]

- The Greek work for **temptation** is also translated as **trial** or **testing**; so...

[Read slide twice using *trial*]

- As hard as this sounds, **we must rejoice in the trials** that shall try us knowing that God is in control.
- Let's dig a little deeper into this.

God Always Takes the Long View

- **Struggles are necessary** to prepare us for the trials of these **last days** as well as for heaven.
- God does not look at an issue and then look around for someone to give it to!! No!
- God looks at each of us and asks “what is most needed in this life at this moment” and then He tailors the trials to our specific needs as well as our ability to handle such trials!!

43

God Always Takes the Long View

“When we expect peace, we frequently have distrust and doubt because we find ourselves plunged into trials we cannot avoid. **In these trials we are having the answers to our prayers.** In order for us to be purified, the fire of affliction must kindle upon us, and **our will must be brought into conformity to the will of God.** In order to be conformed to the image of our Savior, we pass through a most painful process of refining.” ([OFC 295.2](#))

44

[Read slide first]

- Here we see the necessity of the trials in life and specifically of the last days.

God Always Takes the Long View

“The Lord in His providence brings men where He can test their moral powers and reveal their motives of action, that they may improve what is right in themselves and put away that which is wrong. God would have His servants become acquainted with the moral machinery of their own hearts. **In order to bring this about, He often permits the fire of affliction to assail them that they may become purified.**” ([CCh 54.7](#))

God Always Takes the Long View

“You must have an experience for yourselves, which shall be founded in God. Then can you stand amid the perils of the **last days** and be purified and not consumed by the **fire of affliction through which all the saints must pass** in order to have the impurities removed from their character preparatory to receiving the finishing touch of **immortality.**” ([2T 118.3](#))

[→ For more suffering with Jesus]

[Read slide first]

Herein is the bottom line on the tribulation:

- For the believer, these struggles are absolutely essential for our purification.
- We should both expect the trials and embrace them.
- For those who submit to the Holy Spirit's leading, the sufferings of this time will be a joyous time of great spiritual growth through which we are being fitted for heaven.

Tough Times but HOPE!

“¹³ There has no testing overtaken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tested above that you are able; **but will with the testing also make a way to escape, that you may be able to bear it.**” (Hebrews 10:12-13)

[Read highlighted again, slowly with emphasis]

- Note that Greek for testing is also translated as temptation
- Consider also this scripture

Tough Times but HOPE!

¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:11-13)

48



[Read slide first]

“...to give you a future and a hope.”

**H**

Tough Times but HOPE!

“When everything looks most forbidding, then the Lord will reveal His power to His faithful ones. When the nation for which God has worked in such a marvelous manner, and over which He has spread the shield of Omnipotence, abandons Protestant principles, and through its legislature gives countenance and support to Romanism in limiting religious liberty, then God will work in His own power for His people that are true. The tyranny of Rome will be exercised, but Christ is our refuge.” (Mar 194.4)

49

[Read highlighted only if short sermon time]



H

Tough Times but HOPE!

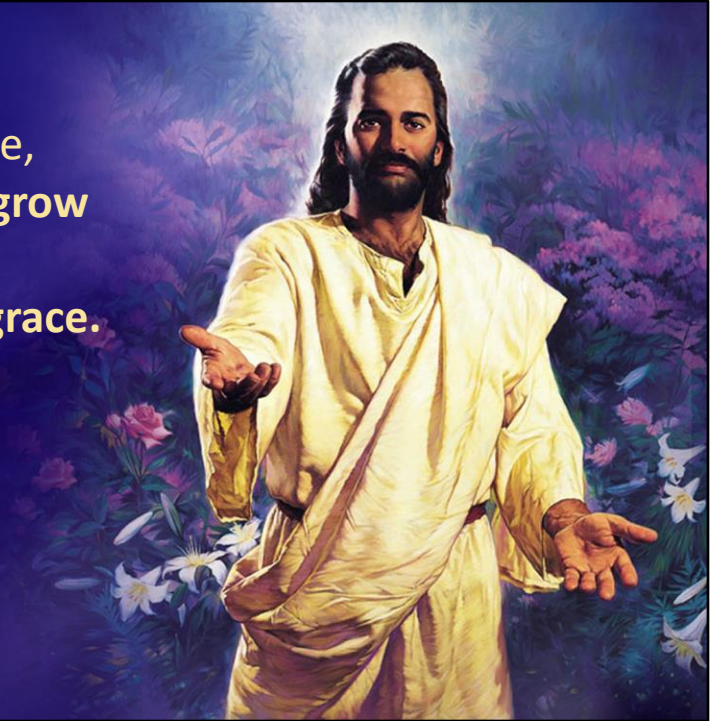
¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, **if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.** ¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory **which shall be revealed in us.**” (Romans 8:16-18)

50

[Read slide first and then reread verse 18 with emphasis]

- Once in heaven, we will all say that it was worth it.
- Praise God for His unspeakable love!

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look **full** in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow
strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.



Tough Times Summary

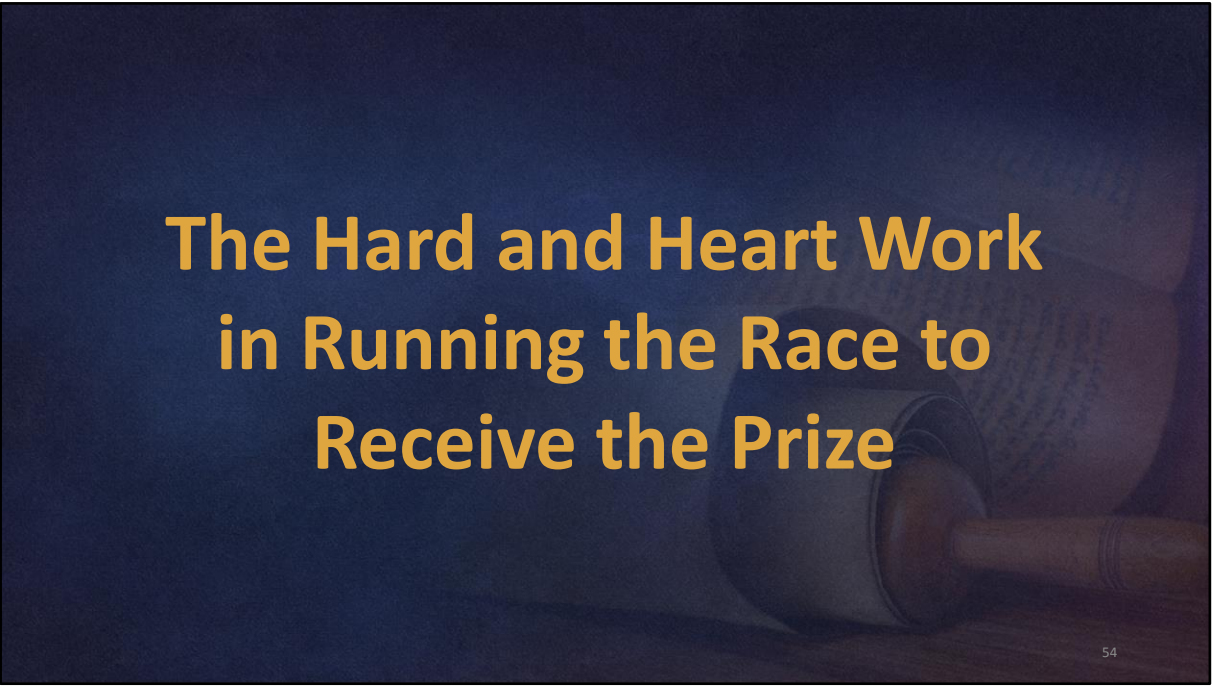
- Satan will be in almost total control of the world and will delight in creating as much pain as possible for everyone.
- Chaos and anarchy, now extant, will become pervasive.
- Famines and great shortages will be world wide.
- There will be only two classes in society: the elite who own everything and serfs who have no possessions or rights.
- Thought control (worshiping on Sabbath, green score, conservative views disallowed). This is programed through buying and selling limits, travel controls, persecution ...

