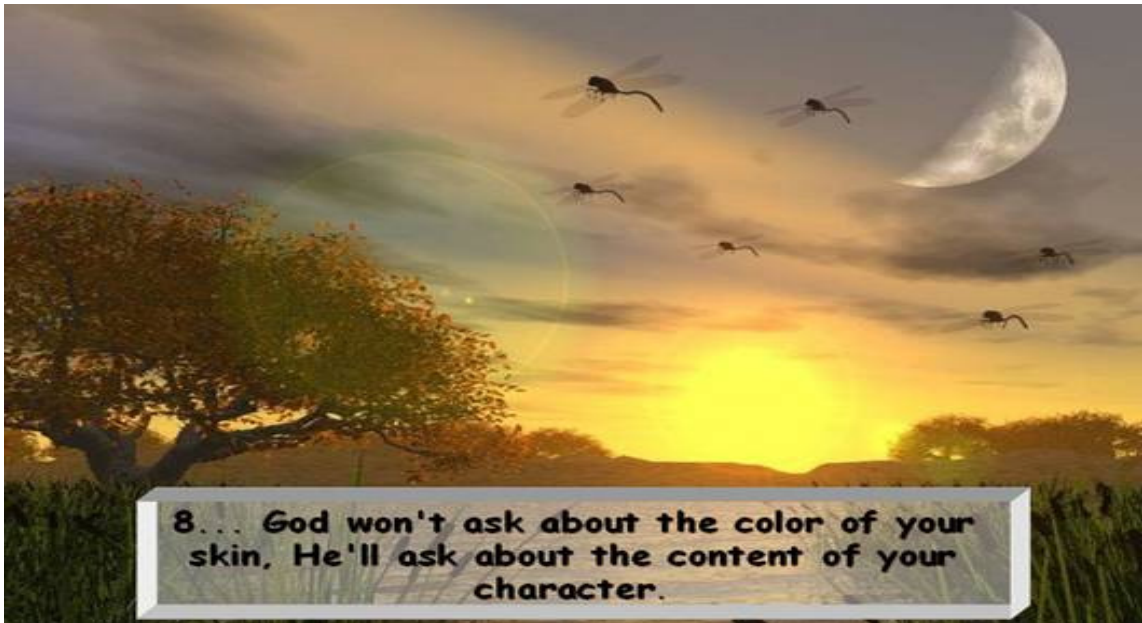


1 **Repent, Baptize, Receive the Holy Spirit & Overcome Sin**



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Graham F. Watts, Sr.

VISION: To hear the midnight cry, "The bridegroom comes, go out to meet Him" (Matthew 25:6) and become like Him when I see Him as He is (1 John 3:2).

MISSION: Purify myself even as Christ is pure (1 John 3:3) to be glad, to rejoice, give honor to Christ and be ready for the marriage of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7).

VALUES: Follow the Lamb wherever He goes (Revelation 14:4), be without fault before God (Revelation 14:5), be perfect even as my Father in heaven is perfect (Matthew 5:48), wear the Lamb's fine, clean and white linen (Revelation 19:8) do righteously (1 John 3:10) and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8).

OVERALL AIM: Studies presented here unveil Bible knowledge to inquiring minds to prompt the following inquiries: "Are our feet on the rock of ages? Are we one with Christ as He is one with the Father" (John 10:30 in Evangelism, {Ev} 199.1)? Am I crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20)?

25 **PURPOSE/REASON FOR/WHY**

26
27 This study encourages repentance and baptism.
28

29 **OBJECTIVE/WHAT WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH**

30
31 To help people seek [water baptism and] the baptism of repentance for
32 remission, i.e., forgiveness, of sins (Luke 3:3) before "...the
33 kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of... Christ" (Revelation
34 11:15).

