

Whose Side, of the Great Controversy, are the Vendens on?

This article is a Bible and Spirit of Prophecy study on important things that we Seventh-day Adventists need to know. It takes a look at a few of the teachings of the Vendens, and encourages you to tap into a connection with the Holy Spirit so He will tell you personally whose side they are on, as compared with each related portion of the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy doctrine just focused on. Links directly into the Spirit of Prophecy website, have been painstakingly included. You are strongly encouraged to look up every reference, and carefully, prayerfully, consider the context for yourself, asking the Lord at every step, "[is this the way of the Lord?](#)" I try not to make too many of my own comments, letting our foundation speak for itself.

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The three Main focuses of the study are:

1. [The importance of, and power of, God's Word.](#) m1 Page 6
2. [Our duty in the war against the devil, and sin.](#) m2 Page 19
3. [How does the Lord transform our nature, before He returns, and how important is that?](#) m3 Page 35

These three, really are the main objectives in this, and have a far more, "[eternal weight of glory.](#)"¹ than the title suggests. Hearts and minds are directed toward considerations that have, "[an eternal weight of glory.](#)"¹

Stand:

[Then toward the bottom there are additional references on the importance of taking a stand.](#)

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Seven Analytical Questions:

These below, are seven questions that will be asked again, and again, as related to what the Vendens teach on these three main important points shown above. The references to these are the first group of references below. These are seven questions to prayerfully consider as you compare their teachings, to messages that are known to be from God:

1. Are these teachings "according," to God's word? [Isaiah 8:20](#)
2. Does this "so closely" "resemble the true," that it is difficult to tell? [GC 593.1](#)
3. Is "every statement" in line with "the doctrine of Christ?" [GC 593.1](#) [2 John 1:9-11](#)
4. Is this easy to see with God's "power to distinguish?" [SpTB02 8.2](#)
5. Are Christ's instructions being "strictly heeded," not missing "one word?" [9T 266.1](#)
6. Is this a "lie?" [9T 266.1](#)
7. Or is this "truth?" [9T 266.1](#)

Emphasis and Reference Comparisons:

Rather than making this filled with **many of my own comments**, the Spirit of God wanted me to prayerfully provide emphasis by using **unconventional formatting** including **underlining**, **font colors**, **font size changes**, and so forth, to help make it easier to call attention to the thoughts that your attention is being directed toward as related to each concept being considered. In other words, **“emphasis IS supplied,” but does NOT indicate the tone or loudness of the voice intended.** I will **not** state this every place that it is supplied. You must **assume** that it is. You are encouraged to look up each reference for yourself. There, you can compare text that doesn't contain my added emphasis, with this here that does. Then see if you can **spot these items there**, and **prayerfully consider** everything together, **in all its context**. Though these large letters maybe misunderstood as being intended for loud, unpleasant words, that is not what is intended by them, as you might normally expect. **Instead, they are to simply quietly call your attention to certain concepts that relate to various sections of the study, using fewer words of my own**, so you can more easily scan the study, and see the related words you have already read, and ones you are about to read. While loudness, nor feelings of irritation or anger, are not intended by the larger letters. A slowing down of the speed that the words are read at, maybe appropriate, to **softly and gently** provide emphasis in that way, with tones of voice that are at times **filled with sadness**, as our angels have as they whisper into our ears to try to remind us of these things that we have tendencies to forget and overlook.

If I got it right, the **Arial** text is mine, and the **Times New Roman** is the original wording from the **Bible and Spirit of Prophecy**. The little “L”s are links for Libronix, and may work for Logos. They worked for me with Libronix originally, but may be broken now for you and need fixing. I hope to check these more carefully, and make them more widely compatible. These will hopefully work for those who know how to use them, so they can bring up their own books, with their own emphasis, highlighting and notes to compare concepts, more quickly and easily, there. Additionally, there are some references that are included more than once. **Rather than put in more of my own comments, some of the references are included additional times**, to make it easier to compare them to ones that are nearer them than the first time they were quoted, and for additional emphasis to jog your memory if you don't remember it exactly word for word from seeing it the first time. I believe that one of the biggest problems that our church has today, is that there are too many people writing about what they think it says, and not enough focus on carefully considering and comparing what is being said, to what it actually says in the original Holy Spirit moved references. An **“idolatrous exaltation of human wisdom above divine revelation,”** that we are warned about in **PK 177** and **178**, is something I want **no part of**. It is a form of **idolatry** to focus more on what someone of our day says, than on what God has told us through His ordained channels in the past. Therefore, I have tried to keep my comments to a minimum, by using these methods explained in this paragraph, instead of risking saying to much.

The Seven Analytical Questions References:

This first reference below, is from the Spirit of Prophecy book entitled, *“The Great Controversy,”* page 593.

Chap. 37 - *The Scriptures a Safeguard*

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not **according to this word**, it is because **there is NO light in them**.” Isaiah 8:20. The people of God are directed to the Scriptures as their safeguard against the influence of false teachers and the delusive power of spirits of darkness. Satan employs every possible device to prevent men from obtaining a knowledge of the Bible; for its plain utterances reveal his deceptions. At every revival of God’s work the prince of evil is aroused to more intense activity; he is now putting forth his utmost efforts for a final struggle against Christ and His followers. The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. **So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures.** By their testimony **every statement and every miracle must be tested.** {GC 593.1} L

Those who endeavor to obey all the commandments of God will be opposed and derided. They can stand only in God. **In order to endure the trial before them, they must understand the will of God as revealed in His word; they can honor Him only as they have a right conception of His character, government, and purposes, and act in accordance with them. None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great [BEGIN P.594] conflict.** To every soul will come the searching test: Shall I obey God rather than men? The decisive hour is even now at hand. Are our feet planted on the rock of **God’s immutable word**? Are we prepared to stand firm in defense of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus?” {GC 593.2} L

1 Corinthians 2:15 and 16

“¹⁵ But he that is spiritual **judgeth all things**, yet he himself is judged of no man. ¹⁶ **For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him?** But we have the mind of Christ.” [1 Cor 2:15-16](#) L

Do you have the “**mind of the Lord**,” such that He will instruct you? If not, how is it that we are to receive the “**mind of the Lord**”, so that He will instruct us? Keep reading.

Hebrews 5:12 - 14

“¹² For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the **first principles** of the **oracles of God**; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. ¹³ For every one that useth **milk** *is* unskilful in the **word of righteousness**: for he is a **babe**. ¹⁴ But **strong meat** belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by **reason of use** have their **senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**” [Hebrews 5:12-14](#) L

Isaiah 28:9-11

“⁹ Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand **doctrine?** *them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.* ¹⁰ For **precept must be upon precept**, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little: ¹¹ For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. ¹² To whom he said, This *is* **the rest** *wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing;* yet they would not hear.” [Isaiah 28:9-11](#) L

1 Corinthians 6:3

“³ Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?” [1 Corinthians 6:3](#) L

Review and Herald, November 14, 1907

“**I am instructed** to bear this message to ministers: Judge not after the desire of your own mind. Do not, in order to carry out your own plans, bring forward that which will condemn another. Such a work is not a work of

righteousness, and is one which God forbids. **If you are under the sweet influence of Christ's Spirit, it is your privilege to give counsel to your brother; but if you are not under the direction of the Spirit of God, keep silence.** It is God's prerogative to judge, not man's. Man is debarred from the seat of judgment by the words of Christ, 'Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.'" {[Review and Herald, November 14, 1907 par. 6](#)}

This was put together under the **direction** of the Spirit of God. **If you can not hear the Holy Spirit's Voice yourself, now, above all other times in the past,** you need to carefully consider all the references here that the spot light is currently shining on, and everything else that God has told us, so that you can also have a connection with God, such that you will hear the voice of His Holy Spirit. God wants all of us to have this type of connection with Him, so He can directly give us directions, on wrong and right, and what we need to do.

Acts of the Apostles pages 554 and 555.

“Whosoever transgresseth, and **abideth not** in the **doctrine of Christ, hath not God.** He that **abideth** in the **doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.**

¹⁰ If there come **any** unto you, and bring not this **doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:** ¹¹ For he that biddeth him **God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.**” [2 John 1:9-11 L](#) Also in the last part of {[AA 554.2](#)}

“**We are authorized** to hold in the same estimation as did the beloved disciple those who **claim to abide in Christ while living in transgression of God's law.** There exist in these last days evils similar to those that threatened the prosperity of the early church; **and the teachings of the apostle John on these points should be carefully heeded.** "You must have charity," is the cry heard everywhere, [BEGIN P.555] especially from those who profess sanctification. **But true charity is too pure to cover an unconfessed sin.** While we are to love the souls for whom Christ died, we are to make **no compromise with evil. We are not to unite with the rebellious and call this charity.** God requires His people in this age of the world to stand for the right as **unflinchingly** as did John in opposition to **soul-destroying errors.** {[AA 554.3](#)} L

The apostle teaches that while we should manifest Christian courtesy we are authorized to **deal in plain terms with sin and sinners; that this is not inconsistent with true charity.** "Whosoever committeth sin," he writes, "transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin. **Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen Him, neither known Him.**"” {[AA 555.1](#)} L

Are these references saying that we are supposed to be empowered by the Spirit of God, to tell whose side teachers claiming to work for Jesus are really on?

This reference below, is from the little Spirit of Prophecy booklet entitled, “**Testimonies for the Church Containing Letters to Physicians and Ministers Instructions to Seventh-day Adventists.**” It is found in chapter number one, that is also entitled, “The Great Controversy.” When finished with this article, carefully consider this entire chapter, only portions of which are included here.

“Through the **transforming power of the grace of Christ,** men may prevail against the evil that strives for the victory. They need not become the servants of Satan, the **dupes** of his lies. They need not continue to be his willing captives. They may rise against the deceiver, whose wily tissue of lies cost our first parents their Eden

home. They may resist the attacks of Satan. **God can give them power to distinguish between falsehood and error, between sincerity and truth.** If they choose, they may stand on vantage ground. But they can continue to stand there only by placing their hand in the hand of Christ, and **following where He leads the way.**” {SpTB02 8.2} L

Testimonies for the Church, Volume 9, page 266

"It is always safe to be meek and lowly and tenderhearted, **but at the same time we are to be as firm as a rock to the teachings of Christ. His words of instruction are to be strictly heeded. Not one word** is to be lost sight of. **The truth will abide forever.** We are not to place our trust in **any lie** or pretense. Those who do this will find that it has been done at the loss of eternal life. We are now to make straight paths for our feet, lest the lame be turned out of the way. When the lame are turned from safe paths, who is accountable but **those who have misled them?** They have set at nought the counsel of the One whose **words** are life eternal, for the works of deception originating with the father of lies.” {9T 266.1} L

Evangelism, page 590

“**Diverging Paths of Truth and Error**—Satan's angels are wise to do evil, and they will create that which some will claim to be advanced light, and will proclaim it as new and wonderful; yet while in some respects the message may be truth, it will be mingled with human inventions, and will teach for doctrine the commandments of men. If there was ever a time when we should watch and pray in real earnest, **it is now.** Many apparently good things will need to be carefully considered with much prayer, for they are specious devices of the enemy to lead souls in a path which lies so close to the path of truth that it will be scarcely distinguishable from it. But the eye of faith may discern that it is diverging, though **almost imperceptibly, from the right path.** At first it may be thought positively right, but after a while it is seen to be **widely divergent** from **the way which leads to holiness and heaven.** My brethren, I warn you to make straight paths for your feet, lest the lame be turned out of the way.” {Ev 590.1}

Brief Background and Exhortation:

The cousins, Lee and Gary Venden, currently work for the Arizona Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Their web site says they are working together to help people learn about having a real relationship with Jesus. Lee, is the son of the late Morris Venden, who not only worked as a pastor for several different Seventh-day Adventist churches during his life time, but also wrote several different books. Being raised in the house of his father, Lee would no doubt have been taught by him. Similarly, Gary states this, on the about page, of their “All About Jesus Seminars,” web site. “Gary carries a special passion for the message of ‘Righteousness by Faith,’ which he learned from his cousin and **mentor**, Morris Venden.” So what Morris Venden taught, is clearly the foundation of what they teach, and believe.

Following below, are some quotes from books he has written. They still stand in support of these statements, because they are on their list of good books about Jesus. The Lord encouraged me to put these statements, just below selected references from the Bible, and the Spirit of Prophecy, on the topics of those quotes from their books. This article then asks you the questions shown at the top,

to encourage you to think about whether or not these are in harmony with God, or out of harmony with God. Is it almost, but not quite what God told us? Or is it easy to see differences? Is this a lie, or is it the truth?

1. The Importance of, and Power of, God's Word:

Section Summary:

Preceding References

Cited Statement #1

[Fine Tuning Questions #1](#)

Cited Statement #1 Preceding References. Carefully read the references below, then read the "[Cited Statement #1](#)," just under them. When finished considering this article, please look up, and review all the context of all Bible, and Spirit of Prophecy references.

Matthew 4:1-11

¹ Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. ² And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. ³ And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. ⁴ But he answered and said, **It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.** ⁵ Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. ⁷ Jesus said unto him, **It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.** ⁸ Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; ⁹ And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. ¹⁰ Then saith Jesus unto him, **Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.** ¹¹ Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him." [Matthew 4:1-11 L](#)

****Additional references that are being consider to add in this section can be found here.****
I got many of them here now, but some are not yet.

John 1:1-4

¹ In the beginning was **the Word**, and **the Word** was with God, and **the Word was God.** ² The same was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life; and the life was the light of men." [John 1:1-4 L](#)

John 1:14

"And the **Word was made flesh**, and dwelled among us," [John 1:14](#)

Luke 4:31-32

³¹ And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days. ³² And they were astonished at his doctrine: for **his word was with power.**" [Luke 4:31-32 L](#)

Hebrews 4:12

“¹² For the **word of God** is **quick**, and **powerful**, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the **dividing asunder** of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” [Hebrews 4:12](#) [L](#)

Strong's 2198 on the word quick.

“**2198 ζῴω [zao /dzah·o/]** v. A primary verb; TDNT 2:832; TDNTA 290; GK 2409; 143 occurrences; AV translates as “**live**” 117 times, “be **alive**” nine times, “**alive**” six times, “**quick**” four times, “**lively**” three times, not translated once, translated miscellaneously twice, and “vr live” once. **1** to **live**, breathe, be among the living (not lifeless, not dead). **2** to enjoy real life. 2a to have true life and worthy of the name. 2b active, blessed, endless in the kingdom of God. **3** to live i.e. pass life, in the manner of the living and acting. 3a of mortals or character. **4 living water, having vital power in itself and exerting the same upon the soul.** **5** metaph. to be in full vigour. 5a to be fresh, strong, efficient,. 5b as adj. active, powerful, efficacious.” Strong, J. (1996). *The exhaustive concordance of the Bible.* [L](#)

1 Peter 1:22-23

“²² Seeing ye **have purified** your souls in obeying **the truth** through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye love* one another with a **pure** heart fervently: ²³ Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by **the word of God**, which **liveth** and **abideth** for ever. [1 Peter 1:22 – 23](#) [L](#)

John 6:63

“⁶³ **It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**” [John 6:63](#)

Strong's 2227 on the word quick.

“**2227 ζωοποιέω [zoopoieo /dzo·op·oy·eh·o/]** v. From the same as 2226 and 4160; TDNT 2:874; TDNTA 290; GK 2443; 12 occurrences; AV translates as “**quicken**” nine times, “**give life**” twice, and “**make alive**” once. **1** to produce alive, begat or bear living young. **2** to cause to live, make alive, give life. 2a by spiritual power to arouse and invigorate. 2b to restore to life. 2c to give increase of life: thus of physical life. 2d of the spirit, quickening as respects the spirit, endued with new and greater powers of life. **3** metaph., of seeds quickened into life, i.e. germinating, springing up, growing.” Strong, J. (1996). *The exhaustive concordance of the Bible.* [L](#)

Ezekiel 2:2

"And the **spirit** entered into me when **he spake** unto me, ..." [Ezekiel 2:2](#) . [L](#)

John 14:26

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and **bring all things to your remembrance**, whatsoever I have said unto you.” [John 14:26](#) [L](#)

Selected Messages, Book 2, Page 38

“Much is being said regarding the impartation of the Holy Spirit, and by some this is being so interpreted that it is an **injury to the churches**. **Eternal life** is the receiving [[BEGIN P.39](#)] of the **living elements** in the **Scriptures** and doing the will of God. **This is eating the flesh and drinking the blood of the Son of God**. To those who do this, life and immortality are brought to light through the gospel, **for God’s Word** is verity and **truth, spirit and life**. It is the privilege of all who believe in Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour to feed on the **Word of God**. The Holy Spirit’s influence renders that **Word, the Bible**, an immortal truth, which to the prayerful searcher gives **spiritual sinew and muscle**.” {[2SM 38.4](#)} [L](#)

Selected Messages, Book 2, Page 39

“Every true searcher of the **Word** lifts his heart to God, imploring the aid of the Spirit. And he soon discovers that which carried him above all the fictitious statements of the would-be teacher, whose weak, tottering theories are not sustained by the Word of the living God. These theories were invented by men who had not learned the **first great lesson, that God’s Spirit and life are in His Word**. If they had received **in the heart** the **eternal element** contained in the **Word of God**, they would see how tame and expressionless are all efforts to get something new to create a sensation. They need to learn **the very first principles** of the **Word of God**; they would then have the **word of life** for the people, who will soon distinguish the chaff from the wheat, for Jesus left His promise with His disciples.--Letter 132, 1900.”
{2SM 39.2} [L](#)

Christ’s Object Lessons, page 38

“The word of God is the seed. Every seed has in itself a germinating principle. In it the life of the plant is enfolded. So there is **life** in **God’s word**. Christ says, “The words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are life.” John 6:63. “He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life.” John 5:24. In every command and in every promise of the **word of God is the power, the very life of God**, by which the command may be fulfilled and the promise realized. **He who by faith receives the word is receiving the very life and character of God.**” {COL 38.1} [L](#)

“...the **word** was God.” [John 1:1-4](#) . [L](#)

“...**the very life of God.**” [COL 38.1](#) [L](#)

“And the **Word was made flesh**, ...” [John 1:14](#)

Psalms 119:50

“⁵⁰ This *is* my comfort in my affliction: for **thy word** hath **quicken**ed me.” [Psalms 119:50](#) [L](#)

Strongs 2421 on the word quickened.