52

Chaos:

- Think about much Mexico today or Israel.
- Riots and demonstrations everywhere caused by extreme polarization of the populations.
- If you need it in South Africa, you take it and the police do nothing.
- Squatters are common in many places and increasingly common in US.

- *** NOTE: What has been covered so far is not to cause fear but is an “awake check”, to generate a genuine spiritual inventory:
 - Lord, am I ready? If not, what am I missing.
- *** Are we okay so far? [Pause]



The Hard and Heart Work in Running the Race to Receive the Prize

- **** Question: Is heaven worth it? [pause; repeat until a shouted Yes!]**

The Hard Work of Heart Work

“Sanctification is not the work of a moment, an hour, a day, but of a lifetime. It is not gained by a happy flight of feeling, but is the result of constantly dying to sin, and constantly living for Christ. Wrongs cannot be righted nor reformations wrought in the character by feeble, intermittent efforts. It is only by long, persevering effort, sore discipline, and stern conflict, that we shall overcome.” ([FLB 116.5](#))

55

[Read with emphasis]

The Hard Work of Heart Work



“All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that **when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses.** The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. **When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience.** Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us.” ([DA 668.3](#)) See: “The Work & Life” in Steps to Christ Chapter 9 ([SC 77.1](#)).

56

[Read only highlighted if short sermon time!]

The Hard Work of Heart Work

“The necessity of a real heart work for every member of the body must be pressed upon the people. The labor should be directed right to the one end: a more complete putting away of idols, a deeper consecration, a stronger faith, and more personal effort for the salvation of others.” ([GW92 224.3](#))

See also:

- “The Work and the Life” in Steps to Christ Chapter 9 ([SC 77.1](#)).
- “The Meaning of Trials” ([R & H, April 17, 1894](#)). **This is a must read.**

57



- Commend reading of “The Meaning of Trials” and availability of a PDF of that article.
[→For excerpts from “The Meaning of Trials”]

**H**

The Meaning of Trials

“This world is not the Christian's heaven. It is the place in which to fit up for heaven. It is the scene of our life-battles, our conflicts and sorrows. While here we must, if we would be successful, have a firm grasp of the better world, where, when the warfare is ended, will be found peace and everlasting joy.” (R & H, April 17, 1894 Paragraph 1)

58

**H**

The Meaning of Trials

“The work of pruning and purifying the people of God for heaven is a great work, and it will not be accomplished without great suffering on the part of the servants of God, because it will cost them something to bring their wills into harmony with the will of Christ. We must go through the furnace till the fires have consumed the dross, and we are purified so that we reflect the divine image.”

(R & H, April 17, 1894 Paragraph 4)

59

A dark, atmospheric background image showing a hand holding a telescope, looking out into the distance. The lighting is dim, with a warm glow emanating from the right side, possibly a light source or a reflection. The overall tone is contemplative and mysterious.

H

The Meaning of Trials

“Those who follow inclination, and judge from appearances, are not good judges of what God is doing. They are filled with discontent. They see failure where there is indeed triumph, a great loss where there is only gain; and like Jacob, they are ready to exclaim, when trial comes upon them, “All these things are against me!” when the fact is, that the very things of which they complained, were working for their good.”

(R & H, April 17, 1894 Paragraph 4)

60

A faint, artistic background image showing a hand holding a scroll, set against a dark, textured background. The hand is positioned on the right side, and the scroll is held horizontally. The overall tone is somber and reflective.

H

The Meaning of Trials

“What if you do suffer, dear fellow-Christian? The Master of the house suffered before you. Jesus, our Redeemer, representative and head, endured the testing process. He suffered more than we can be called upon to suffer. He bore our infirmities, and was in all points tempted like as we are. He did not suffer thus on his own account, but because of our sins, that we, relying on the merits of our Overcomer, might be victorious in his name.”

(R & H, April 17, 1894 Paragraph 7)

61

**H**

The Meaning of Trials

“Christ was the exalted and glorious commander of heaven, before whom the angelic hosts bowed in adoration, yet he condescended to give up his glory that he had with the Father, that he might save a fallen race; and shall we, in our turn, refuse to deny ourselves for his sake and the gospel's? Let the words of Paul be the language of our hearts: “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.”

(R & H, April 17, 1894 Paragraph 7)

62

The Hard Work of Heart Work

“My brethren, there should be a different kind of labor from what we too often see. **There should be more prayer and weeping, and more confession of sin to God and to one another.** Let the indifference be broken up, let the complaining and faultfinding cease, and the time heretofore worse than wasted in this manner be spent in prayers of living faith for the refreshing from the presence of the Lord. **Let us arouse as one, and unitedly call upon God to send down his grace upon the souls of his people, and to revive his work in the midst of the years.**” ([GW92 224.4](#))

63

[Read only highlighted if short sermon time!]

It's a Matter of Priorities



- Would you agree that if our relationship with the Lord may not what it should be, that, in the end, it is a matter of our priorities?
- Is it not clear that many of the things of this world are designed to redirect our priorities, to keep us busy?
- If we aren't vigilant, can things that should be high priority slip down and really unimportant items or things become high priority?