35
36 **SIGNIFICANCE: SO WHAT**

37
38 "The sins of some men... reach the place of judgment ahead of them;
39 the sins of others trail behind them" (1 Timothy 5:24, NIV). "If we
40 confess our sins He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins
41 and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9, NIV) so that
42 "Sin shall not be [our] master..." (Romans 6:14, NIV). "...**Of whom a**
43 **man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage**" (2 Peter
44 2:19), **but "...God... gives... victory through... Jesus Christ**" (1
45 Corinthians 15:57). **Through Christ, all nations are to receive**
46 **repentance and remission of sins** (Luke 24:47). "Blessed is the man
47 [of Genesis 5:2] whose sin the Lord will never count against him"
48 (Romans 4:8, NIV). "Therefore, **GO** and **MAKE DISCIPLES** of all nations,
49 **BAPTIZING THEM** in the name of the Father, ...Son and... Holy Spirit,
50 **...TEACHING THEM** to **OBEY EVERYTHING I HAVE COMMANDED YOU**" (Matthew
51 28:19-20, NIV), which includes repentance and baptism.

52
53 **BACKGROUND CONTEXT**

54
55 Relationship by Obedience: Humans relate to God by obeying Him. God
56 created man and land creatures on the sixth day (Genesis 1:24-31) and
57 "...Commanded the man, '...To eat from any tree in the garden...
58 [except] from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, [stating
59 clearly], **when you eat of it you will surely die**'" (Genesis 2:16-17,
60 NIV). Subsequently, God created a woman helper for Adam (Genesis

61 2:18, 20-24). Later, "...The serpent... said to the woman, 'Did God
62 really say you must not eat from any tree in the garden" (Genesis
63 3:1, NIV)? "The woman replied, 'We may eat fruit from the trees in
64 the garden, but God did say, you must not eat fruit from the tree
65 that is in the middle of the garden AND YOU MUST NOT TOUCH IT or you
66 will die" (Genesis 3:2-3, NIV). The serpent said, "**You will not**
67 **surely die...**" (Genesis 3:4, NIV). "**God knows that when you eat of**
68 **it your eyes will be opened; you will be like God knowing good and**
69 **evil**" (Genesis 3:5, NIV).

70
71 Role of Sensory Perception & Cognition in Disobedience: "When **the**
72 **woman saw that the fruit... was good for food, pleasing to the eye**
73 **and desirable for gaining wisdom,** she took... and ate it [and] gave
74 some to her husband... and he ate it" (Genesis 3:6, NIV). "Adam was
75 not deceived; the woman being deceived was in the transgression" (1
76 Timothy 2:14). "Adam [simply listened] to the voice of [his]
77 wife..." (Genesis 3:17), whom "...The serpent beguiled," a.k.a.
78 deceived (Genesis 3:13 & 2 Corinthians 11:3). "[He] permitted himself
79 to be seduced by the experience of his wife" (Testimonies for the
80 Church, Vol. Three, {3T} 72.1). "He could not see what would become
81 of Eve. He was sad, troubled and tempted. He listened to Eve's
82 recital of the words of the serpent, and his constancy and integrity
83 began to waver. Doubts arose in his mind... [regarding] whether God
84 did mean just as He said. He rashly ate the tempting fruit"
85 (Confrontation {Con} 86.1).

86
87 The Principle of Inheritance Bequeaths a Legacy of Sin & Death:
88 Acceptance of the Genesis origin of human beings acknowledges the
89 principle of inheritance. Paul supports this reasoning in the
90 following way. "...In [the first Adam] all die..." (1 Corinthians
91 15:22, NIV). "...Many died by the trespass of one man..." (Romans
92 5:15, NIV). "...By the trespass of one man, death reigned..."
93 (Romans 5:17, NIV). "...The result of one man's trespass was
94 condemnation for all men" (Romans 5:18, NIV). "...Sin reigned in

95 death..." (Romans 5:21, NIV). Adam's disobedience passed a legacy of
96 death to the human family. "...By one man, sin entered into the
97 world and death by sin..." (Romans 5:12). "The wages of sin is
98 death..." (Romans 6:23). Some may not acknowledge God's law and
99 transgression, but mortuaries and cemeteries worldwide testify to the
100 legacy of Adam's transgression.