“2421 חָיָה [chayah /khaw·yaw/] v. A primitive root [compare 2331, 2421]; TWOT 644; GK 2649; 262 occurrences; AV translates as “**live**” 153 times, “alive” 34 times, “save” 13 times, “**quicken**” 14 times, “revive” 12 times, “surely” 10 times, “life” nine times, “recover” eight times, and translated miscellaneously nine times. **1 to live, have life, remain alive, sustain life, live prosperously, live for ever, be quickened, be alive, be restored to life or health.** 1a (Qal). *1a1* to live. *1a1a* to have life. *1a1b* to continue in life, remain alive. *1a1c* to sustain life, to live on or upon. *1a1d* to live (prosperously). *1a2* to revive, **be quickened**. *1a2a* from sickness. *1a2b* from discouragement. *1a2c* from faintness. *1a2d* from death. *1b* (Piel). *1b1* to preserve alive, let live. *1b2* to give life. *1b3* to quicken, revive, refresh. *1b3a* to restore to life. *1b3b* to cause to grow. *1b3c* to restore. *1b3d* to revive. *1c* (Hiphil). *1c1* to preserve alive, let live. *1c2* to quicken, revive. *1c2a* to restore (to health). *1c2b* to revive. *1c2c* to restore to life.” Enhanced Strong's Lexicon [L](#)

Hebrews 1:3

“Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and **the express image of his person**, and **upholding all things by the word** of his power, when he had by himself **purged our sins**, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;” [Hebrews 1:3](#) [L](#)

2 Peter 1:4

“Whereby **are given** unto us **exceeding great** and precious **promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped** the corruption that is in the world through lust.” [2 Peter 1:4](#) [L](#)

Proverbs 4:20-22

“²⁰ My son, attend to my **words**; incline thine ear unto my **sayings**. ²¹ **Let them not depart** from thine eyes; **keep them in the midst of thine heart**. ²² For **they are life** unto those that find them, and **health** to **all** their flesh.” [Proverbs 4:20-22](#) [L](#)

Mark 10:27

“²⁷ And Jesus looking upon them saith, **With men *it is* impossible, but not with God: for **with God all things are possible****.” [Mark 10:27](#) [L](#)

John 17:17

“¹⁷ **Sanctify** them through thy truth: **thy word is truth**.” [John 17:17](#) [L](#)

Ephesians 5:25-27

“Husbands, love your wives, even as **Christ also loved the church**, and gave himself for it; ²⁶ That he might **sanctify and cleanse** it **with** the **washing of water by the word**, ²⁷ That he might **present** it to himself a glorious church, **not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing**; but that **it should be holy and without blemish**.” [Ephesians 5:25-27](#) [L](#)

Isaiah 55:7-11

“⁷Let the wicked **forsake his way**, and the unrighteous man **his thoughts**: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰For as the **rain** cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but **watereth** the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give **seed** to the sower, and **bread** to the eater: ¹¹ **So shall my word be** that goeth forth out of my mouth: **it** shall not **return** unto me void, but **it shall accomplish** that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.” [Isaiah 55:7-11](#) [L](#)

Is it the second coming of Christ that is to accomplish this?

Can you see that it is the **word of God**, that is to **accomplish** this?

Hebrews 5:12-14

“¹² For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the **first principles** of the **oracles of God**; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

¹³ For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the **word of righteousness**: for he is a **babe**. ¹⁴ But **strong meat** belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by **reason of use** have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” [Hebrews 5:12-14](#) [L](#)

Selected Messages, page 39

Repeating this again in brief:

“**...first great** lesson, **that God’s Spirit and life are in His Word. ...** They need to learn **the very first principles** of the **Word of God**,” [{2SM 39.2}](#) [L](#)

Why have so many overlooked that all of these references are apart of the “**first principles?**”

Psalms 33:6

“⁶ By **the word of the LORD** were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.” [Psalms 33:6](#) [L](#)

2 Peter 3:5-7

“⁵ For this they willingly are ignorant of, that **by the word of God** the heavens **were of old**, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: ⁶ Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: ⁷ But the heavens and the earth, which **are now**, **by the same word** are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.” [2 Peter 3:5-7](#) [L](#)

Hebrews 11:3

“³ Through faith we understand that the worlds **were framed** by **the word of God**, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” [Hebrews 11:3](#) [L](#)

Psalms 138:2

“² I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for **thy truth**: for thou hast magnified **thy word** above **all thy name**.” [Psalms 138:2](#) [L](#)

Revelation 19:13

“¹³ And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and **his name** is **called The Word of God**.” [Revelation 19:13](#) [L](#)

Revelation 14:1 and 2

“¹ And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty *and* four thousand, having **his Father’s name written** in **their foreheads**. ² And I heard a voice from heaven, as the **voice of many waters**” [Revelation 14:1 -2](#) [L](#)

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

“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**. ⁶ And these **words**, which I command thee this day, **shall be in thine heart**: ⁷ And thou shalt **teach them diligently** unto thy children, and shalt **talk of them** when thou sittest **in thine house**, and when thou walkest **by the way**, and when thou **liest down**, and when thou **risest up**. ⁸ And thou shalt bind them for a **sign upon thine hand**, and they shall be as **frontlets between thine eyes**. ⁹ And thou shalt **write them upon the posts of thy house**, and **on thy gates**.” [Deuteronomy 6:4-9](#) [L](#)

James 1:21

“²¹ Wherefore lay apart **all** filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and **receive** with meekness **the engrafted word**, which is able to save your souls.” [James 1:21](#) [L](#)

Psalms 119:11

“¹¹ **Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee**.” [Psalms 119:11](#) [L](#)

John 15:3

“Now ye are **clean through the word** which I have spoken unto you.” [John 15:3](#)

John 15:7

“⁷ **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you**, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” [John 15:7](#) [L](#)

Last Day Events, Page 66

“Several times each day precious, golden moments should be consecrated to prayer and the study of the Scriptures, **if it is only to commit a text to memory, that spiritual life may exist in the soul**.” [4T 459.1](#) {[LDE 66.6](#)}

From the Spirit of Prophecy book entitled, “**Desire of Ages**,” see these selections from the chapter entitled, “The Temptation.” The temptation is mentioned more below. Carefully note the importance of God’s word as described here. Come back here to see the emphasis, after you see the cited statement #1 below.

“The **words** from heaven, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" ([Matt. 3:17](#)), were still sounding in the ears of Satan. But he was determined to make Christ disbelieve this testimony. **The word of God was Christ’s assurance of His divine mission**. He had come to live as a man among men, and it was **the word** that declared His **connection** with heaven. **It was Satan’s purpose to cause Him to doubt that word**. [[See DA 121.2 below](#)] If Christ’s confidence in God could be shaken, Satan knew that the victory in the whole controversy would be his. He could overcome Jesus. He hoped that under the force of despondency and extreme hunger, Christ would lose faith in His Father, and work a miracle in His own behalf. Had He done this, the plan of salvation would have been broken.” {[DA 119.1](#)} [L](#)

.....

“..... Though Jesus recognized Satan from the beginning, **He was not provoked to enter into controversy with him.** Strengthened with the memory of the **voice [BEGIN P.120] from heaven,** He rested in His Father’s love. He would not parley with temptation. {DA 119.3} L

Jesus met Satan with the words of Scripture. **"It is written,"** He said. In every temptation the weapon of His warfare was the word of God. Satan demanded of Christ a miracle as a sign of His divinity. But that which is greater than all miracles, a firm reliance upon a "Thus saith the Lord," was a sign that could not be controverted. So long as Christ held to this position, the tempter could gain no advantage. {DA 120.1} L

It was in the time of greatest weakness that Christ was assailed by the fiercest temptations. Thus Satan thought to prevail. By this policy he had gained the victory over men. When strength failed, and the will power weakened, and faith ceased to repose in God, then those who had stood long and valiantly for the right were overcome. Moses was wearied with the forty years’ wandering of Israel, when for the moment his faith let go its hold upon **infinite power.** He failed just upon the borders of the Promised Land. So with Elijah, who had stood undaunted before King Ahab, who had faced the whole nation of Israel, with the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal at their head. After that terrible day upon Carmel, when the false prophets had been slain, and the people had declared their allegiance to God, Elijah fled for his life before the threats of the idolatrous Jezebel. Thus Satan has taken advantage of the weakness of humanity. And he will still work in the same way. Whenever one is encompassed with clouds, perplexed by circumstances, or afflicted by poverty or distress, Satan is at hand to tempt and annoy. He attacks our weak points of character. He seeks to shake our confidence in God, who suffers such a condition of things to exist. We are tempted to distrust God, to question His love. Often the tempter comes to us as he came to Christ, arraying before us our [BEGIN P.121] weakness and infirmities. He hopes to discourage the soul, and to break our hold on God. Then he is sure of his prey. If we would meet him as Jesus did, we should escape many a defeat. By parleying with the enemy, we give him an advantage. {DA 120.2}

When Christ said to the tempter, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by **every word** that proceedeth out of the mouth of God," He repeated **the words** that, more than fourteen hundred years before, He had spoken to Israel: "The Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness. . . . And He humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that He might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by **every word** that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live." Deut. 8:2, 3. In the wilderness, when all means of sustenance failed, God sent His people manna from heaven; and a sufficient and constant supply was given. This provision was to teach them that while they trusted in God and walked in His ways He would not forsake them. The Saviour now practiced the lesson He had taught to Israel. By **the word** of God succor had been given to the Hebrew host, and by **the same word** it would be given to Jesus. He awaited God’s time to bring relief. He was in the wilderness in obedience to God, and He would not obtain food by following the suggestions of Satan. In the presence of the witnessing universe, He testified that it is a less calamity to suffer whatever may befall than to depart in any manner from the will of God. {DA 121.1}

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by **every word of God.**" Often the follower of Christ is brought where he cannot serve God and carry forward his worldly enterprises. Perhaps it appears that obedience to some plain requirement of God will cut off his means of support. Satan would make him believe that he must sacrifice his conscientious convictions. But the only thing in our world upon which we can rely is the **word of God.** "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33. Even in this life it is not for our good to depart from the will of our Father in heaven. When we learn the **power of His word,** we shall not follow the suggestions of Satan in order to obtain food or to save our lives. Our only questions will be, What is **God’s command?** and what **His promise?** Knowing these, we shall obey the one, and trust the other. {DA 121.2}

Desire of Ages, Page 671

“When He [the Spirit of truth] is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.” The preaching of **the word** will be of no avail without the continual presence and aid of the Holy Spirit. This is the only effectual teacher of divine truth. Only [BEGIN P.672] when **the truth** is accompanied to the heart by the Spirit will it quicken the conscience or **transform the life**. One might be able to present the letter of the **word of God**, he might be familiar with all its **commands and promises**; but unless the Holy Spirit sets home the truth, no souls will fall on the Rock and be broken. No amount of education, no advantages, however great, can make one a channel of light without the **co-operation** of the **Spirit of God**. The sowing of the **gospel seed** will not be a success unless the seed is quickened into life by the dew of heaven. Before one book of the **New Testament** was written, before one gospel sermon had been preached after Christ’s ascension, the Holy Spirit came upon the praying apostles. Then the testimony of their enemies was, “Ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine.” Acts 5:28.” {DA 671.4} L

Please pray with me, that the Holy Spirit “**sets home the truth**” for us, and everyone who reads this.

Education, Page 126

“The **creative energy** that called the worlds into existence is in **the word of God**. **This word imparts power**; it begets life. Every command is a promise; accepted by the will, **received into the soul, it brings with it the life of the Infinite One**. **It transforms the nature** and re-creates the soul in the image of God. {Ed 126.4} L

The **life thus imparted** is in like manner **sustained**. “By every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4) shall man live. {Ed 126.5}

The mind, the soul, is built up by that upon which it feeds; and it rests with us to determine upon what it shall [BEGIN P.127] be fed. It is within the power of everyone to choose the topics that shall occupy the thoughts and shape the character. **Of every human being privileged with access to the Scriptures**, God says, “I have written to him the great things of My law.” “Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.” Hosea 8:12; Jeremiah 33:3.” {Ed 126.6} L

Signs of the Times, June 25, 1902 paragraphs 15 and 16.

“..... As you have opportunity, read it; **fix the texts in your memory**. Even while you are walking the streets, you may read a passage, and meditate upon it, thus **fixing it in the mind**. {ST, June 25, 1902 par. 15} L

The life of Christ, that gives life to the world, is in His Word. It was by **His word** that Jesus healed disease and cast out demons; by **His word** He stilled the sea, and raised the dead; and the people bore witness that **His word was with power**. He spoke the **word of God**, as He had spoken to all the prophets and teachers of the Old Testament. The whole Bible is a manifestation of Christ. It is our source of power.” {ST, June 25, 1902 par. 16} L

Church Schools, Page 15

“O, for a clearer perception of what we might accomplish if we would **learn of Jesus**. The **springs** of heavenly peace and joy, unsealed in the soul of the teacher **by the magic words of inspiration**, will

become a **mighty river** of influence to bless all who connect with Him. ...” {PH131 15.1} L

Selected Messages, Volume 2, Page 39

“Search **the scriptures**,” Christ declared, “for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me” (John 5:39). Those who dig beneath the surface discover the **hidden gems of truth**. The Holy Spirit is present with the earnest searcher. Its illumination shines upon **the Word, stamping the truth upon the mind** with a new, fresh importance. The searcher is filled with a sense of peace and joy never before felt. The preciousness of **truth** is realized as never before. A new, heavenly light shines upon **the Word**, illuminating it as though every letter were **tinged with gold**. God Himself has spoken to the **mind and heart, making the Word spirit and life**. {2SM 39.1} L

Every true searcher of the **Word** lifts his heart to God, imploring the aid of the Spirit. And he soon discovers that which carried him above all the fictitious statements of the would-be teacher, whose weak, tottering theories are not sustained by the Word of the living God. These theories were invented by men who had not learned the **first great lesson, that God’s Spirit and life are in His Word**. If they had received **in the heart** the eternal element contained in the **Word of God**, they would see how tame and expressionless are all efforts to get something new to create a sensation. They need to learn **the very first principles** of the **Word of God**; they would then have the **word of life** for the people, who will soon distinguish the chaff from the wheat, for Jesus left His promise with His disciples.--Letter 132, 1900.” [BEGIN P.40] {2SM 39.2} L

Desire of Ages, Pages 257 and 258

“So it will be in the great final conflict of the controversy between righteousness and sin. While new life and light and power are descending from on high upon the disciples of Christ, a new life is springing up from beneath, and energizing the agencies of Satan. Intensity is taking possession of every earthly element. With a subtlety gained through centuries of conflict, the prince of evil works under a disguise. He appears clothed as an angel of light, and multitudes are **“giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”** 1 Tim. 4:1. {DA 257.2} L

In the days of Christ the leaders and teachers of Israel were powerless to resist the work of Satan. They were neglecting the only means by which they could have withstood evil spirits. It was by the word of God that Christ overcame the wicked one. The leaders of Israel professed to be the expositors of **God’s word**, but they had studied it only to sustain their traditions, and enforce their man-made observances. By their interpretation they made it express sentiments that God had never given. Their mystical construction made indistinct that which He had made plain. They disputed over insignificant technicalities, and practically denied the most essential truths. Thus infidelity was sown broadcast. God’s word was robbed of its power, and evil spirits worked their will. {DA 257.3}

History is repeating. With the open Bible before them, and professing to reverence its teachings, many of the religious leaders of our time are **destroying faith** in it as the **word of God**. They busy themselves with dissecting the word, and set their own opinions above its plainest statements. In their hands God’s word loses its regenerating power. This is why infidelity runs riot, and iniquity is rife. {DA 258.1} L

When Satan has undermined **faith in the Bible**, he directs men to other sources for light and power. Thus he insinuates himself. Those who turn from the plain teaching of Scripture and the convicting power of God’s Holy Spirit are inviting the control of demons. Criticism and speculation concerning the Scriptures have opened the way for spiritism and theosophy--those modernized forms of ancient heathenism--to gain a foothold even in the professed churches of our Lord Jesus Christ. {DA 258.2}

Side by side with the preaching of the gospel, agencies are at work which are but the medium of lying spirits. Many a man tampers with these merely from curiosity, but seeing evidence of the working of a more than human power, he is lured on and on, until he is controlled by a will stronger than his own. He cannot escape from its mysterious power. {DA 258.3}

The defenses of the soul are broken down. He has no barrier against sin. When once the restraints of **God’s word** and **His Spirit** are rejected, no man knows to what depths of degradation he may sink. Secret sin or master passion may hold him a captive as helpless as was the demoniac of Capernaum. Yet his condition is not hopeless. {DA 258.4}

The means by which we can overcome the wicked one is that by which Christ overcame,--the power of the word. God does not control our minds without our consent; but if we desire to know and to do His will, His promises are ours: “Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” “If any man willeth

to do His will, he shall know of the teaching." John 8:32; 7:17, R. V. **Through faith in these promises, every man may be delivered from the snares of error and the control of sin.** {DA 258.5} L

Romans 10:17

“So then **faith comes by hearing**, and hearing by **the word of God.**” [Romans 10:17](#)

1 Peter 1:13-17

“¹³ Wherefore **gird up the loins of your mind**, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: ¹⁵ **But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy** in all manner of conversation; ¹⁶ **Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.** ¹⁷ And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man’s work, **pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:**” [1 Peter 1:13-17](#) L

Revelation 2:16

“Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will **fight against them with the sword of my mouth.**” [Revelation 2:16](#) L

Cited Statement #1 Below, he says, praying, and quoting scripture doesn’t work in the fight against temptation. [Link back to the top of the Cited Statement #1 Preceding References](#)

“RECIPES FOR OVERCOMING Of course, we’ve all heard of various “recipes” for overcoming temptation. Have you ever tried any of these? I’ve tried them all, but they haven’t worked! **I don’t believe that praying when temptation comes is going to give me victory. I’ve tried it, and it doesn’t work. I don’t believe that quoting verses of Scripture when temptation comes is going to help me overcome. I’ve tried it, and it doesn’t work either.** And I don’t believe singing hymns is effective, because I’ve sung all sixteen stanzas! Usually when people try such methods they become frustrated and discouraged, because failure and defeat still follow. You see, the problem is that they’re fighting the battle where the battle isn’t! Because we haven’t realized that victory can come only through our relationship with Christ, we’ve devised all sorts **of man-made substitutes.** page 99

“JESUS AND TEMPTATION

“But,” someone says, “Jesus quoted Scripture when He was being tempted, and that’s how He got the victory over the devil.” Yes, Jesus *did* quote Scripture - **but that’s not how He got the victory.**

Let’s take a look at the account of His temptation in the wilderness, found in Matthew 4:1. “Then Jesus was led *by the Spirit* into the desert to be tempted by the devil.” Notice that Jesus was guided by the Spirit. He was willing to let God lead His life and actions.

Now some have said that the real issue in the first temptation was appetite, and that Jesus won the victory over His appetite by quoting Scripture. But is it a sin to be hungry when you haven’t eaten for six weeks? Hardly. The devil’s first attack with temptation was *not* to get Jesus to eat. The issue was entirely different. It was to get Jesus to do something *on His own* to get Him to use His inherent divinity, rather than to rely completely upon His Father’s power. If Christ had yielded to the devil’s taunts, He would have ruined the demonstration of how *we* should live, and how we should handle temptation.

(End of Page 100)

Jesus didn't fall into the devil's traps. His constant response was, "It is written..." And so, some have used this experience to support the idea that we must **memorize** Scripture to get us out of difficulty. But did Jesus depend on quoting Scripture for victory? Of course not!