64

The reason for this series of presentation **to motivate us to be ready by:**

- Showing that very little time remaining for this world and the Lord's return.
- Showing that the evil things of this world will soon be gone replaced with God's best in heaven.
 - "Eye hath not seen nor ear heard nor entered into the heart of man the things that God has prepared for those that love Him."
- Showing that very tough times lie ahead such that we may despair of even life.
- Describing the glory, beauty, and peace that lies ahead.
- Showing us that we must have a character that will pass the tests that lie ahead.
 - Character and the stars in our crown (people led to Christ) are all we take with us to heaven.

Here is the summary: we have two years, perhaps a little more, to develop this character which is "Christ in us, the hope of glory."

The 1 Mile Race Analogy

- How many of you have run a 1 mile race?
- For purposes of example, assume the Lord's return is in 5 years (as appears likely) and you are 50 years old.
- That means we need to hang on for just 10% longer.
- In a one mile race on an $\frac{1}{4}$ mile track, you are just about to round the last turn on the last lap.
- Can you hang on that long to gain heaven?

65

[Read slide first]

[Paint word picture]

- It's been grueling; you are beat down to point of exhaustion from fighting obstacles
- You just rounded the last corner: What do you see?
 - Christ at the finish line rooting for you and giving you strength
 - Angels are on each side helping you along the track and encouraging you.
- **With all this help, we are certain to finish the race.**

Remember, Heaven is a Choice

³⁰ “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,” says the Lord God. “Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. **For why should you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,” says the Lord God. “Therefore turn and live!”** (Ezekiel 18:29-32)

66

[Read slide title only if short sermon time]

Summary to Date

- We now have an idea of the enormity of the issues of the last days and the difficulties in navigating them.
- At this point, we could might feel overwhelmed, that the outlook seems so bleak and the hill to big to climb.
- But remember,

We Do Not Walk Alone

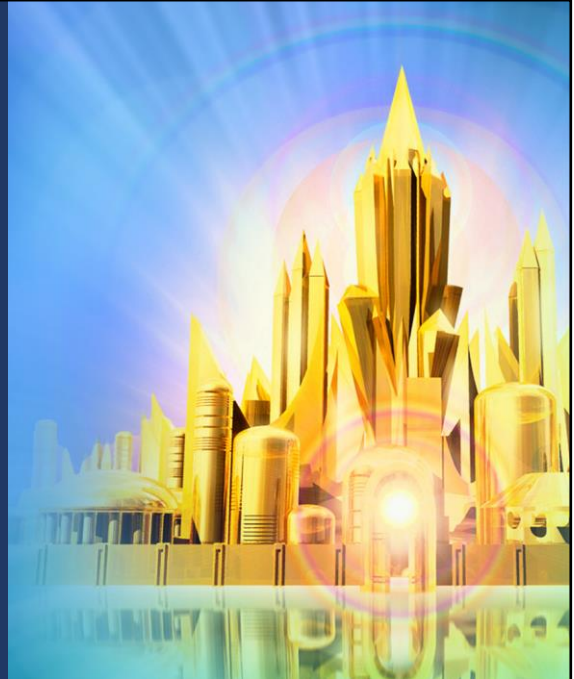
67

[Read Slide, Pause, the next to show “We do not walk alone”]

- We have the Holy Spirit so...

“Therefore God is not
ashamed to be called
their God, for He has
prepared a city for them.”
(Hebrews 11:16)

Heaven is our home!



Just a brief reminder...

True Godliness Through the Holy Spirit

“A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it. Our heavenly Father is more willing to give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him, than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their children. But it is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing.” ([True Revival 9.1](#))

69

[→ for more on Ellen Whites describing how HS neglected but of greatest need.]

True Godliness Through the Holy Spirit +

“The lapse of time has wrought no change in Christ's parting promise to send the Holy Spirit as His representative. It is not because of any restriction on the part of God that the riches of His grace do not flow earthward to men. If the fulfillment of the promise is not seen as it might be, it is because the promise is not appreciated as it should be. If all were willing, all would be filled with the Spirit. **Wherever the need of the Holy Spirit is a matter little thought of, there is seen spiritual drought, spiritual darkness, spiritual declension and death. Whenever minor matters occupy the attention, the divine power which is necessary for the growth and prosperity of the church, and which would bring all other blessings in its train, is lacking, though offered in infinite plenitude.**” ([AA 50.1](#))

70

[Read highlighted only without comment]

True Godliness Through the Holy Spirit

“But near the close of earth's harvest, a special bestowal of spiritual grace is promised to prepare the church for the coming of the Son of man. This outpouring of the Spirit is likened to the falling of the latter rain; and it is for this added power that Christians are to send their petitions to the Lord of the harvest “in the time of the latter rain.” In response, “the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain.” “He will cause to come down ... the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain.” (AA 55.1)

71

[Read highlighted only without comment]

True Godliness Through the Holy Spirit

“But unless the members of God's church today have a living connection with the Source of all spiritual growth, they will not be ready for the time of reaping. Unless they keep their lamps trimmed and burning, they will fail of receiving added grace in times of special need.” ([AA 55.2](#))

72



[→ More quotes from this article and slides on revivals]
[Read all without comment]

H True Godliness Through the Holy Spirit

“Those only who are constantly receiving fresh supplies of grace, will have power proportionate to their daily need and their ability to use that power. Instead of looking forward to some future time when, through a special endowment of spiritual power, they will receive a miraculous fitting up for soul winning, they are yielding themselves daily to God, that He may make them vessels meet for His use. Daily they are improving the opportunities for service that lie within their reach. Daily they are witnessing for the Master wherever they may be, whether in some humble sphere of labor in the home, or in a public field of usefulness.” (AA 55.3)

H True Godliness Through the Holy Spirit

“Christ has promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to His church, and the promise belongs to us as much as to the first disciples. But like every other promise, it is given on conditions. There are many who believe and profess to claim the Lord's promise; they talk *about* Christ and *about* the Holy Spirit, yet receive no benefit. They do not surrender the soul to be guided and controlled by the divine agencies. **We cannot use the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is to use us. Through the Spirit God works in His people “to will and to do of His good pleasure.”** (Philippians 2:13)...” ([DA 672](#))

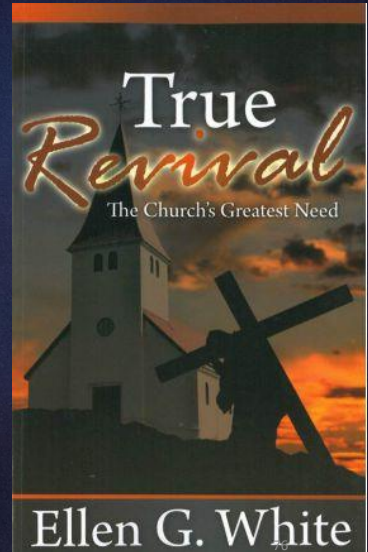
H True Godliness Through the Holy Spirit

“...But many will not submit to this. They want to manage themselves. This is why they do not receive the heavenly gift. Only to those who wait humbly upon God, who watch for His guidance and grace, is the Spirit given. The power of God awaits their demand and reception. This promised blessing, claimed by faith, brings all other blessings in its train. It is given according to the riches of the grace of Christ, and He is ready to supply every soul according to the capacity to receive.” ([DA 672](#))

H

What is Needed is a True Revival

- Some content has been taken from *True Revival*, scripture, and online videos.
- This book is a good resource when working for a revival.