101
102 Disobedience comes from being Borne of Adam: Adam's transgression
103 made it easy for his descendants to disobey God's requirements. Sin
104 is both transgression of the law (1 John 3:4) and unrighteousness (1
105 John 5:17) and "... is not imputed when there is no law" (Romans 4:15
106 & 5:13). The dietary law in Eden: "...You are free to eat from any
107 tree in the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the
108 knowledge of good and evil..." (Genesis 2:16-17, NIV) was a test.
109 "God created man for His own glory that after test and trial the
110 human family might become one with the heavenly family. **It was God's**
111 **purpose to repopulate heaven with the human family, if they would**
112 **show themselves obedient to His every word.** Adam was... tested, to
113 see whether he would be obedient, as the loyal angels, or
114 disobedient" (God's Amazing Grace, {AG} 344.2). However, when Adam
115 ate the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:6) "...The law entered that the
116 offence might abound..." (Romans 5:20). Therefore, original sin is
117 the result of "...One man's disobedience, [and caused] many... [to
118 become] sinners..." (Romans 5:19). In other words, the ribonucleic
119 acid (RNA) strand of rebellion that produces sin, which culminates in
120 death, became part of the genetic material of all Adam's descendants.

121
122 Obedience comes from being Borne of Christ: However, just "...as sin
123 reigned in death, grace reigns through righteousness to bring eternal
124 life through Jesus Christ, our Lord" (Romans 5:21, NIV). Moreover,
125 "...Those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the
126 gift of righteousness reign in life through... Jesus Christ" (Romans
127 5:17, NIV). "God commended His love toward us, in that, while we
128 were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8) so by "...The

129 result of one [man's] act of righteousness was justification that
130 brings life for all [people]" (Romans 5:18, NIV). "...In Christ,
131 all... [come] alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22). This background provided
132 the impetus for the study question of this lesson.

133

134 **STUDY QUESTION**

135 What is the value added to life by repentance and baptism?

136

137 **ANSWER SOURCE: HOLY BIBLE**

138

139 UNREPENTANT HUMAN NATURE IS CAPTIVE TO SIN

140

141 1. "In sin... my mother conceived me" (Psalms 51:5).

142

143 2. "[God] spreads out our sins... Our secret sins, [He] sees them all"
144 (Psalms 90:8, New Living Translation, NLT).

145

146 3. If we say, we have no sin: we deceive ourselves, we make him a
147 liar, the truth is not in us and his word is not in us (1 John 1:8
148 & 10).

149

150 4. "The natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God; they
151 are foolishness unto him neither can he know [them] because they
152 are spiritually discerned" (1 Corinthians 2:14).

153

154 5. "The carnal mind is enmity against God; it is not subject to the
155 law of God, neither indeed can be" (Romans 8:7).

156

157 6. Paul described the sin problem this way: "I am... a slave to sin
158 (Romans 7:14, NLT). ...I want to do what is right, but I do not do
159 it. Instead, I do what I hate (Romans 7:15, NLT). **I am not the
160 one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does [wrong]** (Romans
161 7:17, NLT). **Nothing good lives in... my sinful nature**. I want to do
162 what is right, but I cannot [do it] (Romans 7:18, NLT). ...In the