This reference above is found in Morris L. Venden's books, "It's Who You Know," page 99, 100, and some of 101, at least in the electronic versions. [The link is here](#). And also found in "How to Make Christianity Real." Lee and Gary still support these teachings, just by having them on their list of recommended books, **if by no other way, even if they do not say it this way, in their meetings. A link to see their list is [here](#), the link to the page it is found on is [here](#), at least at the time I put this together. The page link says, "2) Favorite Materials About Jesus - This is away proven helpful to individuals wishing to meditate on the life of Jesus."** But how can this be helpful, when in the minds of to many it blows away, faith in the very way that we are to tap into the power of God, to have a living faith based relationship with Jesus? I see no place where he comes back and says that this does work for those in a true living faith based relationship with Jesus.

Where Venden says this, "*I don't believe that quoting verses of Scripture when temptation comes is going to help me overcome. I've tried it, and it doesn't work either.*" How does that compare to these references?

Psalms 17:4

"Concerning the works of men, **by the word of thy lips** I have kept *me* **from the paths of the destroyer.**" [Psalms 17:4 L](#)

Desire of Ages, Page 119

"....The **word of God** was Christ's assurance of His divine mission. He had come to live as a man among men, and it was **the word** that declared His **connection** with heaven. **It was Satan's purpose to cause Him to doubt that word....**" [{DA 119.1} L](#)

Desire of Ages, Page 120

"Jesus met Satan with **the words of Scripture. "It is written,"** He said. **In every temptation**

the weapon of His warfare WAS the word of God. Satan demanded of Christ a miracle as a sign of His divinity. **But that which is greater than all miracles, a firm reliance upon a "Thus saith the Lord,"** was a sign that could not be controverted. So long as Christ held to this position, the tempter could gain no advantage." [{DA 120.1} L](#) [This is a link back to the previous quoting of this that has more context.](#)

Where Venden says this, "*....You see, the problem is that they're fighting the battle where the battle isn't! Because we haven't realized that victory can come only through our relationship with Christ, we've devised all sorts of man-made substitutes.*" How does that compare with these references?

John 6:63

“⁶³ It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: **the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**” [John 6:63 L](#)

James 1:21

“²¹ Wherefore lay apart **all** filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and **receive** with meekness **the engrafted word**, which is able to save your souls.” [James 1:21 L](#)

Psalms 119:11

“¹¹ **Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.**” [Psalms 119:11 L](#)

John 15:7

“⁷ **If** ye abide in me, **and my words abide in you**, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” [John 15:7 L](#)

Is memorizing God's Word, and recognizing that it is the channel through which we gain the most powerful access to the relationship with Jesus, and power of God through Jesus Christ to resist temptations that satan directs at us, a “*man-made substitutes?*”

Compare this portion of the statement, with all the references above, and specifically these ones below.

“Jesus didn't fall into the devil's traps. His constant response was, “It is written...” And so, some have used this experience to support the idea that we must memorize Scripture to get us out of difficulty. But did Jesus depend on quoting Scripture for victory? Of course not!”

Deuteronomy 6:6

“⁶ And these **words**, which I command thee this day, **shall be in thine heart.**” [Deuteronomy 6:6 L](#)

Can you see that this is still apart of “the first of all commandments?” It is the very next verse. See [Mark 12:29 L](#) and [Deuteronomy 6:5 L](#)

1. Are these teachings “according,” to God's word? [Isaiah 8:20](#)
2. Does this “so closely” “resemble the true,” that it is difficult to tell? [GC 593.1](#)
3. Is “every statement” in line with “the doctrine of Christ?” [GC 593.1](#) [2 John 1:9-11](#)
4. Is this easy to see with God's “power to distinguish?” [SpTB02 8.2](#)
5. Are Christ's instructions being “strictly heeded,” not missing “one word?” [9T 266.1](#)
6. Is this a “lie?” [9T 266.1](#)
7. Or is this “truth?” [9T 266.1](#)

Whose side are the Vendens on?

Fine Tuning Questions #1:

1. Without encouraging you to read his book, for those who have, is there any place in this entire book that I could not find with computer word searches, where Venden calls attention to the fact that God's word is "[our source of power](#)?"
2. Without encouraging you to read his book, for those who have, is there any place in this entire book that I overlooked, where Venden points out that, for those of us with all this wonderful access to the Word of God, with the correct understanding and willingness of heart, so that the Holy Spirit "[sets home](#)" the truth in our hearts, having God's word **memorized in our minds**, is the very way that we have the Holy Spirit of God dwelling in us?
3. Is there any place where he says anything even somewhat like this?
4. Without encouraging you to read his book, for those who have, is there any place in this entire book, that I missed, where Venden points out that taking the time [to memorize God's Word](#), **with the correct reasoning behind it**, knowing that it is what develops our relationship with Jesus, and is the very way that we have Jesus living in our hearts, transforming us, and giving us the power to over come through His strength? Does Venden point that out?
5. For those of us with readily available access to God's word, who have all of these counsels which include [Last Day Events, page 66, paragraph 6](#) shown above, and have had them for years and years, saying that we need to, **is it even possible** to have a relationship **with Jesus**, **without valuing** God's word enough to get it into our mind?
6. **is - it – even – possible- to have such a relationship with Jesus in which "[spiritual life](#)," exists "[in the soul](#)," - - if –we – have - rejected - His -counsel -to -do -so?**
7. If you have time, that you don't feel like there is anything that you really have to do, is studying God's word, so that you can strengthen your relationship with Jesus, and get His words more deeply embedded into your mind, something that you look forward to doing the most?
8. If gaining a deep connection with Jesus, through the receiving of the "[engrafted word](#)," is not something that you take pleasure in, do you really have a connection with Jesus?
9. Have you had any of your friends, **as I have had**, who spent time under the pastoral leadership of Venden, who have come to believe that it was wrong to encourage people to memorize God's word?
10. Have any of your friends, **as some of mine have**, who spent time listening to the teachings of Venden, ever told you that it was works, to think that you needed to get God's word into your mind?
11. Are we to conclude, that because Israelites misunderstood God's intentions, and went so far as to put God's word literally on their foreheads without having their hearts circumcise, that we should avoid memorizing the Word of God and therefore fail to receive the "[engrafted word](#)?"
12. Is it not the Devil's primary objective to divert our attention from time with Jesus, getting His words, and therefore His Holy Spirit, more firmly embedded into our minds, so we will "[remain ignorant of](#)" his "power and cunning?"

13. Do you set aside other things that might take up your time, so as not to miss out on time with God, absorbing, and being changed by the Holy Spirit and the Power of God's word?
14. Do you avoid working too hard trying to **make money**, so that you don't become distracted from getting God's word into your mind, and praying that the Holy Spirit "**sets home**" His truth there?
15. **If** this belief that it is not important to have God's word in our minds, was left **on the mind of even one person**, after reading these things Venden wrote, would it have had an effect that God was happy with?
16. If you ever spent time considering what the Vendens teach, did Venden leave the impression on your mind, that it is an important part of getting to know Jesus, to have spent enough Holy Spirit guided time carefully going over the words of God, so that it "**sets home**" in your heart, and is deeply embedded into your mind such that the Holy Spirit can easily enable you to remember the words God gave us?
17. Why would God have Moses state for Him, that "these **words**, which I command thee this day, **shall be in thine heart**," if doing so didn't play any part in getting us "out of difficulty," the difficulty of being overcome by sin?

2. Our Duty in the War Against the Devil and Sin

Section Summary:

Preceding References

Cited Statement #2

[Fine Tuning Questions #2](#)

Cited Statement #2 Preceding References:

These below, are to go along with the section where Venden says that "... God has told us we cannot," "fight sin and the devil."

Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹ **Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.** ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against **powers**, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. ¹³ Wherefore take unto you **the whole armour of God**, that ye may **be able** to withstand **in the evil day**, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ **Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth**, and **having on** the breastplate of **righteousness**; ¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the **gospel** of peace; ¹⁶ Above all, **taking** the **shield of faith**, **wherewith ye**

shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷ And **take** the **helmet of salvation**, and the sword of the Spirit, **which is the word of God:** ¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; ¹⁹ And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.” [Ephesians 6:10-20 L](#)

James 4:6-10

“⁶ But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. **Resist the devil**, and he **will flee from you.** ⁸ Draw nigh to **God**, and he **will** draw nigh to you. **Cleanse** your hands, ye sinners; and **purify your hearts**, ye double minded. ⁹ Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of **the Lord**, and he **shall** lift you up.” [James 4:6-10 L](#)

Mark 6:7

“⁷ And he called *unto him* the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;” [Mark 6:7 L](#)

Matthew 10:1

“¹ And when he had called unto *him* his twelve disciples, **he gave them power against** unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.” [Matthew 10:1 L](#)

Luke 10:17-20

“¹⁷ And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are **subject unto us through thy name.** ¹⁸ And he said unto them, **I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.** ¹⁹ Behold, **I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.** ²⁰ Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that **the spirits** are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.” [Luke 10:17-20 L](#)

Mark 16:17-18

“¹⁷ And these signs shall follow them that believe; **In my name shall they cast out devils;** they shall speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.” [Mark 16:17-18 L](#)

Romans 16:20

“²⁰ And the God of peace shall **bruise Satan under your feet shortly.** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.” [Romans 16:20 L](#)

Acts 19:11-12

“And **God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:** ¹² So that from his body were brought unto the sick **handkerchiefs** or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the **evil spirits went out of them.**” [Acts 19:11-12 L](#)

Philippians 4:13

“I can do all things **through Christ which strengtheneth me.**” [Philippians 4:13 L](#)

1 Timothy 6:12

“**Fight the good fight of faith**, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.” [1 Timothy 6:12](#) L

2 Timothy 4:7

“I have **fought** a good **fight**, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:” [2 Timothy 4:7](#) L

1 Corinthians 9:26-27

“I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so **fight** I, not as one that beateth the air: ²⁷ But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” [1 Corinthians 9:26 - 27](#) L

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

“⁴ Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, ⁵ Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, **thinketh no evil**; ⁶ Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; ⁷ Beareth all things, **believeth all things**, hopeth all things, endureth all things.” [1 Corinthians 13:4-7](#) L

Revelation 19:7

“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and **his wife hath made herself ready.**” [Revelation 19:7](#) L

2 Corinthians 7:1

“¹ **Having** therefore these **promises**, dearly beloved, let us **cleanse** ourselves **from all** filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**” [2 Cor 7:1](#) L

Review and Herald, November 21, 1882

“Will man take hold of divine power, and with determination and perseverance resist Satan as Christ has given him example in his conflict with the foe in the wilderness of temptation? God cannot save man, against his will, from the power of Satan’s artifices. Man must work with his human power, aided by the divine power of Christ, to resist and to conquer at any cost to himself. In short, man must overcome as Christ overcame. And then, through the victory which it is his privilege to gain by the all-powerful name of Jesus, he may become an heir of God and joint-heir with Christ. {[RH, November 21, 1882 par. 9](#)} L

This could not be the case if Christ alone did all the overcoming. **Man must do his part.** Man must be victor on his own account, **through the strength and grace that Jesus gives him.** Man must be a co-worker with Christ in the labor of overcoming, and then he will be partaker with Christ of his glory. It is a sacred work in which we are engaged. The apostle Paul exhorts his brethren, “**Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**” {[RH, November 21, 1882 par. 10](#)} L

Philippians 2:12 & 13

“¹² Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.** ¹³ For **it is God** which worketh in you both to **will and to do** of his good pleasure.” [Philippians 2:12 & 13](#) L

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, Pages 141 – 143. This reference goes along with the *Philippians 2:12 & 13* reference just above.

“ *Strive to enter in at the strait gate.*” [Luke 13:24](#) . . . [L](#)

The belated traveler, hurrying to reach the city gate by the going down of the sun, could not turn aside for any attractions by the way. His whole mind was bent on the one purpose of entering the gate. The same intensity of purpose, said Jesus, is required in the Christian life. I have opened to you the glory of character, which is the true glory of My kingdom. It offers you no promise of earthly dominion; yet it is worthy of your supreme desire and effort. I do not call you to battle for the supremacy of the world’s great empire, but do not therefore conclude that there is no battle to be fought nor victories to be won. I bid you **strive, agonize**, to enter into My spiritual kingdom. [{MB 141.1}](#) [L](#)

The Christian life is a battle and a march. But the victory to be gained is not won by human power. The field of conflict is the domain of the heart. The battle which we have to fight--the greatest battle that was ever fought by man--is the surrender of self to the will of God, the yielding of the heart to the sovereignty of love. The **old nature**, born of blood and of the will of the flesh, **cannot inherit the kingdom of God. The hereditary tendencies, the former habits, must be given up**. [{MB 141.2}](#) [L](#)

He who determines to enter the spiritual kingdom [BEGIN P.142] will find that all the powers and passions of an unregenerate nature, backed by the forces of the kingdom of darkness, are arrayed against him. Selfishness and pride will make a stand against anything that would show them to be sinful. We cannot, of ourselves, conquer the evil desires and habits that strive for the mastery. We cannot overcome the mighty foe who holds us in his thrall. God alone can give us the victory. He desires us to have the mastery over ourselves, our own will and ways. **But He cannot work in us without our consent and co-operation. The divine Spirit works through the faculties and powers given to man. Our energies are required to co-operate with God**. [{MB 141.3}](#) [L](#)

The victory is not won without much earnest prayer, without the humbling of self at every step. **Our will** is not to be forced into co-operation with divine agencies, but it must be voluntarily submitted. Were it possible to force upon you with a hundredfold greater intensity the influence of the Spirit of God, it would not make you a Christian, a fit subject for heaven. The stronghold of Satan would not be broken. **The will** must be placed on the side of **God’s will**. You are not able, of yourself, to bring your purposes and desires and inclinations into submission to the **will of God**; but if you are "willing to be made **willing**," God will accomplish the work for you, even "casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and **bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ**." [2 Corinthians 10:5](#) . **Then you will "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which [BEGIN P.143] worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure**." [Philippians 2:12, 13](#) . [{MB 142.1}](#) [L](#)

But many are attracted by the beauty of Christ and the glory of heaven, who yet shrink from the conditions by which alone these can become their own. There are many in the broad way who are not fully satisfied with the path in which they walk. They long to break from the slavery of sin, and in their own strength they seek to make a stand against their sinful practices. They look toward the narrow way and the strait gate; but selfish pleasure, love of the world, pride, unsanctified ambition, place a barrier between them and the Saviour. To renounce their own **will**, their chosen objects of affection or pursuit, requires a sacrifice at which they hesitate and falter and turn back. Many "will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." [Luke 13:24](#). They desire the good, they make some effort to obtain it; but they do not choose it; they have not a settled purpose to secure it **at the cost of all things**. [{MB 143.1}](#) [L](#)

The only hope for us if we would overcome is **to unite our will to God’s will and work in co-operation with Him**, hour by hour and day by day. We cannot retain self and yet enter the kingdom of God. **If we ever attain unto holiness, it will be through the renunciation of self and the reception of the mind of Christ**. Pride and self-sufficiency must be crucified. Are we willing to pay the price required of us? Are we willing to have **our will** brought into perfect conformity to the **will of God**? Until we are willing, **the transforming grace of God cannot be manifest upon us**. [{MB 143.2}](#) [L](#)

The warfare which we are to wage is the "good [BEGIN P.144] fight of faith." "I also labor," said the apostle Paul, "**striving according to His working**, which worketh in me mightily." [Colossians 1:29](#)." [{MB 143.3}](#) [L](#)

Testimonies for the Church, Volume 8, Page 65. This reference below, goes along with the *Luke 13:24*, and MB references just above.

This entire section below is important, but there is just a little of it here.

"....

Man is allotted a part in this great struggle for everlasting life; he must respond to the working of the Holy Spirit. It will require a struggle to break through the powers of darkness, and the Spirit works in him to accomplish this. But man is no passive being, to be saved in indolence. He is called upon to strain every muscle and exercise every faculty in the struggle for immortality; **yet it is God that supplies the efficiency.** No human being can be saved in indolence. The Lord bids us: "**Strive to enter in at the strait gate:** for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." "Wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Luke 13:24 ; Matthew 7:13 , 14. {[8T 65.1](#)} [L](#)

What does indolence mean?

According to Webster it means, inclination to laziness. And the Cambridge Dictionary says it is the state of showing no real interest or effort.

Christ's Object Lessons, Page 280

"We can never be saved in indolence and inactivity. There is no such thing as a truly converted person living a helpless, useless life. It is not possible for us to drift into heaven. No sluggard can enter there. **If we do not strive** to gain an entrance into the kingdom, if we do not **seek earnestly to learn what constitutes its laws**, we are not fitted for a part in it. Those who refuse **to co-operate** with God on earth would not co-operate with Him in heaven. It would not be safe to take them to heaven." {[COL 280.2](#)} [L](#)

Christ's Object Lessons, Page 331 and 332

"But Christ has given us no assurance that to attain perfection of character is an easy matter. A noble, all-round character is not inherited. It does not come to us by accident. **A noble character is earned by individual effort through the merits and grace of Christ. God gives the talents, the powers of the mind; we form the character.** It is formed by hard, stern battles with self. Conflict after conflict must be waged against hereditary tendencies. We shall have to criticize ourselves closely, and **allow not one unfavorable trait to remain uncorrected.** {[COL 331.1](#)}

Let no one say, I cannot remedy my defects of character. If you come to this decision, you will certainly fail of obtaining everlasting life. The impossibility lies in your own will. If you will not, then you can not overcome. The real difficulty arises from the corruption of an unsanctified heart, and an **unwillingness to submit to the control of God.** {[COL 331.2](#)}

Many whom God has qualified to do excellent work accomplish very little, because they attempt little. Thousands pass through life as if they had no definite object for which to live, **no standard to reach.** Such will obtain a reward proportionate to their works. {[COL 331.3](#)}

Remember that you will never reach a higher standard than you yourself set. Then set your mark high, and step by step, even though it be by painful effort, by self-denial and sacrifice, ascend the whole length of the ladder of progress. Let nothing hinder you. Fate has not woven its meshes about any human being so firmly that he need remain helpless and in uncertainty. Opposing circumstances should create a firm determination to overcome them. The breaking down of one barrier will give greater ability and courage to go forward. Press with determination in the right direction, and circumstances will be your helpers, not your hindrances. {[COL 331.4](#)}

Be ambitious, for the Master's glory, to cultivate every grace of character. In every phase of your character building you are to please God. This you may do; for Enoch pleased Him though living in a degenerate age. And there are Enochs in this our day.” {COL 332.1}

Selected Messages, Volume 1, Page 381

“But though Christ is everything, we are to inspire every man to unwearied diligence. We are to strive, wrestle, agonize, watch, pray, lest we shall be overcome by the wily foe. For the power and grace with which we can do this comes from God, and all the while we are to trust in Him, who is able to save to the uttermost all who come unto God by Him. **Never leave the impression on the mind that there is little or nothing to do on the part of man; but rather teach man to cooperate with God, that he may be successful in overcoming.**” {ISM 381.3} L Look up and carefully read all these references in their context.