A faint, artistic background image of a person in a prayerful pose, with hands clasped, set against a dark, textured background. The image is partially obscured by the text overlay.

H

What is Needed is a True Revival

"A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer. While the people are so destitute of God's Holy Spirit, they cannot appreciate the preaching of the Word; but when the Spirit's power touches their hearts, then the discourses given will not be without effect. Guided by the teachings of God's Word, with the manifestation of His Spirit, in the exercise of sound discretion, those who attend our meetings will gain a precious experience, and returning home, will be prepared to exert a healthful influence." (True Revival 9.1, emphasis added)

77

[Read highlighted only if short sermon time]

Revival and Reformation Defined



“A revival and a reformation must take place, under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. **Revival and reformation are two different things.**

“**Revival is a renewal of spiritual life**, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from spiritual death.

“**Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices.** Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend.”

(True Revival 15.3)

78



[→Confession and Working with God and The Threats Against Revival]

H

Confession and Working With God

“Said the angel: “God will bring His work closer and closer to test and prove every one of His people.” Some are willing to receive one point; but God brings them to another testing point, they shrink from it and stand back, because they find that it strikes directly at some cherished idol. Here they have opportunity to see what is in their hearts that shuts out Jesus. They prize something higher than the truth, and their hearts are not prepared to receive Jesus. **Individuals are tested and proved a length of time to see if they will sacrifice their idols and heed the counsel of the True Witness. ...**” ([1TT 64.3](#))

79

[Read highlighted only]

[→ more on Confession ... & Threats Against Revivals]

H Confession and Working With God

“... If any will not be purified through obeying the truth, and overcome their selfishness, their pride, and evil passions, the angels of God have the charge: “They are joined to their idols, **let them alone,**” and they pass on to their work, leaving these with their sinful traits unsubdued, to the control of evil angels. Those who come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the True Witness, and they will receive the latter rain, and thus be fitted for translation.” (1TT 64.3)

80

[Read highlighted only]

A faint, artistic background image of a person in a prayerful pose, with hands clasped and head bowed, set against a dark, textured background. The person appears to be wearing a light-colored garment.

H

Confession and Working With God

“I was shown that if God's people make no efforts on their part, but wait for the refreshing to come upon them and remove their wrongs and correct their errors; if they depend upon that to cleanse them from filthiness of the flesh and spirit, and fit them to engage in the loud cry of the third angel, they will be found wanting. **The refreshing or power of God comes only on those who have prepared themselves for it by doing the work which God bids them, namely, cleansing themselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**” ([3TT 214.2](#))

81

[Read highlighted only]

A faint, artistic background image of a person in a prayerful pose, with hands clasped and head bowed, set against a dark, textured background. The image is partially obscured by the text and a yellow triangle in the top left corner.

H

The Threats Against Revival

“We have far more to fear from within than from without.

The hindrances to strength and success are far greater from the church itself than from the world. Unbelievers have a right to expect that those who profess to be keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, will do more than any other class to promote and honor, by their consistent lives, by their godly example and their active influence, the cause which they represent. (True Revival 10.2, emphasis added)

**H**

The Threats Against Revival

“But how often have the professed advocates of the truth proved the greatest obstacle to its advancement! The unbelief indulged, the doubts expressed, the darkness cherished, encourage the presence of evil angels, and open the way for the accomplishment of Satan's devices.”

(True Revival 10.2, emphasis added)

83

- **** Okay, now we've seen what revival is and the threats.**
- **** Now let's begin to get practical.**

Running the Race

“...and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...” (Hebrews 12:1a)

“⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

84



[Read highlighted only]

H

Standing in the Evil Day

- Ellen White said the Lord did not come in 1800's because there was no people ready for the Holy Spirit.
- Being able to **stand** at the end of time means that we must be ready to receive the outpouring of the **Holy Spirit called the "Latter Rain."**
- Receiving the Latter Rain requires proper character traits arising from a heart totally committed to God.
- To get a view of what that means to us, let's take a quick look at the Former Rain in the book of Acts.

85

[→ to Standing in the Evil Day]

The Former Rain

⁴ And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to **wait for the Promise of the Father**, “which,” *He said*, “you have heard from Me; ⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit **not many [10] days from now.**” (Acts 1:4-5)

86

[Read slide then below]

- As we go through the next few slides, watch for the characteristics of the early church after Pentecost.

The Former Rain

¹ When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with **one accord in one place**. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, ... ⁴ **And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance... ⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.” (Acts 2:1-4, 41)

87



[Read slide first]

- Clearly the single most important key to revival is the work of the Holy Spirit.

[→ to Characteristics of the Early Church]

H

Characteristics of the Early Church

- They continued steadfastly in the **apostles' doctrine and fellowship**, in **breaking of bread**, and in **prayers**. (Acts 2:42)
- Now the multitude of those who believed were of **one heart** and **one soul**... (Acts 4:32a)
- So when they heard that, they **raised their voice to God with one accord** and said: "Lord, You *are* God, ... (Acts 4:24).
- And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with **one accord** in Solomon's Porch. (Acts 5:12)

H

Characteristics of the Early Church

“Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, **having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.** ³ Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind **let each esteem others better than himself.** ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:1-4)

89

- So, looking back through these slides, let's list the characteristics.

Characteristics of the Early Church

- Bible study
- Fellowship
- Sharing meals
- Prayer
- One heart
- One Soul
- One accord
- Like minded
- Love one for another

Ten Days in the Upper Room

BEFORE

- A bunch of arguing individuals (who was to be the greatest)
- All fled at Jesus' arrest
- Peter's Denial
- Call down fire from heaven against a whole city

AFTER

- A team with one heart and love God and one for another
- One accord, one mind
- Prayer and praise
- Breaking bread and fellowship

91

[Read slide first and discuss, then...]

- Q: So, what happened??? [Pause]

Initial Deposit of the Holy Spirit

“²¹ So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, ‘**Receive the Holy Spirit**’.” (John 20: 21-22)

92

[Read below first.]