163 flesh, the motions of sins... work in our members (Romans 7:5) [and]
164 they that are in the flesh cannot please God (Romans 8:8). I want
165 to do what is good, but I do not. I do not want to do what is
166 wrong, but I do it anyway (Romans 7:19, NLT). **If I do what I do**
167 **not want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin**
168 **living in me that does it** (Romans 7:20, NLT). **I HAVE DISCOVERED**
169 **THIS PRINCIPLE OF LIFE—WHEN I WANT TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT, I**
170 **INEVITABLY DO WHAT IS WRONG.** I love God's law with all my heart
171 **(Romans 7:22, NLT), but THERE IS ANOTHER POWER WITHIN ME THAT IS AT**
172 **WAR WITH MY MIND.** This power [is
173 a. *"The great dragon..., that old serpent ...the Devil and Satan,*
174 *{who was cast out of heaven} into the earth and {he and}*
175 *his angels... {deceive the whole world} (Revelation 12:9)*
176 *just as the serpent deceived Eve (Genesis 3:13 & 2*
177 *Corinthians 11:3).*
178
179 b. *"The Devil, who as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking*
180 *whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8) who is also called "...The*
181 *prince of the power of the air..." (Ephesians 2:2)].*
182 ***This power makes me a slave*** to the ***sin that is still within me***
183 (Romans 7:23, NLT). "... [Paul, a former persecutor of believers]
184 delighted in the Law of God after the inward man" (Romans 7:22, KJV)
185 but [had] another law in [his] members, [making war] against the law
186 of [his] mind and bringing [him] into captivity to the law of sin
187 (Romans 7:23, KJV). "...With the mind, ...[he] served the Law of God;
188 but with the flesh [he served] the law of sin" (Romans 7:25, KJV).
189 Thus, Paul exclaimed, "Oh what a miserable person I am! Who will
190 free me from [a] life that is dominated by sin and death" (Romans
191 7:24, NLT)? **Help is near! "God so love the world that He gave His**
192 **only begotten son..." (John 3:16). God has set up our redemption from**
193 **the hand of the enemy** (Psalms 106:10).
194

195 JESUS' DEATH FREED HUMANITY FROM SIN'S CAPTIVITY

- 196
- 197 7. "[Christ came] to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin" (1 John
198 3:5). [God] "...made Him... who knew no sin [to be sin for us]
199 that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (2
200 Corinthians 5:21).
- 201
- 202 8. Christ... suffered for sins... that He might bring us to God... (1 Peter
203 3:18). [Christ was] the propitiation for our sins [...MOREOVER] the
204 sins of the... world [and] **He declared His righteousness for the**
205 **remission of sins**... (read Romans 3:25; 1 John 2:2 & 1 John 4:10).
- 206
- 207 9. He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our
208 iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him and with His
209 stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:5). ...He was cut off from the land
210 of the living and [received wounds] for transgressors (Isaiah
211 53:8). It pleased the Lord to bruise [Christ]... when [He made] His
212 soul an offering for sin (Isaiah 53:10).
- 213
- 214 10. "...**In the end of the world He appeared to put away sin by the**
215 **sacrifice of himself**" (Hebrews 9:26). "He took our sins on himself,
216 giving his body to be nailed on the tree, so that **WE, BEING DEAD TO**
217 **SIN, MIGHT HAVE A NEW LIFE IN RIGHTEOUSNESS**, and by his wounds we
218 have been made well" (1 Peter 2:24 Basic English Bible), the King
219 James Version says, "...by whose stripes you were healed."
- 220
- 221 11. "He was the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world"
222 (Revelation 13:8); the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the
223 world (John 1:29), who ...gave himself, i.e., died for our sins
224 when the fullness of time came (Galatians 1:4; 1 Corinthians 15:3).
225 **By His death, he sanctified (Hebrews 10:10) and perfected us**
226 **forever (Hebrews 10:14)**. It is indeed finished (John 19:30). Not
227 only has His death helped us, but also His life. The Spirit of the
228 Lord [came upon Jesus Christ and] anointed [Him] to **preach to the**

229 poor, ...to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the
230 captives, [to] recover sight to the blind [and] to **SET AT LIBERTY**
231 **THEM THAT ARE BRUISED** (Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:18). Hence, Jesus'
232 promise stands: "Come unto me, all [of you] that labor and are
233 heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and
234 learn of me... for my yoke is easy..." (Matthew 11:28-30).