Testimonies for the Church, Volume 2, Page 446

“There are hypocrites now who will tremble when they obtain a view of themselves. Their own vileness will terrify them in that day which is soon to come upon us, a day when “the Lord cometh out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity.” **Oh, that terror might now lay hold upon them,** that they might have a vivid sense of their condition and **arouse while there is mercy and hope,** confess their sins, and humble their souls greatly before God, **that He might pardon their transgressions and heal their backslidings!** The people of God are unready for the fearful, trying scenes before us, unready to stand pure from evil and lust amid the perils and corruptions of this degenerate age. **They have not on the armor of righteousness, and are unprepared to war against the prevailing iniquity.** Many are not obeying the commandments of God, yet they profess so to do. If they would be faithful to obey all the statutes of God they would have a power which would carry conviction to the hearts of the unbelieving.” {2T 446.2}

Cited Statement #2

“One of the probing questions that has frustrated Christians for years is the question of how the will operates after conversion. There have been debates and questions concerning the will, but most of the discussions have dealt with the use of the will before conversion. . Very little has been done on the use of the will after conversion. . One of our problems in trying to live the Christian life is that we often are found **trying hard to do that which God has told us we cannot do—fight sin and the devil.** And we do not put forth effort to do that which He has invited us to do, that is, seek communion with Him. This does not mean that works are unimportant, but we are talking about method. And the method of knowing God's gifts is by faith alone. As we put forth our effort to come to Jesus, and to keep coming to Jesus, He will fulfill His promise to work in us, to will and to do of His good pleasure.” FTW, 194. This is from Morris Venden’s book, entitled, *Faith that Works*. [This is a link to download a PDF](#) of the book to see it for yourself.

Please compare this statement of Morris Venden, which says this: “...**trying hard to do that which God has told us we cannot do—fight sin and the devil;**” with these references:

1 Corinthians 7:1

“¹ **Having** therefore these **promises**, dearly beloved, let us **cleanse** ourselves **from all** filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**” [2 Cor 7:1](#) L

James 4:7

“⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. **Resist the devil**, and he **will flee** from you.” [James 4:7](#) L

[T](#) [B](#) [M1](#) [M2](#) [M3](#) [Stand](#)

Luke 10:17-20

¹⁷ And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even **the devils** are **subject unto us through thy name.** ¹⁸ And he said unto them, **I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.** ¹⁹ Behold, **I give unto you** power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and **over all the power of the enemy:** and nothing shall by any means hurt you. ²⁰ Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.” [Luke 10:17-20](#) L

Mark 16:17

“And these signs shall follow them that believe; **In my name shall they cast out devils;** they shall speak with new tongues.” [Mark 16:17](#)

Great Controversy, Page 508

"... All who are not **decided** followers of Christ are **servants of Satan**. In the **unregenerate heart** there is love of sin and a disposition to cherish and **excuse** it. In the **renewed heart** there is **hatred of sin** and **determined resistance against it**. When Christians choose the society of the **ungodly and unbelieving**, they expose themselves to temptation. Satan conceals himself from view and stealthily draws his deceptive covering over their eyes. They cannot see that **such company** is calculated to do them harm; and while all the time assimilating to the world in character, words, and actions, they are becoming more and more blinded." {GC 508.2} L

Great Controversy, Page 510

“Satan assailed Christ with his fiercest and most subtle temptations, but he was repulsed in every conflict. Those battles were fought in our behalf; those victories make it possible for us to conquer. Christ will give strength to all who seek it. No man without his own consent can be overcome by Satan. The tempter has no power to control the will or to force the soul to sin. He may distress, but he cannot contaminate. He can cause agony, but not defilement. **The fact that Christ has conquered should inspire His followers with courage to fight manfully the battle against sin and Satan.**” {GC 510.3} L

It says here, in this Great Controversy page 510 reference that we just heard, that “No man without his own consent can be overcome by Satan.”

So if I just don't give Satan consent, am I safe?

What would one have to do, in order to give Satan consent?

Notice just before that line, it says “Christ will give strength to all who seek it.” Also notice that it said “The fact that Christ has conquered should inspire His followers with courage to fight manfully the battle against sin and Satan, at the end of that paragraph.

Then consider this next references as related to this.

Desire of Ages, Page 324

“When the soul surrenders itself to Christ, a new power takes possession of the new heart. A change is wrought which man can never accomplish for himself. It is a supernatural work, bringing a supernatural element into human nature. The soul that is yielded to Christ becomes His own fortress, which He holds in a revolted

world, and He intends that no authority shall be known in it but His own. A soul thus kept in possession by the heavenly agencies is impregnable to the assaults of Satan. But unless we do yield ourselves to the control of Christ, we shall be dominated by the wicked one. We must inevitably be under the control of the one or the other of the two great powers that are contending for the supremacy of the world. **It is not necessary for us deliberately to choose the service of the kingdom of darkness in order to come under its dominion. We have only to neglect to ally ourselves with the kingdom of light. If we do not co-operate with the heavenly agencies, Satan will take possession of the heart, and will make it his abiding place. The only defense against evil is the indwelling of Christ in the heart through faith in His righteousness.** Unless we become vitally connected with God, we can never resist the unhallowed effects of self-love, self-indulgence, and temptation to sin. We may leave off many bad habits, for the time we may part company with Satan; but without a vital connection with God, through the surrender of ourselves to Him moment by moment, we shall be overcome. Without a personal acquaintance with Christ, and a **continual communion, we are at the mercy of the enemy, and shall do his bidding in the end.** {[DA 324.1](#)}

Testimonies for the Church Containing Letters to Physicians and Ministers Instructions to Seventh-day Adventists, Selections from Pages 5, 7, 8, 9, and 11.

“There is a strife between the forces of good and evil, between the loyal and the disloyal angels. Christ and Satan are not at an agreement, and they never will be. **In every age the true church of God has engaged in decided warfare against satanic agencies. Until the controversy is ended, the struggle will go on,** between wicked angels and wicked men on the one side, and **holy angels and true believers on the other.**” {[SpTB02 5.7](#)}

.....

“In His work on this earth, Christ saw how, by a **disregard** of the injunctions of God, **in regard to righteousness and true doctrines, evil would be made almost indistinguishable from good.** At times He looked upon the deceiving power of Satan, and **saw that the wrong-doing of evil workers must be met.** At one such time there fell upon the ears of the multitude the words.” {[SpTB02 7.2](#)}

.....

“**The Lord calls upon the one who has been working unrighteousness to put away his sins, and be converted. Unless the transforming grace of Christ is poured into his soul, he will refuse to oppose the works of Satan.** The human agent who is worked by the power of the enemy, will close the door of his heart to every appeal made by the Saviour. He will refuse to hear the words, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.” And the God of heaven will not exercise His power to force man to practise righteousness, with the heart in **determined resistance.** {[SpTB02 8.4](#)}

.....

“**When men stand out in defiance against the counsel of God, they are warring against God.** Is it right for those connected with such ones to treat them as if they were in perfect harmony with them, making no difference between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not? **Though they be ministers or**

medical missionaries, they have dishonored Christ before the forces of the loyal and the disloyal. Open rebuke is necessary, to prevent others from being ensnared. {[SpTB02 9.3](#)}

.....

“**There is to be a constant conflict between good and evil.** Those who are enlightened by the Holy Spirit's power are to **strive with every power of their being** to snatch the prey from the seductive influences of men who refuse to obey the word of God, whether they be **in high places or in low**. Christ's property is not to pass out of His control into the control of the children of darkness.” {[SpTB02 11.1](#)}

And also consider how all the sentences in that cited statement number 2 of Venden, compare to all the other references shown above. There are more that should be carefully thought about and compared.

Again:

1. Are these teachings “according,” to God’s word? [Isaiah 8:20](#)
2. Does this “so closely” “resemble the true,” that it is difficult to tell? [GC 593.1](#)
3. Is “every statement” in line with “the doctrine of Christ?” [GC 593.1](#) [2 John 1:9-11](#)
4. Is this easy to see with God’s “power to distinguish?” [SpTB02 8.2](#)
5. Are Christ’s instructions being “strictly heeded,” not missing “one word?” [9T 266.1](#)
6. Is this a “lie?” [9T 266.1](#)
7. Or is this “truth?” [9T 266.1](#)

Whose side are the Vendens on?

Fine Tuning Questions #2:

1. In the Testimonies for the Church, Volume 2, page 446 reference we just went over above, it was called to our attention that to many have not on the “armour of righteousness, and are unprepared to **war against the prevailing iniquity;**” so is this cited statement of Venden going far beyond that, by even taking it to the point of saying that **we can not war** against the prevailing iniquity?
2. Would his statement that God, Himself, has told us that we can not fight sin or the devil, take it to a still further point even beyond that, such that being prepared is not important, because it claims God said we can not fight sin or the devil?

3. While sadly, this does not seem to be an isolated mistake, but rather an ongoing trend Venden more than once spells out this way, even if Venden had intended for these statements to only be considered true within the context of one who is not in a faith based relationship with Jesus, would it not have made this clear by just simply adding words such as, by ourselves, to the sentence being focused on above?
4. How hard would it have been to just include words such as, by ourselves, to that sentence?
5. How many of the references, related to this statement #2, would have to be **thrown out** in order for that sentence to **be true**, **especially for one**, as he stated, who is using their "**will after conversion?**"
6. In light of [Deuteronomy 4:2](#), and [Revelation 22:19](#), that say, respectively, we are not to "diminish," or "take away," from God's word, if there is even one place in the Bible, or Spirit of Prophecy, that must be thrown out in order to believe that statement, whose side is Venden on?
7. Would [James 4:7](#), that says clearly, "resist the Devil," have to be thrown out?
8. Would [Luke 10:19](#), that says Jesus can give us power over the enemy have to be thrown out?
9. Would [GC 508.2](#) that says, "In the **renewed heart** there is **hatred of sin** and **determined resistance against it**," have to be thrown out?
10. Without encouraging you to read his book, for those you have, is there any place in this book, that I have overlooked, that he says that through the graciously provided power that God is able to give us when we are in a true faith based relationship with Jesus, we are to take a firm stand against sin and the Devil?
11. Why would anyone, who is actually in a faith based relationship with Jesus, want to run any kind of a risk of being misunderstood, **by anyone**, into thinking that he believes that God has told us that we can never fight against sin and the devil?
12. Does it not make the Devil happy, to think that some people are being led by these teachings to believe that we are not to fight against him or sin?

Only Surrender - Fine Tuning Questions:

13. Have you ever had a "friend," **as I have had**, who spent time listening to Venden, tell you there is nothing that we can ever do to change ourselves, but only to surrender, and that is all?
14. Have you ever had them pray for you while you are praying together, **as I have had**, that the Lord would please help you to see, that there is nothing we can ever do, except only surrender?
15. Have you heard, as I have been hearing **from at least 3 or more of our local Seventh-day Adventist churches**, this idea being pushed, that there is nothing at all that we can ever do to change ourselves, but only to surrender?
16. Why would studying these things that God has told us with the guidance and help of His Holy Spirit, fail to enter the mind of these teachers, as **something that we can do?**

17. As a friend of mine suggested be asked, what is doing nothing at all, except surrender, really like; is it emptying your mind of all thought or something?
18. **Did these concepts of not being able to ever do anything at all to change ourselves, except surrender, perhaps come from statements of Venden that we can not fight sin, maybe even to the neglect of other statements of Venden?**
19. Praying, asking for forgiveness and asking Jesus to finish changing our hearts, **is something that we can do; --- --- how – can -it – not - be?**
20. So, then how could it possibly be true, that there is nothing at all that we can ever do except surrender?
21. Would we not have to rip Philippians 2:12 out of our Bibles, and throw it away in order to be able to believe this, because it says we are to work out our own “salvation with fear and trembling?”
22. Would we not also likewise have to tear out, and throw away Ephesians 6:11, that says we are to “put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil,” in order to be able to believe these teachings?
23. While it is clear that it can only be done through the strength, power, and guidance of the Holy Spirit, is not putting on “the whole armour of God,” doing something?
24. How could one conclude that, this is not doing something in the war against sin and the devil?
25. How can this concept mentioned in Isaiah 55:7, of forsaking our wicked way, and our unrighteous thoughts, be neglected as, **something that we can do through God's strength** and the power of His Word?
26. In light of Isaiah 55:7, have you ever asked God to please cause you to instantly reject every thought, that the Devil puts into your mind, that His Holy Spirit is not happy with, and to instantly have your mind readjusted so you love the thoughts that are in harmony with Jesus?
27. Have you ever asked God, in the name of Jesus, to please remind you to ask Him to do this for you, and would this not also be doing something?
28. **Why would, this Isaiah 55:7 concept, that the Holy Spirit is well aware of, be something that He was not able to bring into their minds, as, something that we can do,** through the enabling, washing, power of God's Word because of what Jesus Christ did for us?
29. Forsaking our unrighteous thoughts, through the enabling power of God's word, is fighting against sin; so why did they not remember to think of this?
30. In 1 John 1:9 where it says that “if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness;” would it be true to say that - **this – is - doing – something - to fight against sin,** so that we can be changed, and empowered by the Holy Spirit of God to resist the Devil?

31. Would it be true to say that confessing our sins and asking for forgiveness for them, is doing something to fight against sin?
32. If so, then how could it ever be true to say that we can not do anything to fight sin?
33. While it is true, that the Holy Spirit even makes it possible for us to confess our sins, with utterances that we are not capable of, how can we ignore the fact that our duty still requires us to cooperate with Him in this process?
34. Is this teaching of Venden, that says God told us we can not fight sin or the Devil, in agreement with, or opposed to, this 1SM 381.3 reference, that says “**never leave** the impression on the mind that there is little or nothing to do on the part of man?”
35. How can it not be opposite to this 1SM 381.3 reference that says, “never leave the impression,” that there is “nothing to do on the part of man,” when he says straight out that God has told us we can not fight sin?
36. Jesus told us in John 15:7, that if we abide in Him, and His “**words**,” abide in us, we shall ask what we will and it will be done; so have you checked to be certain that is what He said?
37. Why would having Jesus **words** in us, through the power of His Holy Spirit, fail to enter their minds, as needing to be included as **something that we can do**?
38. In consideration of the 3rd analytical question, of the 7 questions being asked again and again starting at the very top, **is this statement**, that we can not fight sin and the devil, in agreement with “**the doctrine of Christ?**”
39. In light of the 5th question of the 7, has this “**lost sight**,” of even more than “**one word**” of Christ?
40. Would the words of Jesus in Luke 10:19 & 20 that say, “**I give you power to tread on serpents, and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, Notwithstanding in this rejoice not that the spirits are subject unto you...**” have to be “**lost sight**” of, if we were to believe this statement?
41. Would we have to have “**lost sight**,” of more than “**one word**,” if we believed this?
42. Would we not have to rip Luke 10:19 & 20, right out of our bibles, and throw it away, in order to try to believe this?
43. Is what Jesus has told us in Matthew 7:13, that we are to enter “**in at the strait gate**,” “**lost sight**” of as well?
44. How did this concept of entering in at the strait gate, and continuing on along the “narrow” way become unnoticed as a way that we can fight against sin?
45. If, as is stated, we can not do anything at all against sin, are we to be so totally surrendered to Jesus and awe struck into doing nothing at all, but just focusing on Jesus, so that we just sit helplessly at the entrance to the narrow gate, and **never do** something **that God can enable**

us to do, such as tap into God's power to cause us to **get up, enter at the gate**, and continue on along the narrow pathway of sanctification toward being more like Jesus?

46. In Matthew 7:24, Jesus says that someone who hears His Sayings, and “**doeth them,**” is like a wise man who built “**his house upon a rock,**” so shouldn't we also include doing what Jesus says, and building upon the rock, with the list of references that say **there are things that we can do** through the enabling power of God and His Holy Word, to resist sin and the Devil?
47. When the storms that the Devil directs at us come our way, the fact that we have built a strong foundation on the Rock of Christ, in God's word, should be what enables us to take a stand against the Devil; can it get any clearer that this is something that we can do through the enabling power of Jesus?
48. If we were to believe that God told us we can not ever fight the Devil, would we be as motivated to build on the Rock, to be certain that our foundation is strong to resist him?

Special Miracles by Paul - Fine Tuning Questions:

49. When the Holy Spirit and Angels did “special miracles **by the hands of Paul,**” as is recorded in Acts 19:11, were Paul, and the “handkerchiefs or aprons,” channels through which the Spirit of God chose to release some of His Power?
50. Why does it say that these miracles were done, “**by the hands of Paul,** when we know it was actually the Holy Spirit that did the miracle?”
51. Did Paul have to physically **do something** such as use his hand to give over the handkerchiefs to whoever was going to transport it to the one who was to be healed or have evil spirits driven from them?
52. Were Paul's hands always present, after the handkerchiefs were taken from him, to where ever the miracles were performed?
53. If the handkerchiefs taken from Paul were no longer with Paul, why does it say these miracles were done by the hands of Paul?
54. Was this the Holy Spirits' way of calling greater attention to the messages that He was inspiring Paul to give to the people so that they could be saved?
55. Did the handkerchief from Paul, itself, drive out the evil spirits?
56. Or, did the handkerchief from Paul become a channel through which the Holy Spirit and Angels of God chose to unveil some of their power, which in turn, drove away the evil spirits?
57. Would Paul's handkerchief have driven away the evil spirits, if Paul had not told his friends to take the demon harassed individual his handkerchief, so that the devils would be forced leave him or her alone?

58. Would the handkerchief from Paul be more likely, or less likely, to become a channel through which the Holy Spirit manifested His Power, if Paul and his friends did not believe it would work to take the handkerchief to the harassed individual?
59. Why does the Holy Spirit often wait, until our human cooperation develops into actual actions on our part, before He manifests His power?
60. Was it important that they believed it would work through God's power that way, in order for a handkerchief to become a channel for the Holy Spirit's Power to work?
61. Could the Holy Spirit have driven away the evil spirits without Paul's handkerchief being there?
62. Why would the Holy Spirit choose to channel His energy to drive away the evil spirits, only after Paul's handkerchief had arrived on the scene?
63. Was calling attention to the teachings of God in this way, God's primary objective in doing it like this?
64. Why would a handkerchief from Paul be in a better relationship with Jesus, and a more effective channel for the Holy Spirit to flow through, than what we are represented by Venden as being capable of having with Christ, in what Venden outlines as a "faith relationship?"
65. In Mark 16:17 where Jesus is recorded as telling us how to tell who believes, why did He start His final list with the words, "**In my name shall they cast out devils,**" just before ascending to Heaven before their astonished eyes, if this was not important?
66. When Jesus has told us that a sign of believing in Him and knowing Him, is that He is able to direct the Holy Spirit to channel His power through those who know Him to cast out devils, why does Venden not tell people to get to know Jesus well enough for this to take place, when he claims he is telling people it is all about getting to know Jesus?
67. Would you think knowing Jesus well enough for Him to work through us to cast the devils out, such that it really demonstrates a *Faith That Works*, should be important enough to call to one's attention in a book about having a relationship with Jesus, that is entitled *Faith That Works*?
68. Why would Venden only state that God has told us that we can not do this, but then never tell us that we can through God's Holy Spirit's indwelling power, in such a book?
69. By this statement, and others like it which make it clear this was not a isolated accidental mistake, did Venden increase faith that God can do this through us, or reduce faith that God can do this through us?
70. Would you think knowing Jesus well enough for Him to work through us this way, so that His Holy Spirit could prompt us to utter necessary words of prayer, and to then command the devils to depart in the name of Jesus, should be just left unsaid, after saying God has said we can't fight sin, or the devil?
71. If this is not a dangerous mixture of truth and error, why would our relationship with Christ dwelling in our hearts, never be presented as strong enough to do the thing that Jesus put at the top of His list in Mark 16:17, as a sign that one believes and has true faith, but rather only leave it stated that we can not do this?