A: The first installment of the Holy spirit poured out before Pentecost.

[Read slide]

What Happened in the Upper Room?

1. Great joy broke out and praises fell from every lip.
2. Each individual saw the beauty and holiness of the Lord.
3. Each saw their sins and the blackness of their souls.
4. There were prayers of confession to God and to others.
5. Relationships were mended as needed.
6. They became a fully united team.
7. They reviewed all that they had witnessed and learned.
8. They spent most of the 10 days in sharing meals, singing, praying, reading scripture, and talking about their combined experiences with the Lord.

93

[Read below first]

- In the upper room before Christ's ascension, Christ gave an initial impartation of the Holy Spirit.
- Christ opened their minds to remember **and understand** all that He had said, all that they had seen and heard!
- Knowing this, let's consider what happened in the Upper Room during the 10 days before Pentecost?

[Next 8 times]

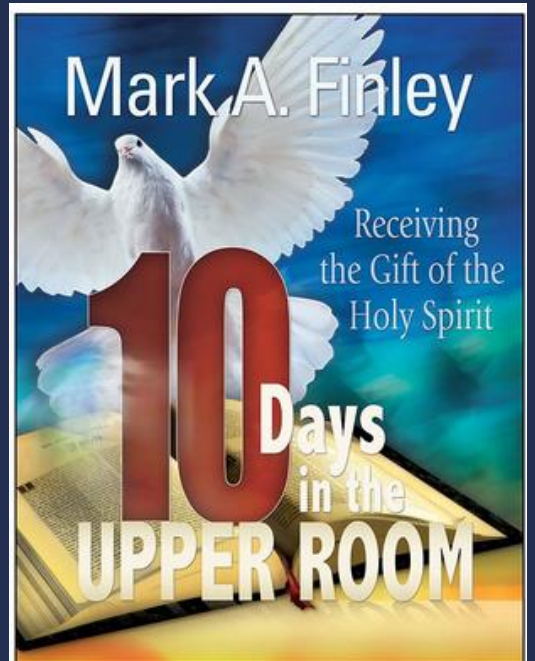
- Can we not do what they did? That is, can we return to the upper room? **[Pause]**
- Yes. There is an excellent workbook by Mark Findley to take us through the upper room experience.

10 Days in the Upper Room

Some references from the book:

- [The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit](#)
- [The Promise is for Us](#)
- [Pentecost](#)

For a quote from the introduction to the book, [click here](#).



[Hold up book]

- The book explains the Holy Spirit which will help us make the **heart changes** necessary to be ready for the last days and the latter rain.
- Benefits of a small group studying this book.
- Complete signup sheet with each name, phone, and email.
- More on this opportunity after potluck.

H

10 Days in the Upper Room

The prayer experience in the Upper Room launched a life of prayer for the disciples' entire ministry. Through prayer they developed trusting hearts. Through prayer they established an attitude of dependence on the Almighty. Through prayer they acknowledged their weakness and sought His strength. Through prayer they admitted their ignorance and sought His wisdom. The disciples openly recognized their limitations and cried out for His all-sufficient power. They recognized they could never reach the world with the gospel without the presence and power of the Holy Spirit working through them. **Pentecost was the result of heartfelt intercession!!** (10 Days, page 11, emphasis added)

95

An Appeal to be Ready

96

- Let's ask the Holy Spirit to lead and direct our thoughts for these last few moments.

A Call for Change

“If My people who are called by My name will

- humble themselves,
- and pray
- and seek My face,
- and turn from their wicked ways,

Then I will

- hear from heaven,
- forgive their sins,
- and heal their land [or your heart].” (2 Chronicles 7:14)

97



[→Slides on Satan as the accuser of the brethren]

[Next to show IF]

- If implies that there are conditions for the coming promise. Here are the conditions.

[Next 4 times for conditions (humble, pray seek, and turn)]

[Next to show THEN]

- Now here are the promises

[Next 3 times (hear, forgive, heal)]

- And heal (put here what needs to be healed in your life)

Heart Change



“By what means shall [we] repress [our] evil propensities, and develop that which is noble and good in [our] characters? Let us heed the words, “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” [[1 Corinthians 10:31](#).] Here is a principle that is to underlie every motive, thought, and act. Unholy passions must be crucified. They will clamor for indulgence, but God has implanted in the heart high and holy purposes and desires, and these need not be debased. **It is only when we refuse to submit to the control of reason and conscience that we are dragged down.** Paul declared, “I can do all things through Christ.” ([GW 127.3](#))

98

[Read below first]

- Clearly the single most important key to revival is the work of the Holy Spirit.
- Should this not be near the top of our prayer list?

Heart Change



“If you draw close to Jesus, and seek to adorn your profession by a well-ordered life and godly conversation, your feet will be kept from straying into forbidden paths. If you will only watch, continually watch unto prayer, if you will do everything as if you were in the immediate presence of God, you will be saved from yielding to temptation, and may hope to be kept pure, spotless, and undefiled till the last. If you hold the beginning of your confidence firm unto the end, your ways will be established in God, and what grace has begun, glory will crown in the kingdom of our God. The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law. If Christ be within us, we shall crucify the flesh with the affections and lusts.” ([GW 128.1](#))

99

[Read below first]

- Clearly the single most important key to revival is the work of the Holy Spirit.
- Should this not be near the top of our prayer list?

H

Satan, An Accuser of the Brethren

“Wonderful events are soon to open before the world. The end of all things is at hand. The time of trouble is about to come upon the people of God. Then it is that the decree will go forth forbidding those who keep the Sabbath of the Lord to buy or sell, and threatening them with punishment, and even death, if they do not observe the first day of the week as the Sabbath.” ([HS 156.2](#))

100

[Read bold if on short sermon time]

H

Satan, An Accuser of the Brethren

“As we approach the perils of the last days, the temptations of the enemy become stronger and more determined. Satan has come down in great power, knowing that his time is short; and he is working “with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish.” **The warning comes to us through God’s word, that, if it were possible, he would deceive the very elect.”** ([HS 156.2](#))

H

Satan, An Accuser of the Brethren

[Click here](#) for the full chapter in Historical Sketches

“Joshua is represented as pleading with the Angel. Are we engaged in the same work? Are our supplications ascending to God in living faith? Are we opening the door of the heart to Jesus, and closing every means of entrance to Satan? Are we daily obtaining clearer light and greater strength, that we may stand in Christ’s righteousness? Are we emptying our hearts of all selfishness, and cleansing them, preparatory to receiving the latter rain from heaven?” ([HS 155.2](#))

102

**H**

Satan, An Accuser of the Brethren

“Now is the time when we are to confess and forsake our sins that they may go beforehand to judgment and be blotted out. Now is the time to “cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” It is dangerous to delay this work. ... In these days of peril, the Lord would have us walk before him in humility. Instead of trying to cover our sins, he would have us confess them, as Joshua confessed the sins of ancient Israel. ([HS 155.3](#))

103

[Read only bold when time is limited]

A person is kneeling in prayer with their arms raised, silhouetted against a sunset or sunrise sky. The person is in the center of the frame, with their arms spread wide. The background shows a horizon line with some distant land or hills. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and dark blue. The overall mood is peaceful and spiritual.