235
236 12. Godly sorrow that leads to repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10)
237 liberates from sin. Not surprisingly, Scripture says, "If we
238 confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
239 and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). "That
240 which is born of flesh is flesh; ...that which is born of the Spirit
241 is Spirit" (John 3:6, KJV). "The works of the flesh... [are]
242 adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness [showing a
243 desire for unseemly/inappropriate interest in sex], idolatry,
244 witchcraft, hatred, variance [disagreement], emulations [attempts
245 to equal or surpass someone who is successful or admired], wrath,
246 strife, seditions [provoking or inciting rebellion], heresies
247 [holding beliefs contrary to established religious teachings],
248 envying, murders, drunkenness and reveling [partying]" (Galatians
249 5:19-21, KJV). In view of these things, the new birth: i.e., "...You
250 must be born again," (John 3:7) is imperative.

251
252 13. Sometimes the call to be born again applies equally to unbelievers
253 and religious and/or church-attending people (read John 3:1-7). If
254 both groups experience conversion, "...[they] will **[NOT]** continue
255 to sin, because God's seed remains in [them]; [hence, they] cannot
256 go on sinning, because [they have] been born of God" (1 John 3:9
257 NIV). In other words, Jesus makes it possible to "...die daily" (1
258 Corinthians 15:31) to self-pleasing (read Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34
259 & Luke 9:23) and **"awake to righteousness and sin not..."** (1
260 Corinthians 15:34). We must get beyond the rhetoric of Scriptural
261 quotations. Practical dying to self, awaking to righteousness and
262 not sinning must occur else the promise: "...God is faithful, who

263 will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able to bear,
264 but will with the temptation make a way to escape that [we] may be
265 able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13) is empty. The next section
266 emphasizes dying to self and awaking to righteousness.

267

268 **SECURE GOD'S FREEDOM BY DYING TO SELF & AWAKING TO RIGHTEOUSNESS**
269

270 14. When we "repent and.. baptize.. in the name of Jesus Christ..., [we]
271 receive the... Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38) and "as many as receive Him-
272 [who is '...the way {to the Father}, the truth and the life...' (John
273 14:6)]-to them He gives POWER to become [children: sons and
274 daughters] of God (Galatians 3:26), even to them that believe on
275 His name" (John 1:12).

276

277 15. As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God
278 (Romans 8:14). [We] "Have received the Spirit of adoption.. (Romans
279 8:15), [which] bears witness with our spirit that we are children
280 of God" (Romans 8:16 & 1 John 3:1-2, NIV). As children of God (1
281 John 3:1-2 NIV), "...buried with Him BY BAPTISM into death; ...as
282 Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so
283 we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4). In the new
284 life "...IN CHRIST, [we are] NEW CREATURES; old things [have]
285 passed away; all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Thus,
286 former thieves become laborers (read Ephesians 4:28).

287

288 16. Christ [not only] sets us free from sin [but also] makes us
289 servants of righteousness (Romans 6:18). When we were servants of
290 sin, we were free from righteousness (Romans 6:20), but now being...
291 free from sin and become servants to God, we have our fruit unto
292 holiness and the end, everlasting life (Romans 6:22). Therefore,
293 do not "Yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto
294 sin, but YIELD YOURSELVES UNTO GOD, AS THOSE THAT ARE ALIVE FROM
295 THE DEAD and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God"
296 (Romans 6:13). "...According to the gift of the grace of God given

297 to [us] by the effectual working of His power (Ephesians 3:7), let
298 us sow... in righteousness... (Hosea 10:12), offer the sacrifices of
299 righteousness AND yield our members as servants to righteousness
300 (Romans 6:19 & 22). These are God's methods of victory over sin.

301
302 17. By divine command, "**Let not sin... reign in your mortal body** that
303 you should obey it in the lusts thereof" (Romans 6:12). "Sin shall
304 not have dominion over [us]..." (Romans 6:14). "...Of whom a man
305 is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage" (2 Peter 2:19).
306 If we "...Work out our own salvation with fear and trembling"
307 (Phillipians 2:12) by initiating a hunger strike on the
308 strongholds of sin that resides within us: "...Guard... the avenues
309 of the soul..., avoid reading, seeing or hearing that which will
310 suggest impure thoughts" (The Acts of the Apostles, {AA} 518.2),
311 sin will not have dominion over us. Dearly beloved, let us search
312 our thoughts to determine which kingdom principles reside there.
313 Are we overflowing with principles from the kingdom of
314 righteousness or principles from the kingdom of unrighteousness or
315 some of both? "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" (Galatians
316 5:9).