72. In this book, entitled *Faith that Works*, that is supposed to be about having a faith relationship with Jesus, why is this relationship and faith never elevated to be strong enough, for Jesus to be able to do this through us?
73. Are these teachings that we can not fight sin and the Devil, encouraging people to be following Christ's instructions so that they are well fortified through God's Superior power to stand on the Rock against the Devil; or have they led too many to a belief that we cannot do anything?
74. When making these statements that they make, **how have** so many of our people, who claim to be Seventh-day Adventists, **passed over the fact - that**,-- in addition to focusing on having a relationship with Him, **Jesus Christ's doctrine**, includes, as part of having the relationship, **doing things such as:**
- a. resisting the Devil,
 - b. entering in at the strait gate,
 - c. confessing our sins,
 - d. forsaking our wicked ways,
 - e. forsaking our unrighteous thoughts,
 - f. **having His words abiding in us and** purifying our hearts by so doing,
 - g. building on the Rock,
 - h. putting on the whole armour of God,
 - i. working out our own salvation with fear and trembling,
 - j. believing His words are Spirit and Life,
 - k. cooperating with His Spirit to cause us to keep His commandments,
 - l. receiving with meekness the engrafted word,
 - m. hiding His words in our hearts and thereby being born again,
 - n. being washed by the water of His word,
 - o. cooperating with Him in bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ so that our obedience can be fulfilled,
 - p. casting out evil spirits,
 - q. not adding to or diminishing from His word,
 - r. receiving a love of the truth which is God's word,
 - s. arming our self with the Mind of Christ,
 - t. tapping into the power contained in the promises of God to become partakers of the divine nature,
 - u. giving all diligence to add to, - faith - virtue knowledge temperance patience godliness brotherly kindness love,
 - v. and so on, and so forth?
75. Why are all of these things that are apart of the "**doctrine of Christ**," somehow overlooked as all being essential parts of actually having a relationship with Jesus, and **things that we can do** through His enabling power?
76. According to 2 John 1:10, What are we not supposed to do, when those come to us who "**bring not the doctrine of Christ**?"
77. If we can not even "**receive him**," into our "**house, neither bid him God speed**," without being "**partakers with him in his evil deeds**," **can we recommend and distribute his literature** for him after he is dead, without being a partaker with him in his evil deeds?

78. If we can not even “receive him,” into our “house, neither bid him God speed,” without being “partakers with him in his evil deeds,” **can we invite one** who has become “partaker with him in his evil deeds,” by recommending what he teaches, **to be a key speaker in our churches**, without also becoming “partakers with him in his evil deeds?”
79. If we can not even “receive him,” into our “house, neither bid him God speed,” without being “partakers with him in his evil deeds,” can we **stand in support of one** who has become “partaker with him in his evil deeds,” by quoting sections from his books as though they held some great spiritual value, without ourselves becoming “partakers with him in his evil deeds?”
80. If we can not even “receive him,” into our “house, neither bid him God speed,” without being “partakers with him in his evil deeds,” **can we send our money** to support his ministry, without becoming “partakers with him in his evil deeds?”
81. If we can not even “receive him,” into our “house, neither bid him God speed,” without being “partakers with him in his evil deeds,” **can we encourage other people to listen** to his Radio, TV, or YouTube broadcasts, without becoming “partakers with him in his evil deeds?”
82. If we can not even “receive him,” into our “house, neither bid him God speed,” without being “partakers with him in his evil deeds,” **can we spend our time listening** to his Radio, TV, or YouTube broadcasts, without becoming “partakers with him in his evil deeds?”
83. Are we inviting him into our house, if we activate our devices, so that his voice is speaking his thoughts that are opposed to the doctrine of Christ, in our house?
84. Have we received him into our house, if his words are being read that are opposed to the doctrine of Christ, in our house?
85. As stated in the AA 554 reference close to the top of this study, are we carefully heeding the counsels of the apostle John on these points, if we invite him into our house?
86. Above all other times in the past, when we are now hanging even more closely right on the very edge of eternity, and the return of Jesus, can you see more clearly now that we should be fortifying our minds with God's word like never before----- so that we may be able to stand to see the coming of our Lord, and be enabled to join Him in the sky ---- such that we even peacefully question and carefully consider what is being said by those among us who claim that they are teaching us that it is important to have a relationship with Jesus, and study His word?

3. How does the Lord transform our nature, before He returns, and how important is that?

Section Summary:

Preceding References

Cited Statement #3

[Fine Tuning Questions #3](#)

Cited Statement #3 Preceding References:

Ephesians 4:15

"But speaking **the truth** in love, may **grow up into him in all things**, which is the head, *even* Christ:" [Eph 4:15](#) [L](#) {[SC 74.1-75.2](#)} [L](#)

John 3:3

"... Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God." [John 3:3](#) [L](#)

Romans 12:2

"And be not conformed to this world: but be **ye transformed** by the **renewing** of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and **perfect**, will of God." [Romans 12:2](#) [L](#)

[Additional references that are being consider to add in this section can be found here.](#)

1 John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and **to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**" [1 John 1:9](#) [L](#)

2 Peter 1:3 & 4

"³ According as his divine power **hath given** unto **us all things** that *pertain* unto **life and godliness**, through the **knowledge of him** that hath called us to glory and virtue: ⁴ Whereby **are given** unto us exceeding great and precious **promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature**, having **escaped** the corruption that is in the world through lust." [2 Peter 1:3-4](#) [L](#)

1 Peter 4:1 & 2

"¹ Forasmuch then as **Christ** hath suffered for us in the flesh, **arm yourselves likewise with the same mind**: for he that hath suffered in the flesh **hath ceased from sin**; ² That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, **but to the will of God.**" [1 Peter 4:1-2](#) [L](#)

Philippians 2:5

“**Let this mind** be in you, which was also in **Christ Jesus:**” [Philippians 2:5](#) [L](#)

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

“⁴³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) ⁵ Casting down **imaginations**, and **every high thing** that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing **into captivity every thought** to the **obedience of Christ;** ⁶ And having in a readiness to **revenge all disobedience**, when your **obedience is fulfilled.**” [2 Corinthians 10:3-6](#) [L](#)

Matthew 5:44-48

“⁴⁴ But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, **do good** to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; ⁴⁵ That **ye may be** the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? ⁴⁷ And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more *than others*? do not even the publicans so? ⁴⁸ **Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.**” [Matthew 5:44-48](#) [L](#)

Revelation 22:10-14

“¹⁰ And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the **time is** at hand. ¹¹ **He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.** ¹² And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. ¹³ I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. ¹⁴ Blessed *are* they that **do his commandments**, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.” [Revelation 22:10-14](#) [L](#)

Deuteronomy 5:5-6

“⁵ And thou shalt **love the LORD thy God with all thine heart**, and with **all thy soul**, and with **all thy might.** ⁶ And these **words**, which I command thee this day, **shall be in thine heart:**” [Deuteronomy 5:5-6](#) [L](#)

Deuteronomy 10:12-13

“¹² And now, Israel, **what doth the LORD thy God require of thee**, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in **all his ways**, and **to love him**, and to serve the LORD thy God with **all thy heart** and with all thy soul, ¹³ To keep **the commandments** of the LORD, and his **statutes**, which I command thee this day **for thy good?**” [Deuteronomy 10:12-13](#) [L](#)

Deuteronomy 26:16

“¹⁶ This day the LORD thy God hath commanded thee to do these statutes and judgments: thou shalt therefore keep and do them **with all thine heart**, and **with all thy soul.**” [Deuteronomy 26:16](#) [L](#)

Mark 12:29-31

“²⁹ And Jesus answered him, **The first of all the commandments is**, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: ³⁰ And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with **all thy heart**, and with **all thy soul**, and **with all thy mind**, and with **all thy strength**: this *is* **the first commandment.** ³¹ And the second *is* like, *namely* this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. **There is none other commandment greater than these.**” [Mark 12:29-31](#) [L](#)

Deuteronomy 30:6

“⁶ And the LORD thy God **will circumcise thine heart**, and the heart of thy seed, to **love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.**”
[Deuteronomy 30:6](#) [L](#)

James 1:2-8

“² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations ³ Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith **worketh** patience. ⁴ But **let** patience **have** *her* perfect work, **that ye may be perfect** and entire, wanting nothing. ⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that **wavereth** is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. ⁷ For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. ⁸ A **double minded** man *is* unstable in all his ways.” [James 1:2-8](#) [L](#)

Ezekiel 36:26-29

“²⁶ A new heart also will I give you, and **a new spirit** will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. ²⁷ And **I will** put **my spirit within you, and cause you** to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do *them*. ²⁸ And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God. ²⁹ I will also save you **from all your uncleanness**: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you.” [Ezekiel 36:26-29](#) [L](#)

James 1:21

“²¹ Wherefore lay apart **all filthiness** and **superfluity of naughtiness**, and **receive** with meekness the **engrafted word**, which is able to save your souls.” [James 1:21](#) [L](#)

Ephesians 5:25-27

“²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as **Christ also loved the church**, and gave himself for it; ²⁶ That he might **sanctify and cleanse** it **with** the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ That he might **present** it to himself a glorious church, **not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing**; but that **it should be holy and without blemish.**” [Ephesians 5:25-27](#)

Isaiah 55:10-11

“For as the **rain** cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but **watereth** the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give **seed** to the sower, and **bread** to the eater: ¹¹ So shall **my word** **be** that goeth forth out of my mouth: **it** shall not **return** unto me void, but **it shall accomplish** that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.” [Isaiah 55:10-11](#) [L](#)

Romans 8:4-7

“⁴ That the **righteousness** of the law might **be fulfilled** in us, **who walk** not after the flesh, **but after the Spirit.** ⁵ For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be **carnally minded is death**; but to be **spiritually minded is life and peace.** ⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.” [Romans 8:4-7](#) [L](#)

Romans 12:1-2

“¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a **living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.* ² **And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and **perfect**, will of God.” [Romans 12:1-2](#) [L](#)

2 Timothy 3:16-17

“¹⁶ All **scripture** *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ **That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**” [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#) [L](#)

Romans 10:17

“So then **faith comes by hearing**, and hearing by **the word of God.**” [Romans 10:17](#)

Colossians 1:25-29

“Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, **to fulfil the word of God;** ²⁶ *Even* the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but **now is** made manifest to his saints: ²⁷ To whom God would make known **what is the riches of the glory** of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory:** ²⁸ Whom we preach, **warning** every man, and **teaching every man** in all wisdom; that we may **present** every man **perfect** in Christ Jesus: ²⁹ Whereunto I also labour, striving according to **his** working, which worketh in me mightily.” [Colossians 1:25-29](#) [L](#)

Luke 8:14-15

“¹⁴ **And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring NO fruit to perfection.** ¹⁵ But that on the good ground are they, which in an **honest and good heart**, having heard **the word**, **keep it**, and **bring forth fruit** with **patience.**” [Luke 8:14-15](#) [L](#)

Revelation 14:15

“¹⁵ And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; **for the harvest of the earth is ripe** ¹⁶ And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.” [Revelation 14:15](#) [L](#)

Christ's Object Lessons, Page 69

"When the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come." Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. **When the character** of Christ **shall be perfectly** reproduced in His people, **then** He will come to claim them as His own. " [{COL 69.1}](#) [L](#)

God's Amazing Grace, Page 16

"The works of Christ not only declared Him to be the Messiah, but showed in what manner His kingdom was to be established. . . . It comes through the gentleness of the inspiration **of His word**, through the inward working of His Spirit, the fellowship of the soul with Him who is its life. The greatest manifestation of its power is seen in **human nature** brought to the **perfection of the character of Christ.** . . . [{AG 16.5}](#) [L](#) This is from chapter 8, entitled, "God's Kingdom in the Heart." [{AG 16.1}](#) [L](#)

Review and Herald, September 1, 1885

"When Christ shall come, our vile bodies are to be changed, and made like his glorious body; but the vile **character will not** be made holy then. The **transformation of character** must take place before his coming. **Our natures must be pure and holy; we must have the mind of Christ**, that he may behold with pleasure his image reflected upon our souls. We are none of us what God would have us, and what we may be, and what his word requires us to be. **It is our unbelief that shuts us away from God.**" {RH, September 1, 1885 par. 6} [L](#)

See [Mat 25:2 L](#), on the "**foolish virgins**." and notice they "**... have not the genuine heart-work....**" as pointed out in {RH, August 19, 1890 par. 8} [L](#) We don't have time and space for everything here now. But this one is important also, with the importance of genuine heart work being focused on.

Desire of Ages, Page 172

".... The Christian's life is **not a modification** or improvement of the old, but a **transformation of nature**. There is a **death** to self and sin, and a **new life altogether**. ..." {DA 172.1} [L](#) {AG 22.4} [L](#)

Desire of Ages, Page 175

"...Then the Spirit of God through faith produces a **new life** in the soul. The thoughts and desires are brought into obedience to the will of Christ. The **heart**, the **mind**, are **created anew in the image of Him** who works in us to subdue all things to Himself. Then the law of God is written in the mind and heart, and we can say with Christ, "I **delight** to do Thy will, O my God." [Ps. 40:8](#). {DA 175.5} [L](#)

See this entire chapter: {DA 167.1- 177.2} [L](#) This is the 17th chapter, entitled: "Nicodemus."

Redemption, page 11

".... The power of the Holy Spirit **transforms the entire man**. This change constitutes the new birth." {4Red 11.3} [L](#) {4Red 8.1 - 23.2} [L](#) is a section on this.

Manuscript Releases, Volume 2, Page 338

".... "He that doeth truth cometh to the light." The windows of impulse, of feeling, must be opened up toward heaven, and the dust of selfishness and earthliness must be expelled. The grace of God must sweep through the chambers of the mind, the imagination must have heavenly themes for contemplation, and **every element of the nature must be purified and vitalized by the Spirit of God.**" {2MR 338.2} [L](#) This is found at least 8 times in other places, some with a bit different text surrounding it.

Education, Page 126

"The **creative energy** that called the worlds into existence **is in the word of God**. This word imparts power; it begets life. Every command is a promise; accepted by the will, received into the soul, it brings with it the life of the Infinite One. **It transforms the nature** and re-creates the soul in the image of God." {Ed 126.4} [L](#) Similar, but different. {FLB 20.6} [L](#)

Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5, Page 242

".... It was the pride and ambition cherished in the heart of Satan that banished him from heaven. These evils are deeply rooted in **our fallen nature, and if not removed** they will overshadow every good and noble quality and bring forth envy and strife as their baleful fruits." {5T 242.1} [L](#)

"We should seek for true goodness rather than greatness. **Those who possess the mind of Christ will have humble views of themselves**. They will labor for the **purity** and prosperity of the church, and be ready to sacrifice their own interests and desires rather than to cause dissension among their brethren." {5T 242.2} [L](#)

Testimonies for the Church Containing Letters to Physicians and Ministers Instruction to Seventh-day Adventists, Page 6

"..... But when the words were spoken, "I will **put enmity** between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel," Satan knew that although he had succeeded in making human beings sin, although he had led them to believe his lie, and to question God, although he had succeeded in depraving **human nature**, some arrangement had been made whereby the beings who had fallen would be placed on vantage ground, **their nature renewed in godliness**. He saw that his action in tempting them would react upon himself, and that he would be placed where he could not become conqueror. " {[SpTB02 6.2](#)} [L](#) *Testimonies for the Church Containing Letters to Physicians and Ministers Instruction to Seventh-day Adventists..* [This portion of the paragraph above, is from the [1st chapter entitled, "The Great Controversy."](#) It appears to summarize these concepts here, as being the heart of the issues surrounding the "Great Controversy." In short, because of Jesus sacrifice for us, only with our continued cooperation, God can be justified in transforming our natures, to be like His.]

Testimonies for the Church, Volume 2, Page 23

" Regeneration is the only path by which we can enter the city of God. It is narrow, and the gate by which we enter is strait; but along it we are to lead men and women and children, **teaching them** that, in order to be saved, they must have a **new heart** and a new spirit. The old, **hereditary traits** of character must be **overcome**. The **natural desires** of the soul **must be changed**. All deception, all falsifying, all evilspeaking, must be put away. The new life, which makes men and women Christlike, is to be lived. {[9T 23.1](#)} [L](#) {9T 19.1- 23.1} [L](#)

Appeal and Suggestions to Conference Officers, Page 25

"... The forgiveness of sins and iniquities and transgressions, belongs in a special sense to this time. We are in the anti-typical day of atonement, and every soul should now be humbling himself before God, seeking pardon for his transgressions and sins, and accepting the justifying grace of Christ, the sanctifying of the soul by the operations of the Holy Spirit of Christ; thus the **carnal nature is transformed**, renewed in holiness after the image of Christ's righteousness and true holiness. " {[PH002 25.2](#)} [L](#)

This pamphlet above, is entitled: "**Appeal and Suggestions to Conference Officers.**" This portion above is from the [chapter of the pamphlet entitled: "The Need of a Converted Ministry."](#) [L](#)

Ephesians 4:22-24

"That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." [Eph. 4:22-24](#) . [L](#)

The Faith I Live By, Page 139

" It is not a small matter to **transform** an earthly, sin-loving mind When he understands these things, his former life appears disgusting and hateful. He **hates sin**, and, breaking his heart before God, he embraces Christ as the life and joy of the soul. He renounces his former pleasures. He has a **new mind**, new affections, new interest, **new will**; his sorrows, and desires, and love are **all new**. . . . " {[FLB 139](#)} [L](#)

The Faith I Live By, Page 19

"**The Word destroys** the natural, earthly **nature**, and imparts a new life in Christ Jesus. ... " {[FLB 19.4](#)} [L](#) {[FLB 18-19](#)} [L](#)

Manuscript Releases, Volume 10, Page 295

".... **God's Word** sets forth the will that is to be carried into the recesses of the soul. If the human agent consents, God can and will so identify His will with all our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His word, that when obeying His will we are only **carrying out the impulses of our minds**. " {[10MR 295.2](#)} [L](#) Similar in {[DA 668.3](#)} [L](#)

".... **They must be conformed** to the **nature** of Jesus Christ, that He may accomplish the good He designs to do for all who will submit to be molded by yielding their natures to His authority. ... " {[10MR 295.3](#)} [L](#)

Manuscript Releases, Volume 13, Page 19

".... **Never**, in any way, leave the **slightest impression** upon human minds that a taint of, or **inclination to corruption** rested upon Christ," {[13MR 19.1](#)} [L](#) {[13MR 18.1](#)} [L](#) and on ward. The Baker letter.