H

Satan, An Accuser of the Brethren ([HS pp 64-71](#))

“Whenever little annoyances and trials arise, ask God in silent prayer to give you strength and grace to bear them patiently. There is a power in silence; do not speak a word until you have sent up your petition to the God of heaven. If you will always do this, you will soon overcome your hasty temper, and you will have a little heaven here to go to heaven in.”

104

Come, Let Us Reason Together

- Does God love you?
- As a loving God, does he not **want the best** for you?
- Since God exists in all time at the same time, **does He not know all the trials** that you will face?
- Since He understands our future, **doesn't He know the best path for you** to navigate the tough days ahead?
- Does it make sense for us to try to “go it alone”?
- Shall we not decide at this moment to **trust Him in every detail of our lives?**

105

[Read below first]

- Right now, before we proceed, let's ask the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to receive His wisdom. **[Pray]**
- First consider the following thoughts and consider your responses...

[Next 6 times & then comments below]

- **[God's Love]** Really? Think how He has blessed you in the past. Ellen White once said:
 - “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.”
- **[Wants best]** Since we as loving parents know how to give good gifts to our children, how much more does God want to bless us?
- **[Knows trials]** Not only does He know our trials, they are **hand picked specifically for us** to purify us and prepare us for future trials. **[Discuss including below]**
 - [David before Goliath killed a bear and a lion (1 Samuel 17:34-37) ; learned to use sling to protect his flock; had lots of quiet time with the Lord. Also note anointing before becoming king.]
- **[Best path]**
- **[Go it alone]** Frequently I try to go it alone, and do face plants on the concrete. I seem to be a slow learner.
- **[Trust]** The only thing we can give the Lord is our wills. Using our will, we must choose to trust Him with everything. **Bottom line** is that the only way to get through the coming trials is to **choose** to let Him lead and to do all He asks us to do. This may be specific actions towards others or individually as part of God's purifying process. **[Pause]**

What About Us Here, Today

- Clearly the single most important key to a real heart change is to allow the Holy Spirit to clean us up and make us ready for the latter rain!
- Is this the Holy Spirit's desire for you?
- Is this your desire, to have the Holy Spirit make you ready?

106

[Next 3 times with pause]

Ask for the Holy Spirit

“¹³ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, *how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!*” (Luke 11:13)

107

[Read below first]

- Clearly the single most important key to revival is the work of the Holy Spirit.
- Should this not be near the top of our prayer list?

Our Stuff

- Learn to hang on to the things of this world loosely!
- Many writers believe that, in the last days, will lose just all that makes life comfortable and **will be forced to live only by faith.**
- In the worst of the last days, we probably won't have or need most of our stuff anyway. Sufficient for those days will be just food and shelter.
- Now we need to learn to love God more than our stuff.
- Nothing we possess is of more importance than the Lord.

108

- Just looking at the streams of refugees fleeing Gaza, it reminds me that this might be our condition during the last days.
- We only know that it will be “a time of trouble such as never was before.”



- So, would not an outpouring of the Holy Spirit change our lives? Would our priorities change? **[Pause]** Would our home life be different? **[Pause]** Would we be at peace with each other? **[Pause]** Would we be united? **[Pause]** Would more souls be saved for the kingdom? **[Pause]** Would strangers entering our church see the Lord in each of our faces and be convicted of their sins? **[Pause]**
- So, when Christ tells us to be ready for His return, is He not implying that by we would also be ready to receive the Holy Spirit? **[Pause]**

[→For calls to Holiness, Love, Serve]

H

A Call to Holiness

- **“¹⁶ Because it is written, be ye holy; for I am holy.”**
(1 Peter 1:16)
- **“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...”** (Philippians 2:5-11)
- **“If you love me, keep my commandments.”** (John 14:15)
- **“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD; ⁵ and thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.** (Deut. 6:4-6)

110



[Read only bold when time is limited]
[→ for more on this topic]

A faint, artistic background image of a person in a prayerful pose, with hands clasped and head bowed, set against a dark, textured background. The person appears to be wearing a light-colored garment.

H

A Call to Holiness

“^{1:8} If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ^{1:9} If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ... ^{2:1} My little children, **these things I write to you, so that you may not sin.** And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” (1 John 1:8-9, 2:1)

111

- Our battle is against sin, dodging the fiery darts of the evil one.
 - Today, we will cover some specific thoughts on this.
- [→ to more on this topic]



H

A Call to Love

- “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)
- **Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God;** and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God... ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ **Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.** (1 John 4:7, 10-11)

112

[Read only bold when time is limited]

**H**

A Call to Serve

“God has a work for each to do. It is no part of His plan that souls shall be sustained in the battle of life by human sympathy and praise; but He means that we shall go **without the camp, bearing His reproach, fighting the good fight of faith, and standing in His strength under every difficulty. God has opened to us all the treasures of heaven through the precious gift of His Son, who is fully able to uplift, ennoble, and fit us, through His perfection of character, for usefulness in this life and for a holy heaven. He came to our world and lived as He requires His followers to live. His was a life of self-denial and constant self-sacrifice.”** ([5T 579.1](#))

113

[Read bold only]

A faint, artistic background image of a person in a prayerful pose, with hands clasped and head bowed, set against a dark, textured background. The person appears to be wearing a light-colored garment.

H

A Call to Serve

“If we encourage selfishness and ease and the gratification of inclination, and do not put forth our best efforts to co-operate with God in the wonderful work of elevating, ennobling, and purifying us, that we may become sons and daughters of God, then we do not meet His requirements; we sustain a continual loss in this life, and we shall eventually lose the future, immortal life. God wants you to work, not with self-disparagement nor in discouragement, but with the strongest faith and hope, with cheerfulness and joy, representing Christ to the world. The religion of Jesus is joy, peace, and happiness.” (5T 579.1)

114

[Read only bold, twice if time allows]

Some Questions

- Are you satisfied with the progress of your walk with the Lord?
- If you keep doing what you have been doing over the last couple of years, will you be able to stay true to the Lord during the extreme testing that lies ahead?
- Are you really ready for very tough times?

115

[Read slide, pause, then]

- To answer, we need to do a full spiritual inventory:
 - Am I in the habit of making small compromises with sin?
 - Am I giving God quality time in quiet meditation?
 - Ask these questions and others as prompted by the Holy Spirit.
- ***Should we not do all it takes to be ready?***

10 Days in the Upper Room

“The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin. **He reveals hidden attitudes and dispositional traits we may be unaware of.** Our loving Lord longs for each one of us to manifest the grace of His character. As we are willing to confront our faults and surrender them to Jesus, the Holy Spirit will empower us to live godly lives. Our faith will increase as we see the Holy Spirit working miracles in our own lives. **The disciples’ testimony after Pentecost was the testimony of how Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, changed their lives. He did it for them, and if we allow Him to, He will do the same for us.**” (Chapter 2, page 28)

116

Here is a quote from the book 10 Days In the Upper Room.
[Read bold only]

A Final Appeal

One in twenty!

**“And he, trembling and astonished said,
Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?”**

(Acts 9:6)

117

[Long pause and then read slide]

A Final Appeal

- Prioritize your quiet prayer time with the Lord.
- Conduct a spiritual inventory as you daily ask the Lord to show you your sins and to purify you **for His work**.
- Cooperate with the Holy Spirit as he cleans you up.
- Pray always for the Holy Spirit.

Believe great things of God!



Attempt great things for God!

118

[Read slide]

[Next to start music]

[Next to show "Believe great things of God"]

[Next to show "Attempt great things for God"]

[Ask for show of hands who seen needed changes in their walk with the Lord and is willing to make changes]

Extra notes for PDF

Notes on Holy Spirit from EGW:

The lapse of time has wrought no change in Christ's parting promise to send the Holy Spirit as His representative. It is not because of any restriction on the part of God that the riches of His grace do not flow earthward to men. If the fulfillment of the promise is not seen as it might be, it is because the promise is not appreciated as it should be. If all were willing, all would be filled with the Spirit. Wherever the need of the Holy Spirit is a matter little thought of, there is seen spiritual drought, spiritual darkness, spiritual declension and death. Whenever minor matters occupy the attention, the divine power which is necessary for the growth and prosperity of the church [and to survive the last days], and which would bring all other blessings in its train, is lacking, though offered in infinite plenitude. (AA 50.1)

Since this is the means by which we are to receive power, why do we not hunger and thirst for the gift of the Spirit? Why do we not talk of it, pray for it, and preach concerning it? The Lord is more willing to give the

Holy Spirit to those who serve Him than parents are to give good gifts to their children. For the daily baptism of the Spirit every worker should offer his petition to God. Companies of Christian workers should gather to ask for special help, for heavenly wisdom, that they may know how to plan and execute wisely. Especially should they pray that God will baptize His chosen ambassadors in mission fields with a rich measure of His Spirit. The presence of the Spirit with God's workers will give the proclamation of truth a power that not all the honor or glory of the world could give. (AA 50.2)

It is true that in the time of the end, when God's work in the earth is closing, the earnest efforts put forth by consecrated believers under the guidance of the Holy Spirit are to be accompanied by special tokens of divine favor. Under the figure of the early and the latter rain, that falls in Eastern lands at seedtime and harvest, the Hebrew prophets foretold the bestowal of spiritual grace in extraordinary measure upon God's church. The outpouring of the Spirit in the days of the apostles was the beginning of the early, or former, rain, and glorious was the result. To the end of time the presence of the Spirit is to abide with the true church. (AA 54.2)

But near the close of earth's harvest, a special bestowal of spiritual grace is promised to prepare the church for the coming of the Son of man. This outpouring of the Spirit is likened to the falling of the latter rain; and it is for this added power that Christians are to send their petitions to the Lord of the harvest "in the time of the latter rain." In response, "the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain." "He will cause to come down ... the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain," ([Zechariah 10:1](#); [Joel 2:23](#)). (AA 55.1)

But unless the members of God's church today have a living connection with the Source of all spiritual growth, they will not be ready for the time of reaping. Unless they keep their lamps trimmed and burning, they will fail of receiving added grace in times of special need. (AA 55.2)

Those only who are constantly receiving fresh supplies of grace, will have power proportionate to their daily need and their ability to use that power. Instead of looking forward to some future time when, through a special endowment of spiritual power, they will receive a miraculous fitting up for soul winning, they are yielding themselves daily to God, that He may make them vessels meet for His use. Daily they are improving the opportunities for service that lie within their reach. Daily they are witnessing for the Master wherever they may be, whether in some humble sphere of labor in the home, or in a public field of usefulness. (AA 55.3)

Finally, Heaven is More Than Worth It

“¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.”

(Romans 8:18-19)

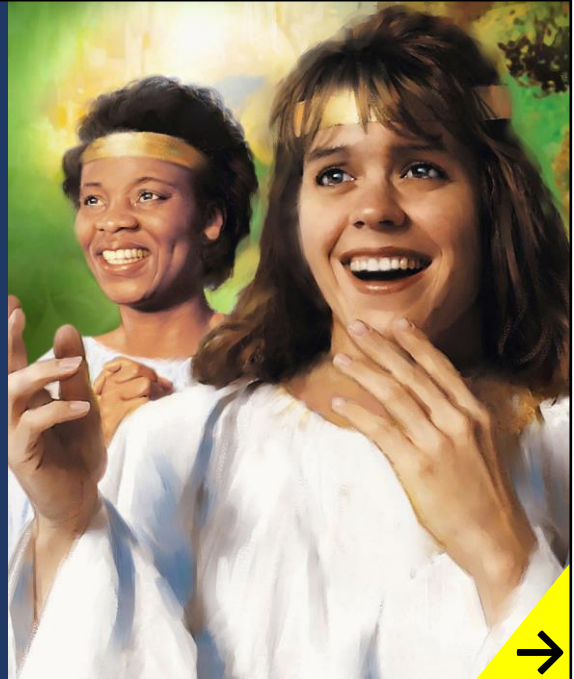
[Read highlighted only?]

Here is a little motivation for our journey.

There shall be no more pain,
for the former things have
passed away.”

(Revelation 21:4)

**Heaven is more than
worth it!**



[→ More slides on sonship and heaven]

Just a reminder of our destination...

H

Heaven is More Than Worth It

“Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” (Luke 12:32)

“¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are **sons of God**. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ **The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,** ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, **if indeed we suffer with Him,** that we may also be glorified together.”

(Romans 8:14-17)

121

[Read highlighted only?]

**H**

Heaven is More Than Worth It

³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:37-39)

122

[Read highlighted only?]