Selected Messages, Volume 1, Page 122

“There are persons in the church who are not converted, and who will not unite in earnest, prevailing prayer. We must enter upon the work individually. We must pray more, and talk less. Iniquity abounds, and the people must be taught not to be satisfied with a **form of godliness without the spirit and power**. If we are intent upon searching our own hearts, putting away our sins, and **correcting our evil tendencies**, our souls will not be lifted up unto vanity; we shall be distrustful of ourselves, **having an abiding sense that our sufficiency is of God**. {[1SM 122.2](#)} [L](#)

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. 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.” {[1SM 122.3](#)}

Manuscript Releases, Volume 10, Page 287 and 288

"Uncorrected Natural Tendencies Contain the Seeds of Moral Death-- The law of God is presented in the Scriptures as broad in its requirements. Every principle is holy, just and good. They lay men under obligation to God: they reach to the thoughts and feelings of the soul; and they will produce conviction of sin in everyone who is sensible of having transgressed them. If the law extended only to the external conduct, men would not feel guilty over their wrong thoughts, desires, and designs. But the law 288 requires that the soul itself, the spiritual agent, **be pure, the mind holy**, that **all thoughts** and feelings shall be in accordance with the law of love and righteousness. By its light men see themselves guilty before God. . . . {[10MR 287.3](#)} [L](#)

God is seeking to exalt us to His high, pure, heavenly standard. For this purpose His Spirit is constantly striving with us. The corruptions of the world and all unholy influences will be working through the masterly energies of Satan to drag men down to their level, blinding their sensibilities, degrading their desires, enfeebling the conscience, and in every way making their religious faculties weak and inefficient. **Our natural tendencies, unless corrected by the Holy Spirit of God, have in**

them the seeds of moral death. The flesh with all its prompting "lusteth against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh" (Galatians 5:17). If the higher, holier attributes are not cultivated, if we allow ourselves to deceive, to prevaricate, there is a false tongue that needs to be treated with the hot "coals of juniper" (Psalm 120:4). . . . " {[10MR 288.1](#)} [L](#)

This sentences, "Our natural tendencies, **unless corrected** by the Holy Spirit of God, have in them the seeds of moral death," is also found in these places:

[MH 455](#) , [8T 315.6-316](#) , [RC 311](#) , [NL 62.7](#) . There is different wording around this sentence in some places.

Manuscript Releases, Volume 10, Page 296

" ... He will **not take pleasure** in any man who **retains his old nature**, and is not so renewed in knowledge and grace that he is a new man in Christ Jesus. " {[10MR 296.2](#)} [L](#)

Last Day Events, Page 58

" ... With wonderful forbearance and compassion He has disciplined them. If they will heed His instruction He will **cleanse away** their **perverse tendencies**, " {[LDE 58.2](#)} [L](#)

God's Amazing Grace, Page 313

".... We are held fast in the snare of Satan, "taken captive by him at his will" ([2 Tim. 2:26](#)). God desires to heal us, to set us free. But since this requires an **entire transformation**, a **renewing of our whole nature**, we must yield ourselves wholly to Him. {[AG 313.3](#)} [L](#)

God's Amazing Grace, Page 263

"..... **Natural and hereditary** traits of character **will be transformed**. The indwelling of His Spirit will enable them to reveal Christ’s likeness, and **in proportion** to the purity of their piety **will be the success of their work.**" {[AG 263.3](#)} [L](#)

God's Amazing Grace, Page 226

" ... The **natural man must die**, and the **new man, Christ Jesus**, take possession of the soul. . . . You may show by your life what the power and grace of God can do in **transforming the natural man** into a **spiritual man** in Christ Jesus. {[AG 226.5](#)} [L](#)

Christ's Object Lessons, Page 97

"... When the requirements of God are accounted a burden because they **cut across human inclination**, we may know that the life is **not** a Christian life. **True** obedience is the outworking of a principle within. It springs from **the love of righteousness**, the love of the law of God. " {COL 97.3} [L](#)

Christ's Object Lessons, Page 99

"... The reason is that they are not converted. They have not **hidden the heaven of truth in the heart**. It has not had opportunity to do its work. Their **natural and cultivated tendencies to evil** have not been submitted [BEGIN P.100] to its **transforming power**. Their lives reveal the absence of the grace of Christ, **an unbelief in His power to transform the character**. {COL 99.1} [L](#)

The Faith I Live By, Page 23

"We need not retain one **sinful propensity**. . . . As we partake of the **divine nature, hereditary and cultivated tendencies** to wrong **are cut away** from the character, and we are made a living power for good. Ever learning of the divine Teacher, daily partaking of **His nature**, we cooperate with God in overcoming Satan's temptations. " {FLB 23.4} [L](#)

How this is accomplished, Christ has shown us. By what means did He overcome in the conflict with Satan? **By the Word of God**. Only by **the Word** could He resist temptation. "It is written," He said. And unto us are given "exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be **partakers of the divine nature**. . . ." Every promise in **God's Word** is ours. . . . When assailed by temptation, look not to circumstances or to the weakness of self, but to **the power of the Word**. **All its strength is yours**. {FLB 23.5} [L](#)

The Great Controversy, Page 508 and 509

"Satan is continually seeking to **overcome the people of God** by breaking down the **barriers which separate them from the world**. Ancient Israel were enticed into sin when they ventured into **forbidden association** with the heathen. In a **similar manner** are modern Israel led astray. "The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." 2 Corinthians 4:4. **All who are not decided followers of Christ are servants of Satan**. In the **unregenerate heart** there is **love of sin** and a disposition to cherish and **excuse** it. In the **renewed heart** there is **hatred of sin** and determined resistance against it. When Christians **choose the society** of the **ungodly and unbelieving**, they **expose themselves** to temptation. **Satan conceals himself from view and stealthily draws his deceptive covering over their eyes**. **They cannot see that such company is calculated to do them harm; and while all the time assimilating to the world in character, words, and actions, they are becoming more and more blinded**. {GC 508.2} [L](#)

"Conformity to worldly customs **converts the church to the world; it never converts the world to Christ**. Familiarity with sin will inevitably cause it to appear less repulsive. **He who chooses to associate with the servants of Satan will soon cease to fear their master**. When in the way of duty we are brought into trial, as was Daniel in the king's court, we may be sure that God will protect us; but if we place ourselves under temptation we shall fall sooner or later." {GC 509.1} [L](#)

Early Writings, Page 227

"..... But if this faith does not provoke to good works, and lead those who profess it to imitate the self-denying life of Christ, Satan is not disturbed; for they merely assume the Christian name, while their **hearts are still carnal**, and he can use them in his service even better than if they made no profession. Hiding their deformity under the name of Christian, they pass along with their **unsanctified natures**, and their evil passions unsubdued. This gives occasion for the unbeliever to reproach Christ with their imperfections, and causes those who do possess pure and undefiled religion to be brought into disrepute." {EW 227.2} [L](#)

The Review and Herald, January 21, 1890

"The Spirit of truth has a **refining**, elevating, heavenly influence **upon mind** and character. **We are to study the mind of Christ**, and to receive the truth as it is in Jesus. We are to watch and pray, to consult the living oracles of God. When **any lust** takes possession of the mind **in any way** or to **any degree**, and there is a **yielding to fleshly desires**, **we lose the image of Christ** in spirit and character. The work in the heavenly sanctuary becomes obscure to the minds of those who

are controlled by the temptations of the evil one, and they engage in side issues to gratify their own selfish purposes, and their true moral standing is determined by their works " {[RH 01211890.5](#)} [L](#)

" I appeal to you, my fellow-laborers, to meditate upon the sacred truths imparted unto you. The heavenly Master has intrusted you with the mine of truth, and you are to work out its treasures, to display its gems, and unveil its attractions, not merely when giving a discourse, but in your daily life you are to show the constraining, **transforming power of the truth**. **Every faculty and power of our nature** must receive the **imprint of Christ's signature**. We must become partakers of the **divine nature**. By beholding, we become changed into his image. {[RH 01211890.6](#)} [L](#)

In Heavenly Places, Page 335

" The necessity of the Holy Spirit's working should be realized by all. **Unless** this Spirit is accepted and **cherished** as the representative of Christ, whose work it is to **renew** and **sanctify the entire being**, the momentous truths that have been entrusted to human beings **will lose their power on the mind**. It is not enough for us to have a knowledge of the truth. We are to walk and work in love, conforming our will to the will of God. Of those who do this the Lord declares, "I will put **my laws into their mind**, and write them in their hearts" (Heb. 8:10) . . . Thus divine relationship is renewed between God and man. "I will be to them a **God**," He says, "'and they shall be to me a people.' **There is no attribute of My nature that I will not freely give in order that man may reveal My image.**" ... {[HP 335.4](#)} [L](#)

Are we seeking for His fullness, ever pressing toward the mark set before us--the perfection of His character? **When the Lord's people reach this mark, they will be sealed in their foreheads**. Filled with the Spirit, they will be complete in Christ, and the recording angel will declare, "It is finished." " {[HP 335.5](#)} [L](#)

Patriarchs and Prophets, Page 421

[Referring to Moses, it says this.]

".... It is to place us on our guard against his devices that God has given **in His word** so many lessons teaching the danger of **self-exaltation**. There is not an **impulse** of our **nature**, not a **faculty** of the mind or an **inclination** of the heart, but needs to be, moment by moment, under the control of the Spirit of God. Therefore however great one's spiritual light, however much he may enjoy of the divine favor and blessing, he should ever walk humbly before the Lord, pleading in faith that God will **direct every thought and control every impulse**." {[PP 421.1](#)} [L](#)

Prophets and Kings, Page 177 and 178

".... The world today has its Ahabs and its Jezebels. The present age is one of idolatry, as verily as was that in which Elijah lived. No outward shrine may be visible; there may be no image for the eye to rest upon; yet thousands are following after the gods of this world--after riches, fame, pleasure, and the **pleasing fables that permit man to follow the inclinations of the unregenerate heart**. Multitude have a wrong conception of God and **His attributes**, and are as truly serving a false god as were the worshipers of Baal. Many even of those who claim to be Christians have allied themselves with influences that are **unalterably opposed** to God and [BEGIN P.178] **His truth**. Thus they are led to turn away from the divine and to **exalt the human**." {[PK 177.1](#)} [L](#)

" There is seen a spirit of opposition to the plain word of God, of **idolatrous exaltation of human wisdom above divine revelation**. Men have allowed their minds to become so darkened and confused by conformity to worldly customs and influences that they seem to have lost all power to **discriminate** between **light** and darkness, truth and error. ... " {[PK 178.1](#)} [L](#)

The Faith I Live By, Page 140

".....

No one can be omnipotent, but **all can cleanse themselves** from filthiness of the **flesh and spirit**, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord. God requires every soul to be pure and holy. We have **hereditary tendencies** to wrong. **This is a part of self that no one need carry about**. It is a weakness of humanity to pet selfishness, because it is a **natural** trait of character. But unless **all** selfishness is put away, unless self is crucified, we can never be holy as God is holy. There is in **humanity** a **tendency to suspicious imagining**, which circumstances quicken into lively growth. If this trait is **indulged**, it spoils the character and ruins the soul. {[FLB 140.4](#)} [L](#)

God requires moral perfection in all. Those who have been given light and opportunities should, as God's stewards, aim for perfection, and never, **never lower the standard of righteousness to accommodate inherited and cultivated tendencies to wrong**. Christ took upon Him our human nature, and lived our life, to show us that we may be like Him. . . . We ought to be holy even as God is holy; and when we comprehend the full significance of this statement, and set our heart to do the work of God, to be holy as He is holy, we shall approach the standard set for each individual in Christ Jesus. " {[FLB 140.5](#)} [L](#)

Desire of Ages, Page 311

"God's ideal for His children is higher than the highest human thought can reach. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." This command is a promise. The plan of redemption contemplates our complete recovery from the power of Satan. Christ always separates the contrite soul from sin. He came to destroy the works of the devil, and He has made provision that the Holy Spirit shall be imparted to every repentant soul, **to keep him from sinning.** {[DA 311.2](#)}

" Satan is jubilant when he hears the professed followers of Christ making **excuses** for their **deformity of character.** It is these **excuses** that lead to sin. There is no excuse for sinning. A holy temper, a Christlike life, is accessible to every repenting, believing child of God. " {[DA 311.3](#)} [L](#)

Steps to Christ, Page 61

"We do not earn salvation by our obedience; for salvation is the free gift of God, to be received by faith. But obedience is the **fruit** of faith. "Ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen Him, **neither known Him.**" [1 John 3:5, 6](#). Here is the true test. If we abide in Christ, if the love of God dwells in us, our **feelings**, our **thoughts**, our purposes, our actions, **will be in harmony with the will of God** as expressed in the precepts of His holy law. "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous." [1 John 3:7](#). Righteousness is defined by the standard of God's holy law, as expressed in the ten precepts given on Sinai." {[SC 61.1](#)} [L](#)

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, Page 60

"When the thought of evil is loved and cherished, however secretly, said Jesus, it shows that sin still reigns in the heart. The soul is still in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity. He who finds pleasure in dwelling upon scenes of impurity, who indulges the evil thought, the lustful look, may behold in the open sin, with its burden of shame and heart-breaking grief, the **true nature** of the evil which he has hidden in the chambers of the soul. The season of temptation, under which, it may be, one falls into grievous sin, does not create the evil that is revealed, but only develops or makes manifest that which was hidden and latent in the heart. As a man "thinketh in his heart, so is he;" for out of the heart "are the issues of life." [Proverbs 23:7; 4:23](#). " {[MB 60.1](#)} [L](#)

"... The soul, corrupted and deformed, is to be **purified, transformed**, that it may be clothed in "the beauty of the Lord our God," "conformed to the image of His Son." " {[MB 60.3](#)} [L](#)

Matthew 5:29 & 30

"²⁹ And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell. ³⁰ And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell." [Mat 5:29-30](#) . [L](#)

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, Page 61 and 62

" It is through the will that sin retains its hold upon us. The surrender of the **will** is represented as **plucking out the eye or cutting off the hand.** ... " {[MB 61.1](#)} [L](#)

"If you cling to self, **refusing to yield your will to God**, you are choosing death." {[MB 62.1](#)} [L](#)

"It will require a sacrifice to give yourself to God; but it is a sacrifice of the lower for the higher, the earthly for the spiritual, the perishable for the eternal. God does not design that **our will** should be destroyed, for it is only through **its exercise** that we can accomplish what He would have us do. **Our will** is to be yielded to Him, that we may receive it again, **purified and refined**, and so linked in sympathy with the Divine that He can pour through us the tides of His love and power. However bitter and painful this surrender may appear to the willful, wayward heart, yet "**it is profitable for thee.**" {[MB 62.2](#)} [L](#)

Carefully consider this entire section, at least: {[MB 60-62](#)} as only parts of it are here. [L](#)

Steps to Christ, Page 74

"Growing Up Into Christ," Chapter 8 starting at: {[SC 67.1](#)} [L](#)

" **Their union with Him was closer than when He was personally with them.**" {[SC 74.1](#)} [L](#) A similar thought is found in {[AA 65.1](#)} [L](#)

Steps to Christ, Page 75

"**All that Christ was to the disciples, He desires to be to His children today;**" {[SC 75.1](#)} [L](#)

" Then if Christ is dwelling in our hearts, He will work in us "both **to will** and to do of His good pleasure." [Philippians 2:13](#). We shall work as He worked; we shall manifest the same spirit. And thus, loving Him and abiding in Him, we shall "**grow up** into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ." [Ephesians 4:15](#). {[SC 75.2](#)} [L](#)

Sings of the Times, September 26, 1892

"Christ overcame every temptation of the enemy, because in him divinity and humanity were combined; but there is no safety for any soul who has merely a legal religion, a form of godliness, a round of ceremonial exactions. To attend services on the Sabbath, to **pray occasionally or regularly, makes no one a Christian. The important thing is to become united to Christ, to believe in Christ as a personal Saviour, to live by faith in the Son of God. The question to ask the soul is, "Am I a partaker of the divine nature, represented as being born again? Has a new moral taste been created? If not, the soul is in deadly peril. He who is born of God is a new man. "If any man be in Christ, he is a **new creature**; old things are passed away; behold, **all things are become new.**" The old imperious will **is gone**. The pride is cleansed from the soul. Selfishness is uprooted. The quick, passionate temper no longer masters the man; for Jesus Christ has brought **the thoughts into captivity to himself.** Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let no arrogancy come out of your mouth; for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. "Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. **A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.** Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you**; depart from me, ye that work iniquity." {[ST, September 26, 1892 par. 4](#)} [L](#)**

Cited Statement #3

"We are sinners by nature, and will remain so until Jesus comes again. Please notice that we are sinners by birth, and that we will continue to be sinners by nature, until Jesus comes again, whether we're sinning or not." - FTW, page 162. This is from Morris Venden's book, entitled, "*Faith that Works.*"

Carefully compare this statement of Venden above, with all these references, those above, and these repeated again below:

Education, Page 126

"The **creative energy** that called the worlds into existence **is in the word of God.** This word imparts power; it begets life. Every command is a promise; accepted by the will, **received into the soul, it brings with it the life of the Infinite One.** **It transforms the nature** and re-creates the soul in the image of God. {[Ed 126.4](#)} [L](#) Similar, but different. {[FLB 20.6](#)} [L](#)

Desire of Ages, Page 172

"... The Christian's life is **not a modification** or improvement of the old, but a **transformation of nature.** There is a **death** to self and sin, and a **new life altogether.** ..." {[DA 172.1](#)} [L](#) {[AG 22.4](#)} [L](#)

And also, once again, consider how both the sentences in that statement of Venden, compare to all the other references shown above. There are many many other comparisons that can be drawn.

Again, how do these compare with the 7 analytical questions from the beginning of this study:

1. Are these teachings “according,” to God’s word? [Isaiah 8:20](#)
2. Does this “so closely” “resemble the true,” that it is difficult to tell? [GC 593.1](#)
3. Is “every statement” in line with “the doctrine of Christ?” [GC 593.1](#) [2 John 1:9-11](#)
4. Is this easy to see with God’s “power to distinguish?” [SpTB02 8.2](#)
5. Are Christ’s instructions being “strictly heeded,” not missing “one word?” [9T 266.1](#)
6. Is this a “lie?” [9T 266.1](#)
7. Or is this “truth?” [9T 266.1](#)

Whose side are the Vendens on?

I mean really, whose side are they on?