**H**

Heaven is More Than Worth It

“...Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; **You are Mine.** ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.

³ **For I am the LORD your God...**” (Isaiah 43:1-3)

123

Heaven is More than Worth It



The things of earth will dim and lose their value
If we recall they're borrowed for awhile;
And things of earth that cause the heart to tremble,
Remembered there will only bring a smile.

But until then my heart will go on singing,
Until then with joy I'll carry on,
Until the day my eyes behold the city,
Until the day God calls me home.

("Until Then", #632 in SDA Hymnal)



124

[If time permits, click **SPEAKER** and then read along with music then]

Can I have a **BIG** amen?

Heaven is More Than Worth It



[If time is short, just click next immediately]**

[Else, read below slowly]

As I play this video:

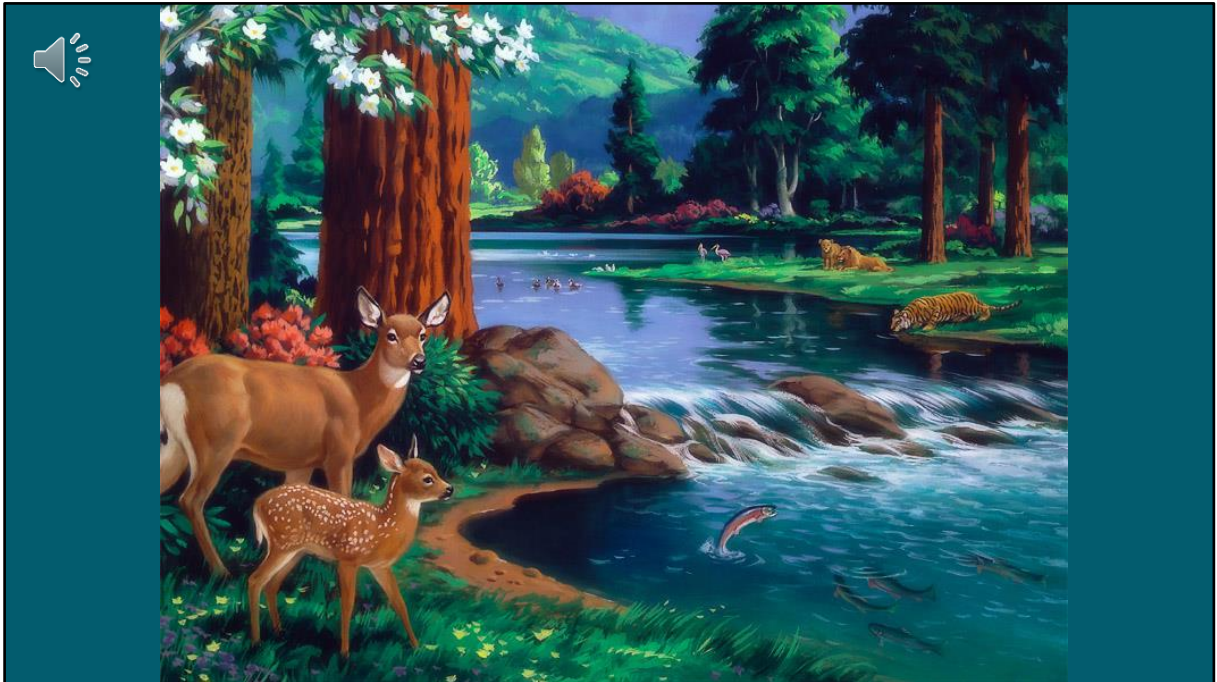
- Read and internalized the words;
- Visualize casting **all** your cares upon the Lord;
- Sense what heaven will be like: total love, joy and peace; no stress; no rush; no deadlines; no Satan; no temptations...

[Click anywhere on video]

[After video, note:]

The struggles that lie ahead are clearly “not worthy to be compared to the glory that shall be revealed in us.”

“Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” (Luke 12:32)



“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” (1 Cor. 2:9)



“And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. ⁴ **And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.**”

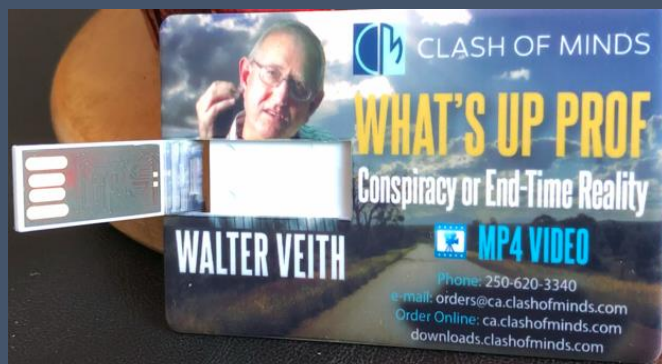
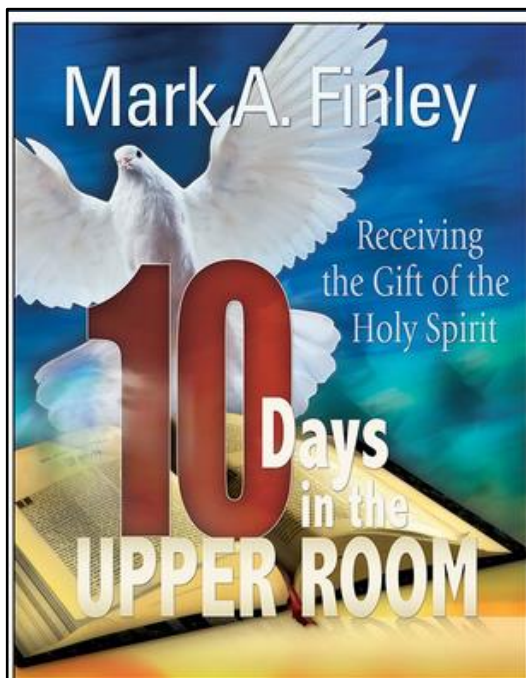
(Revelation 21:3-4)

So, is heaven worth it?



[Pause]

- These are momentous and exciting times.
- Though these may be tough times, the Lord will lead us **through** them and to the promised land.,
- However, there is a work to do **but together with the Lord, we will all stand in the first resurrection.**
- Are willing to make that effort? **[pause]**
- Mention Findley book again.



- There will be a short meeting after potluck to explore starting a study of this book.
 - They say that if you need a change in your life, the first step is to change **something**.
 - It is also said that it is insanity to keep doing the same thing **and expecting a different result**.
 - If God so leads you, consider taking an active part in this study.
- A signup sheet is available now and will be available in the meeting after lunch.
- I will also describe using this evangelism flash drive and have some to pass out.