2 Peter 1:3-11

“³according as **his divine power** hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and **godliness, through the knowledge of him** that hath called us to glory and virtue: ⁴whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: **that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. ⁵And beside this, **giving all diligence**, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; ⁶and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to **patience godliness**; ⁷and to **godliness** brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. ⁸For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. ¹⁰Wherefore the rather, brethren, **give diligence** to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: ¹¹for **so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.**” [2 Peter 1:3-11](#) L

The Spirit of Prophecy, Volume 4, Page 296

“...In the light of **God’s word** it is not difficult to determine the nature of these religious movements. **The history of God’s dealings with his people in the past testifies that his Spirit is not poured out upon those who neglect or oppose the warnings sent them by his servants.** And by the rule which Christ himself has given, “**Ye shall know them by their fruits,**” it is evident that these movements are **not** the work of the Spirit of God.” [{4SP 296.1}](#) L

Manuscript Releases, Volume 2, Page 28 and 29

“All have not that faith which works by love and purifies the soul **from all earthly dross**. The purification through the Spirit **must** take place in their **own minds and hearts**. Unless this divine principle is brought into the life and practice, **there can be no such fruit borne** as unfeigned, fervent **love** for one another. There are in the human heart **hereditary** and **cultivated partialities** so that this **love** will not be practiced **unless the divine grace shall purify the natural tendencies of the human heart**. Lust for forbidden things will obtain the mastery, and self will be glorified. . . .” [{2MR 28.2}](#) L

"... Time and time again the Lord has longed to communicate His Spirit in rich measure, but there was no place for it to rest. It was not recognized or valued. The blindness of mind, the hardness of hearts, interpreted it as something of which they should be afraid. **Some hidden evil lurks in the heart** to hinder the manifestation of the power of God, **and His Spirit cannot descend...."** {2MR 29.1}

Fine Tuning Questions #3:

A friend of mine, who was reviewing and proof reading this for me, put a question on this section that reads as follows. "So, - - - - - , How would you characterize the fruit of Morris Venden's ministry and message? Did he lead people to righteousness or to lawlessness?"

The **Spirit of the Lord** put into my mind these additional **fine tuning questions** to ask, in response to his questions:

1. Can you see that [2 Peter 1:4-11](#) and the listed references, [Ed 126.4](#) and [DA 172.1](#), just below Venden's cited statement #3, say that our natures must be changed by the power of God's word, so that "an entrance shall be ministered unto" us "into the everlasting kingdom?"
2. Is your mind's eye able to see that this [4SP 296.1](#) reference shown just above, says that God's "Spirit is **not** poured out upon those who **neglect or oppose** the warnings sent them" by God's servants?
3. Has God's eyesalve enabled you to discern that this cited statement #3 is in direct opposition to what God's servants have told us, in 2MR 28.2, where it says that grace must purify the natural tendencies, and all the other references above, therefore it directly opposes the warnings sent by God's servants? **How can it not oppose them?**
4. Is it clear, that the first commandment, referred to as such by Jesus himself in [Mark 12:29-30](#), says that we are to **love the Lord our God with all our hearts, minds, souls and strength?**
5. Has the enlightening of your mind's eye allowed you to recognize that [Romans 8:7](#) says that "**the carnal mind is enmity against God,**" and therefore that our natures, without the transforming power of God, are inclined to be in opposition to God, with inclinations, propensities, and tendencies of our minds that are against God's law?
6. Can you cognitively grasp that all these references are showing that we must tap into God's transforming power, the power found in God's word, so we become inclined toward God, instead of having sinful natures with tendencies against Him?
7. **If we have even one inclination, propensity, or tendency, that is opposed to God, does that part of our mind really love God? - - - Does it, - - - or - does - it - not ?**
8. If not, then how could we ever be keeping the first commandment, if our natures will not be changed until Jesus comes?

9. Similarly, if one teaches that our natures will not be changed until Jesus comes, are they not teaching that we will not be transformed, such that we can keep this commandment, until Jesus comes?
10. Can the eyesalve applied to your minds eye allow you to see that [James 2:10](#) says that if we “keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point,” we are “guilty of all?”
11. While claiming a **form of godliness**, how can just this one teaching not - **deny** - God's - **power** - to really transform our hearts, before Jesus comes?
12. What does the Bible say, in [2 Timothy 3:5](#), we should do if one has a “form of godliness,” but denies, “[the power thereof](#)?”
13. If we have been [washed, - by the "washing of water by," - - the power of God's word](#), - - to the point where there is only **one** sinful tendency **remaining** within us, but we still have one sinful tendency of our fallen human nature remaining in our minds, **would it be true** to say that we **love God with all of our mind**? **Would – that - be - true?**
14. If we do not love God with all of our mind, would it be true to say that we keep the first commandment that commands that we are to love God with all of our mind?
- 15.** How can these teachings that **our nature** will not be changed until Jesus comes, be anything other than **leading to lawlessness, even if** they teach that **all** the laws are held up as important?
- 16.** If one believes that **their nature** need not be changed before Jesus comes, are they more or less likely to ask God for forgiveness when they have sinful thoughts, and to ask God to continue to sanctify their heart by replacing their thoughts with His? Are they **more** likely, **or less** likely, to ask God these things?
- 17.** Are they more likely to regularly ask God to - grant- that- promise--, of bringing into captivity every one of their thoughts “[to the obedience of Christ](#),” so that their “[obedience is fulfilled](#)?”
- 18.** **How often, do you ask God**, in the name of Jesus Christ, to so intertwine His will with yours, so that when obeying Him, you are “[only carrying out the impulses of](#)” your own mind? How often do you pray for that, and did you every even think that maybe you should? If so, have you ever asked God to please remind you to continue to ask Him for this?
- 19.** Does the eyesalve applied to your cognitive thinking processes allow you to see that [1 John 2:3 – 5](#) says “we know that **we know Him**, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ He that saith, **I know him**, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the **love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him?**” **Have you checked to see that - it – does - say that?**
- 20.** Are not these teachings of Morris Venden, that claim to be, and many folk believe are, leading people into a deeper relationship with Jesus by encouraging them to focus on spending time getting to know Him, **in reality** teaching that they will never actually be enabled by the **power of God, and of His word**, to keep His commandment to Love God with all their heart, mind, and soul, and therefore they will never have the “**Love of God perfected**” in them, --- and furthermore - **never – really -- actually -- get – – to – know - Him?**

I rest my case. This is more than enough to settle this in my mind. However I know of at least 10 or more other statements of Venden, that perhaps some might think should also be carefully considered in the way that these ones listed above have been. I am praying that it has been enough for you as well. Again, just by recommending these books as good books about Jesus, they still support these teachings, **if by no other way.**

Deuteronomy 30:6

“⁶ And the LORD thy God **will circumcise thine heart**, and the heart of thy seed, to **love** the LORD thy God **with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that - thou - mayest - live.**” [Deuteronomy 30:6](#) [L](#)

Hebrews 4:12

“¹² For the **word of God** is **quick**, and **powerful**, and **sharper than any twoedged sword**, **piercing** even to the **dividing asunder of soul and spirit**, and of the **joints and marrow**, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” [Hebrews 4:12](#) [L](#)

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, Pages 93 through 95

“*No man can serve two masters.*” [Matthew 6:24](#). .

Christ does not say that man will not or shall not serve two masters, but that he *cannot*. The interests of God and the interests of mammon have no union or sympathy. Just where the conscience of the Christian warns him to forbear, to deny himself, to stop, just there the worldling steps over the line, **to indulge his selfish propensities.** On one side of the line is the self-denying follower of Christ; on the other side is the self-indulgent world lover, pandering to fashion, engaging in frivolity, and pampering himself in forbidden pleasure. On that side of the line the Christian cannot go. [BEGIN P.94] {[MB 93.2](#)} [L](#)

No one can occupy a neutral position; there is no middle class, who neither love God nor serve the enemy of righteousness. Christ is to live in His human agents and work through their faculties and act through their capabilities. Their will must be submitted to His will; they must act with His Spirit. Then it is no more they that live, but Christ that lives in them. He who does not give himself **wholly to God** is under the control of another power, listening to another voice, whose suggestions are of an entirely different character. **Half-and-half service** places the human agent on the side of the enemy as a successful ally of the hosts of darkness. **When men who claim to be soldiers of Christ engage with the confederacy of Satan, and help along his side, they prove themselves enemies of Christ.** They betray sacred trusts. They form a link between Satan and the true soldiers, so that through these agencies the enemy is constantly working to steal away the hearts of Christ's soldiers. {[MB 94.1](#)} [L](#)

The strongest bulwark of vice in our world is not the iniquitous life of the abandoned sinner or the degraded outcast; **it is that life which otherwise appears virtuous, honorable, and noble, but in which one sin is fostered, one vice indulged.** To the soul that is struggling in secret against some giant temptation, trembling upon the very verge of the precipice, such an example is one of the most powerful enticements to sin. He who, endowed with high conceptions of life and truth and honor, **does yet willfully transgress one precept of God's holy law, has perverted His noble gifts into a lure to sin.** Genius, talent, sympathy, even generous and kindly deeds, [BEGIN P.95] may become **decoys of Satan** to entice other souls over the precipice of ruin for this life and the life to come. {[MB 94.2](#)} [L](#)

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." [1 John 2:15, 16.](#) {[MB 95.1](#)} [L](#)

Review and Herald, December 7, 1897

"Christ shows that without the **controlling power of the Spirit of God**, humanity is a terrible power for evil, to hurt and destroy humanity. When men banish this Spirit, **unbelief** and **hatred of reproof** stir up **satanic influence**. Principalities and powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places, will unite in a desperate companionship. They will be **leagued against God in the person of his saints**. By misrepresentation and falsehood, they will demoralize both men and women **who**, - **to - all - appearances**, - **believe - the truth**. False witnesses will not be wanting in this terrible work. But Christ gives the assurance: "There shall not a hair of your head perish. **In your patience possess ye your souls**." Christ will restore the life taken; for he is the Life-giver: he will beautify the righteous with immortal life." {[RH, December 7, 1897 par. 6](#)} [L](#)

Stand

I am praying that none of us fall into the sad situations that are described in these references below, and that we take a **stand** on that which they say we are to take a **stand** on. **While we must keep in mind all thoughts such as are in 2SM 380.2, and MR311 5.1 – 5.2, saying God will have a remnant**, we must not over look these counsels found below either. [Prayerfully ask, "is this the way of the Lord"](#).

Christian Service, Page 41

"Not One in Twenty Prepared

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. They are professedly serving God, but they are more earnestly serving mammon. This half-and-half work is a constant denying of Christ, rather than a confessing of Christ. So many have brought into **the church** their own unsubdued spirit, unrefined; their spiritual taste is perverted by their own immoral, debasing corruptions, **symbolizing the world in spirit**, in heart, in purpose, confirming themselves in lustful practices, and are full of deception through and through in their professed Christian life. Living as sinners, claiming to be Christians! **Those who claim to be Christians and will confess Christ should come out from among them** and touch not the unclean thing, and be separate. . . ." {[ChS 41.1](#)} [L](#)

Christian Service, Page 43

"The professed followers of Christ are on trial before the heavenly universe; but the coldness of their zeal and the feebleness of their efforts in God's service, mark them as unfaithful. If what they are doing were the best they could do, condemnation would not rest upon them; but were **their hearts enlisted in the work**, they could do much more. They know, and the world knows, that they have to a great degree lost the spirit of self-denial and cross-bearing. Many there are against whose names will be found written in the books of heaven, Not producers, but consumers. By many who bear Christ's name, His glory is obscured, His beauty veiled, His honor withheld. **There are many whose names are on the church books**, but who are **not under Christ's rule**. They are not heeding His instruction or doing His work. Therefore they are under the control of the

enemy. They are doing no positive good, therefore they are doing **incalculable harm**. Because their influence is not a savor of life unto life, it is a savor of death unto death." [COL 303, 304](#). [{ChS 43.5}](#)

Manuscript Releases, Volume 7, Page 389

"We have little enough of Christ's character. We need it all through our ranks, We must reveal that love which dwelt in Jesus. Then we shall keep the commandment [that we love one another], which **not one in a hundred of those who claim to believe the truth for this time are keeping**. . . ." [{7MR 389.3}](#) [L](#) See [1 Peter 1:22](#) [L](#)

Review and Herald May 5, 1885, Paragraph 2

"The followers of Christ are required to **come out from the world, and be separate**, and touch not the unclean, and they have the promise of being the sons and daughters of the Most High, members of the royal family. But if the conditions are not complied with on their part, they will not, cannot realize the fulfillment of the promise." [{RH, May 5, 1885 par. 2}](#) [L](#)

Review and Herald May 5, 1885, Paragraph 4

".... They have joined with the selfish and world-loving. Pride, the love of pleasure, and sin have been cherished, and **Christ has departed**. His Spirit has been **quenched in the church**. Satan works side by side with professed Christians; yet they are so destitute of spiritual discernment that they do not detect him. Many who have a **form of godliness**, whose names are **on church books**," [{RH, May 5, 1885 par. 4}](#) [L](#)

Review and Herald May 5, 1885, Paragraph 6

" There are hypocrites now who will **tremble** when they obtain a view of themselves. Their own vileness will **terrify** them in that day which is soon to come upon us,--a day when "the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity." Oh that **terror** might **now lay hold upon them**, that they might have a vivid sense of their condition, and arouse while there is mercy and hope, confess their sins, and humble their souls greatly before God, **that he might pardon their transgressions and heal their backslidings!** **The people of God** are unready for the fearful, trying scenes before us, unready to stand **pure** from evil and **lust** amid the perils and corruptions of this degenerate age. They have **not on the armor of righteousness**, and are **unprepared to war against the prevailing iniquity**. Many are not obeying the commandments of God; **yet they profess so to do**. If they would be faithful to obey **all the statutes** of God, they would have a power which would carry conviction to the hearts of the unbelieving." [{RH, May 5, 1885 par. 6}](#) [L](#)

Review and Herald September 3, 1889, Paragraph 11

"We are not safe if we neglect to **search the Scriptures daily** for light and knowledge. Earthly blessings cannot be obtained without toil, and can we expect that spiritual and heavenly blessings will come without **earnest effort** on our part? The mines of **truth** are to be worked. Says the psalmist, "**The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.**" The **word of God** must not be kept apart from our life. It must be entertained in the mind, welcomed in the heart, and be cherished, loved, and obeyed. We need also much more knowledge; we need to be enlightened in regard to the plan of salvation. There is **not one in one hundred** who understands for himself the Bible truth on this subject that is so necessary to our present and eternal welfare. When light begins to shine forth to make clear the plan of redemption to the people, the enemy works with all diligence that the light may be shut away from the hearts of men. If we come to the word of God with a teachable, humble spirit, the rubbish of error will be swept away, and gems of truth, long hidden from our eyes, will be discovered." [{RH, September 3, 1889 par. 11}](#) [L](#)

Selected Message, Volume 1, Page 122

"There are persons **in the church** who are not converted, and who will not unite in earnest, prevailing prayer. We must enter upon the work individually. We must pray more, and talk less. Iniquity abounds, and the people must be taught not to be satisfied **with a form of godliness without the spirit and power**. If we are intent upon searching our own hearts, putting away our sins, and **correcting our evil tendencies**, our souls will not be lifted up unto vanity; we shall be distrustful of ourselves, **having an abiding sense that our sufficiency is of God.**" [{ISM 122.2}](#) [L](#)

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. 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." {1SM 122.3} L

Testimonies for the Church, Volume 3, Page 254

"It is not enough to merely profess to believe the truth. **All the soldiers of the cross of Christ virtually obligate themselves to enter the crusade against the adversary of souls, to condemn wrong and sustain righteousness.** But the message of the True Witness reveals the fact that a terrible deception is upon our people, which makes it necessary to come to them with warnings, to break their spiritual slumber, and arouse them to decided action." {3T 254.1}

Testimonies for the Church, Volume 3, Page 264 through 267

"Joshua and the elders of Israel were in great affliction. They lay before the ark of God in most abject humility because the Lord was wroth with His people. They prayed and wept before God. The Lord spoke to Joshua: 'Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff. Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: **neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.**'" {3T 264.3}

"Duty to Reprove Sin

I have been shown that God here illustrates how He regards sin among those who profess to be His commandment-keeping people. Those whom He has specially honored with witnessing the remarkable exhibitions of His power, as did ancient Israel, and who will even then venture to disregard His express directions, will be subjects of His wrath. He would teach His people that disobedience and sin are exceedingly offensive to Him and are not to be lightly regarded. He shows us that when His people are found in sin they should at once take decided measures to put that sin from them, that His frown may not rest upon them all. **But if the sins of the people are passed over by those in responsible positions, His frown will be upon them, and the people of God, as a body, will be held responsible for those sins.** In His dealings with His people in the past the Lord shows the necessity of purifying the church from wrongs. **One sinner may diffuse darkness that will exclude the light of God from the entire congregation.** When the people realize that darkness is settling upon them, and they do not know the cause, they should seek God earnestly, in great humility and self-abasement, until the wrongs which grieve His Spirit are searched out and put away. {3T 265.1}

If wrongs are apparent among His people, and **if the servants of God pass on indifferent to them, they virtually sustain and justify the sinner, and are alike guilty and will just as surely receive the displeasure of God; for they will be made responsible for the sins of the guilty.** In vision I have been pointed to many instances where the displeasure of God has been incurred by a neglect on the part of His servants to deal with the wrongs and sins existing among them. Those who have excused these wrongs have been thought by the people to be very amiable and lovely in disposition, simply because they shunned to discharge a plain Scriptural duty. The task was not agreeable to their feelings; therefore they avoided it. {3T 265.2}

The spirit of hatred which has existed with some because the wrongs among God's people have been reprov'd has brought blindness and a fearful deception upon their own souls, **making it impossible for them to discriminate between right and wrong. They have put out their own spiritual eyesight.** They may witness wrongs, but they do not feel as did Joshua and humble themselves because the danger of souls is felt by them. {3T 266.1}

The true people of God, who have the spirit of the work of the Lord and the salvation of souls at heart, will ever view sin in its real, sinful character. **They will always be on the side of faithful and plain dealing with sins which easily beset the people of God.** Especially in the closing work for the church, in the sealing time of the one hundred and forty-four thousand who are to stand without fault before the throne of God, will they feel

most deeply the wrongs of God's professed people. This is forcibly set forth by the prophet's illustration of the last work under the figure of the men each having a slaughter weapon in his hand. One man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side. "And the Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof." {3T 266.2}

Who are standing in the counsel of God at this time? Is it those who virtually excuse wrongs among the professed people of God and who murmur in their hearts, if not openly, against those who would reprove sin? Is it those who take their stand against them and sympathize with those who commit wrong? No, indeed! Unless they repent, and leave the work of Satan in oppressing those who have the burden of the work and in holding up the hands of sinners in Zion, they will never receive the mark of God's sealing approval. They will fall in the general destruction of the wicked, represented by the work of the five men bearing slaughter weapons. Mark this point with care: Those who receive the pure mark of truth, wrought in them by the power of the Holy Ghost, represented by a mark by the man in linen, are those "that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done" in the church. Their love for purity and the honor and glory of God is such, and they have so clear a view of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, that they are represented as being in agony, even sighing and crying. Read the ninth chapter of Ezekiel." {3T 267.1}

Review and Herald May 9, 1899

"..... **Turn from the one who has ventured to present wrong practises to you. Resolutely turn from the tempter, saying, I must separate from your influence; for I know you are not walking in the footsteps of our Saviour.** {RH, May 9, 1899 par. 17} [L](#)

Even though you may not feel able to speak a word to those who are working on wrong principles, **leave them.** Your withdrawal and silence may do more than words. Nehemiah **refused to associate** with those who were untrue to principle, and he **would not permit his workmen to associate** with them. The love and fear of God were his safeguard. He lived and worked as in view of the unseen world. And David said, "I have set the Lord always before me." {RH, May 9, 1899 par. 18} [L](#)

Dare to be a Daniel. Dare to stand alone. Thus, as did Moses, you will endure the seeing of Him who is invisible. **But a cowardly and silent reserve before evil associates, while you listen to their devices, makes you one with them.** "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." {RH, May 9, 1899 par. 19} [L](#)

Testimonies for the Church, Volume 2, Page 440 and 441

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" Some who occupy the position of **watchmen to warn the people of danger** have given up their watch and recline at ease. They are unfaithful sentinels. They remain inactive, while their **wily foe enters the fort and works successfully by their side** to tear down what God has commanded to be built up. They see that Satan is deceiving the inexperienced and unsuspecting; yet they take it all quietly, as though they had no special interest, as though these things did not concern them. They apprehend no special danger; they see no cause to raise an alarm. To them everything seems to be going well, and they see no necessity of raising the faithful, **trumpet notes** of warning which they hear borne by the plain testimonies, to show the people their transgressions and the house of Israel their sins. These reproofs and warnings disturb the quiet of these sleepy, ease-loving sentinels, and they are not pleased. They say in heart, if not in words: "This is all uncalled for. It is too severe, too harsh. These men are unnecessarily disturbed and excited, and seem unwilling to give us any rest or quietude {2T 440.1} [L](#) [[Read the entire section. Only parts of it are here.](#)]

These are the true feelings of **many of our people.** And Satan exults at his success in controlling the minds of so many who profess to be Christians. He has deceived them, benumbed their sensibilities, and planted his **hellish banner right in their midst**, and they are so completely deceived that **they know not that it is he.** The people have not erected graven images, yet their sin is no less in the sight of God. They worship mammon.

They love worldly gain. Some will make any sacrifice of conscience to obtain their object. God's professed [BEGIN P.441] people are selfish and self-caring. They love the things of this world, and have **fellowship with the works of darkness**. They have pleasure in unrighteousness. They have not love toward God nor love for their neighbors. They are **idolaters**, and **are worse, far worse**, in the sight of God than the heathen, graven-image worshipers **who have no knowledge of a better way**. {2T 440.2} L

Christ's followers are required to come out from the world, and be separate, and touch not the unclean, and they have the promise of being the sons and daughters of the Most High, members of the royal family. **But if the conditions are not complied with on their part, they will not, cannot, realize the fulfillment of the promise**." {2T 441.2} L

Selected Messages, Book 3, Page 410

"Evil Angels in the Form of Believers Will Work in Our Ranks

I have been shown that **evil angels in the form of believers will work in our ranks to bring in a strong spirit of unbelief**. Let not even this discourage you, but bring a true heart to the help of the Lord against the powers of satanic agencies. {3SM 410.2} L

These **powers of evil** will assemble in our meetings, not to receive a blessing, but to counterwork the influences of the Spirit of God. Take up no remark that they may make, but repeat the rich promises of God, which are yea and amen in Christ Jesus." {3SM 410.3} L

Selected Messages, Book 3, Page 411

"Let every soul, whatever may be his sphere of action, make sure that the **truth is implanted in the heart by the power of the Spirit of God**. Unless this is made certain, those who preach **the Word** will betray holy trust." {3SM 411.5} L

"Apostates Will Use Hypnotism

The time has come when **even in the church and in our institutions, some will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils**. But God will keep that which is committed to Him. Let us draw near to Him, that He may draw near to us. Let us bear a plain, clear testimony right to the point, that hypnotism is being used by those who have departed from the faith, and that we are not to link up with them. Through those who depart from the faith, **the power of the enemy will be exercised to lead others astray**.—Letter 237, 1904." {3SM 411.7} L

Selected Messages, Book 3, Page 412

"We have a testing message to give, and I am instructed to say to our people, **"Unify, unify."** But we are not to unify with those who are departing from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. With our hearts sweet and kind and true, we are to go forth to proclaim the message, **giving no heed to those who lead away from the truth**.—Manuscript 31, 1906." {3SM 412.2} L

Our High Calling, Page 360

“Let not false teachers confuse your minds and unsettle your faith by casting reproach upon those whom God has sent you with messages of warning and instruction. Remember that it is not mere men whom you have to meet, but “principalities and powers, and wicked spirits in high places.” Now is the very time when Satan is working with all deceivableness of unrighteousness. {[OHC 360.3](#)}

Many are in reality fighting his battles while they profess to serve under the banner of Christ. **These traitors in the camp may not be suspected, but they are doing their work to create unbelief, discord, and strife.**

Such are the most dangerous of foes. While they insinuate themselves **into our favor**, and gain our confidence and sympathy, they are busy suggesting doubts and creating suspicion. They work in the same manner as did Satan in heaven when he deceived the angels by his artful representations, placing darkness for light, and making the forbearance and mercy of God to appear as harshness and severity. As he worked at the beginning, so he works in the end, only concealing himself more perfectly from view....” {[OHC 360.4](#)}

The Upward Look, Page 365

“Satan is working with all his power to hinder the work of God. If God's people occupy a portion of their time in teaching the **delusive sentiments** of Satan, the kingdom of evil will rejoice. **When those having a knowledge of the path over which God has led us give heed to seducing spirits and depart from the faith, the time and effort required to correct the evils that follow are so much time and effort taken from the work of proclaiming the gospel message. We must warn our brethren and sisters not to give heed to false theories, and to beware of those who have allowed themselves to be ensnared.**” {[UL 365.4](#)}

Stand - Verify Everything Yourself

I've noticed, that at least where I live, many of our people seem to have overlooked these statements below. They are included here, to give you further encouragement to carefully consider anything that anyone says, for yourself.

Selected Messages, Book 1, page 56

“Say to the church members that there is need of thorough consecration to God. Let all understand that they must make a covenant with God by sacrifice. We need the blessings of the gospel every day and every hour. Every proof of the Lord's power, His presence, and His love, is to be recognized with grateful thanks. Happiness is to be achieved by the right action of the soul toward God. I thank the Lord for this precious thought. Let Him be glorified by the sentiments expressed and by the actions performed.... **Never have testimonies been more clearly brought before the people than those that have recently been traced by my pen. God bids me urge upon the attention of our people the importance of their study. Let this work begin now.** Then, whether I am permitted to labor or am laid away to rest until Jesus comes, these messages are immortalized.” {[ISM 56.3](#)}

Philippians 4:8

“Finally, brethren, **whatsoever things are true**, whatsoever things are **honest**, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are **pure**, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, **think on these things.**” [Philippians 4:8](#)

Selected Messages, Book 1, page 58

“The Publishing of Compilations

I can see plainly that should every one who thinks he is qualified to write books, follow his imagination and have his productions published, insisting that they be recommended by our publishing houses, **there would be plenty of tares** sown broadcast in our world. Many from among our own people are writing to me, asking with earnest determination the privilege of using my writings to give force to certain subjects which they wish to present to the people in such a way as to leave a deep impression upon them. {[1SM 58.1](#)}

It is true that there is a reason why some of these matters should be presented: but I would not venture to give my approval in using the testimonies in this way, or to sanction the placing of matter which is good in itself in the way which they propose. {[1SM 58.2](#)}

The persons who make these propositions, for aught I know, may be able to conduct the enterprise of which they write in a wise manner; but nevertheless **I dare not give the least license for using my writings in the manner which they propose.** In taking account of such an enterprise, there are many things that must come into consideration; for in using the testimonies to bolster up some subject which may impress the mind of the author, the extracts may give a different impression than that which they would were they read in their original connection.—The Writing and Sending Out of the Testimonies to the Church, 25, 26.” {[1SM 58.3](#)}

If Sister White would not even allow people to use portions of her writings in the books that they were writing, why have so many books been written today, that do that?

Wouldn't it just be best to study what God told her to write down for us, rather than to read books that other people wrote who are claiming to be telling us what she said that God told her?

Is it better for me to have the messages from God, first hand, second hand, or third hand?

If I hear a sermon, or read a book, about what was written down about what God told us, is that third hand information?

Manuscript Releases, Volume 2, Pages 152 and 153

Mrs. White Being Understood Opposite of What She Intended

“Why will not men see and live the truth? Many study the Scriptures for the purpose of proving their own ideas to be correct. They change the meaning of God's Word to suit their own opinions. And thus they do also with the testimonies that He sends. They quote half a sentence, leaving out the other half, which, if quoted, would show their reasoning to be false. God has a controversy with those who wrest the Scriptures, making them conform to their preconceived ideas.—Manuscript 22, 1890, 5, 6. (Diary, January 10, 1890.) {[2MR 152.1](#)}

It seems impossible for me to be understood by **those who have had the light but have not walked in it.** What I might say in private conversations would be so repeated as to make it mean **exactly opposite** to what it would have meant had the hearers been sanctified in mind and spirit. I am afraid to speak even to my friends, for afterwards I hear, Sister White said this, or Sister White said that. My words are so wrested and misinterpreted that I am coming to the conclusion that the Lord desires me to keep out of large assemblies and refuse private interviews. **What I say is reported in such a perverted light that it is new and strange to me.** It is mixed with words spoken by men to sustain their own theories.”—Letter 139, 1900, p. 5. (To the Officers of the General Conference. October 24, 1900.) {[2MR 152.2](#)}

Why do people who have had the light, but not walked in it, think it says exactly opposite of what

it was intended to mean?

In light of the message we have from God found in [GC 508.2](#), is it because by not valuing messages from God highly enough and having a “love of sin and a disposition to cherish and excuse it,” that we open our minds so that the devil can cause us to see things the way he wants us to, instead of the way God wants us to, so we end up seeing it exactly opposite of what God intended?

How many today, who have had the light, but didn't walk in all of it, do you think might be teaching others, and writing books about their ideas, some of which are exactly opposite of what God wants them to believe?

How can we tell, if they are telling us the right thing, or the wrong thing?

Is there any other way, than praying that God will please forgive us, change our hearts, and open our eyes, so we see things the way He wants us to, while carefully verifying everything for ourselves?

Why would anyone want to have the messages from God, third hand?

Mrs. White Rejects a Brother's Counsel

“Brother Matteson suggests that it would please the people if I speak less about duty and more in regard to the love of Jesus. But I wish to speak as the Spirit of the Lord shall impress me. The Lord knows best what this people needs. I spoke in the forenoon [Sabbath, October 17, 1885] from Isaiah 58. I did not round the corners at all.... My work is to elevate the standard of piety and true Christian life, and urge the people to put away their sins and be sanctified through the truth.—Manuscript 26, 1885, 5. [Diary, October 15-30, 1885.]” {[2MR 153.2](#)}

Prophets and Kings, pages 177 and 178:

"Chapter 14—'In the Spirit and Power of Elias'

Through the long centuries that have passed since Elijah's time, the record of his lifework has brought inspiration and courage to those who have been called to stand for the right in the midst of apostasy. And for us, “upon whom the ends of the world are come” (1 Corinthians 10:11), it has special significance. History is being repeated. The world today has its Ahabs and its Jezebels. The present age is one of **idolatry**, as verily as was that in which Elijah lived. **No outward shrine may be visible; there may be no image for the eye to rest upon; yet thousands are following after the gods of this world—after riches, fame, pleasure, and the pleasing fables that permit man to follow the inclinations of the unregenerate heart.** Multitudes have a wrong conception of God and His attributes, **and are as truly serving a false god as were the worshipers of Baal.** Many even of those who claim to be Christians have allied themselves with influences that are unalterably opposed to God and His truth. Thus they are led to **turn away from the divine and to exalt the human.** {[PK 177.1](#)}

The prevailing spirit of our time is one of infidelity and apostasy—a **spirit of avowed illumination because of a knowledge of truth, but in reality of the blindest presumption.** Human theories are exalted and placed where God and His law should be. Satan tempts men and women to disobey, with the promise that in disobedience they will find liberty and freedom that will make them as gods. There is seen a spirit of opposition to the plain word of God, of **idolatrous exaltation of human wisdom above divine revelation.** Men have allowed their minds to become so darkened and confused by conformity to worldly customs and influences that they seem to have **lost all power to discriminate between light and darkness, truth and error.** So far have they departed from the right way that they hold the opinions of a few philosophers, so-called, to be more

trustworthy than the truths of the Bible. The entreaties and promises of God's word, its threatenings against disobedience and **idolatry**—these seem powerless to **melt their hearts**. A faith such as actuated Paul, Peter, and John they regard as old-fashioned, mystical, and unworthy of the intelligence of modern thinkers. {PK 178.1} ([Back to Emphasis and Comparisons](#) PK177 link)

What does it mean, when it says “ **idolatrous exaltation of human wisdom above divine revelation?**”

If I decided to listen to someone else, rather than **carefully verifying everything** for myself from what God told us in the Bible, and Spirit of Prophecy, would I be guilty of an “ **idolatrous exaltation of human wisdom above divine revelation?**”

If I were to decide to just take our pastor's word for it, instead of **carefully verifying everything** for myself, could I become guilty of an “ **idolatrous exaltation of human wisdom above divine revelation?**”

What if Pastor Doug, or Pastor Bradshaw, were teaching something opposite of what God wanted them to, and I just decided that they sound so good, they must be telling the truth; could I become guilty of an “ **idolatrous exaltation of human wisdom above divine revelation?**”

When it says that it is “**as truly serving a false god as were the worshipers of Baal,**” does that mean it would be the same as kneeling down and praying to Baal, if I become guilty of an “ **idolatrous exaltation of human wisdom above divine revelation?**”

If I decide that I **like reading books** that people have written about what **God told us in the Bible**, more than actually reading what Bible prophets **wrote down for God**, for myself, am I risking becoming guilty of an “ **idolatrous exaltation of human wisdom above divine revelation?**”

If I decide that I **like reading books** that people have written about what **God told** sister White to tell us, more than actually reading what **she wrote down for God**, for myself, am I risking becoming guilty of an “ **idolatrous exaltation of human wisdom above divine revelation?**”

If I **place more value upon books** that people have written about what **God told** sister White to tell us, more than actually reading what **she wrote down for God**, for myself, am I risking becoming guilty of an “ **idolatrous exaltation of human wisdom above divine revelation?**”

If I decide to focus more on reading or watching what men have said who I don't know for sure are telling the truth on every point, am I following the counsel of Philippians 4:8 that says we are to think on things that **are true?**

If I just decide that what it says in these books is true, without carefully reading what **God told** Mrs. White to write down for us, myself, is it like I was **kneeling down and worshipping Baal?**

When people spend more time reading or listening to any other religious materials, other than those that are known for sure to be true such as the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy writings, is it like they are making **Baal into their god?**

When people spend more time reading or listening to any other religious materials, other than those that are known for sure to be true such as the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy writings, is it like they are making, **those things, into their god?**

Have I heard somewhere that anything that receives undue thought, or admiration, becomes a god before our God?

Sons and Daughters of God, page 56.

“Let men worship and serve the Lord God, and Him only. Let not selfish pride be lifted up and served as a god. Let not money be made a god. If sensuality is not kept under the control of the higher powers of the mind, base passion will rule the being. **Anything that is made the subject of undue thought and admiration, absorbing the mind, is a God chosen before the Lord.**

Jehovah, the eternal, self-existent, uncreated One, Himself the source and sustainer of all, is alone entitled to supreme reverence and worship. Man is forbidden to give to any other object the **first place in his affections or his service.** Whatever we **cherish** that tends to lessen our love for God or to interfere with the service due Him, **of that do we make a god.** {SD 56.4 -.5}

If I read or **listen to things** other than the Bible, and Spirit of Prophecy, **more** than the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy themselves, am I giving undue thought or adoration to those things?

If I read or listen to things other than the Bible, and Spirit of Prophecy, more than the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy themselves, am I making those things into my god?

Should I find my greatest joy, in reading messages known to be from God, and checking to make sure I understand them correctly?

Why have so many of our people forgotten about the importance of carefully verifying everything for themselves?

Is it because they **“have had the light but have not walked in it.”**

If they **have had the light but have not walked in it**, does that mean that they are probably seeing at least somethings exactly opposite of what God intended?

If I listen to what they say, and believe it is true without checking carefully myself, have I received a love of the truth?

If I haven't really received a love of the truth, am I following the counsel of Philippians 4:8 to think on things that are true?

These references in this section above, are why so much emphasis is being put on looking up and carefully reviewing everything for yourself. This is why significant effort has been put into hooking up links from each reference, to the original source material, to make it as easy as possible for you to go to and read each reference in its context for yourself.

“**Double-minded men and women are Satan's best allies.** Whatever favorable opinion they may have of themselves, they are **dissemblers**. All who are loyal to God and the truth must stand firmly for the right because it is right. To **yoke up** with those who are unconsecrated, and **yet be loyal to the truth, is simply impossible.** We **cannot unite** with those who are serving themselves, **who are working on worldly plans**, and **not lose our connection with the heavenly Counselor.** We may recover ourselves from the snare of the enemy, but we are bruised and wounded, and our experience is dwarfed. 'Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.'” {RH April 19, 1898.8}

Is someone who has had all these references available to them for years and years, while claiming to believe them, and who thinks they are working for Jesus, but still has a carnal mind, “double-minded?” How completely should our double-mindedness be healed, before the situation stated here above about double-minded people being “Satan's best allies,” is no longer true??

Are these teachings of Venden “**worldly plans?**”

Again:

“¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹ **Put on the whole armour of God,** that ye may **be able** to stand against the **wiles of the devil.** ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against **power's**, against the **rulers of the darkness** of this world, against **spiritual wickedness in high places.** ¹³ Wherefore take unto you **the whole armour of God,** that ye may **be able** to withstand **in the evil day**, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ **Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth,** and **having on** the breastplate of **righteousness;** ¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the **gospel** of peace; ¹⁶ Above all, **taking** the **shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.** ¹⁷ And **take** the helmet of salvation, and the **sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:** ¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; ¹⁹ And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ For which I am an ambassador in bonds that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.” [Ephesians 6:10-20](#) L

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<https://sites.google.com/view/whose-side-are-the-vendens-on/phone-sized-layout>

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The Lord wants us to keep reminding others, to keep these things in mind as well.