317
318 18. "...God sending his own son..., condemned sin in the flesh (Romans
319 8:3) that **the righteousness of the law** might be **fulfilled in us who**
320 **walk... after the Spirit** (Romans 8:4). We are delivered from the law
321 [of sin that brings us into captivity] (Romans 7:23), **being DEAD...**
322 **we serve in newness of spirit** (Romans 7:6). **The Spirit of God, who**
323 **raised Jesus from the dead, [who] lives in [us] ...gives life to our**
324 **mortal bodies...; therefore, [we] have no obligation to do what [the]**
325 **sinful nature urges** (Romans 8:11-12, NLT). Sin will not dominate
326 us if Spirit of God dwells in us and if we walk after the Spirit.
327 Therefore, proclaim victory over sin in Christ notwithstanding your
328 feelings to the contrary because **"In all things we are more than**
329 **conquerors through Him that loved us"** (Romans 8:37).

330

331 19. "...We are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if... the Spirit of
332 God dwells in [us] (Romans 8:9). "...[Jesus] lives in us... by the
333 Spirit He gave us" (1 John 3:24, NIV). "We know that we live in
334 Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit" (1 John
335 4:13). The Spirit quickens, the flesh profits nothing; the words
336 that [Jesus] speaks; they are spirit and life (John 6:63).
337 Therefore, "...If Christ [lives] in [us], the body [is] DEAD [to]
338 sin... (Romans 8:10) [and we overcome the duplicity problem of]
339 having a name, which suggests we are alive when in reality we are
340 dead (Revelation 3:1 KJV). We should no longer serve sin (Romans
341 6:6) because it is impossible for anyone that is dead to sin to
342 live any longer therein (Romans 6:2). [Whom] the Son sets free is
343 free indeed (John 8:36). [S/he] that is dead is free from sin
344 (Romans 6:7). [S/HE] THAT COMMITS SIN IS [NOT DEAD TO SIN] (1 John
345 3:8).

346
347 20. Dearly beloved, "...Christ in [us through His Holy Spirit is our]
348 hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). Being born of the Spirit of God,
349 the flesh dies to the sinful tendencies of Galatians 5:19-21 as the
350 Holy Spirit gives power to grow the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy,
351 peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and
352 self-control (Galatians 5:22, NIV). **CHRIST, THROUGH THE HOLY**
353 **SPIRIT FREES US FROM A LIFE DOMINATED BY SIN:** offering His
354 righteous life as a complete and perfect sacrifice for our sins,
355 giving Holy Spirit power to those who receive Him and directing
356 sons and daughters of God to [live a] Spirit [directed life] (Acts
357 8:29)! In view of these things, **"If we sin willfully after we have**
358 **received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more**
359 **sacrifice for sins"** (Hebrews 10:26, NIV).

360
361 SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS: Repentance followed by baptism sets up the
362 initial and subsequent outpouring of the Holy Spirit, who enable us
363 to live daily dying to self-pleasing, submitting to Christ and
364 overcoming habitual and/or cultivated tendencies to transgress God's

365 law. Hence, John said: "My little children, [I write] these things
366 unto you that you sin not, [but] if any man sin, we have an Advocate
367 with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1).

368

369 **ANSWER SOURCE: SACRED WRITINGS:**

370

371 We are pursuing answers to the question: What is the value added to
372 life by repentance and baptism? Answers follow!

373

374 1. **"Baptism** is a most sacred and important ordinance.... It **means**
375 **repentance for [sin] and the entrance upon a new life in Christ**
376 **Jesus**; there should be no undue haste to receive [it]" (Child
377 Guidance, {CG} 499.3). "Nicodemus heard the preaching of John
378 the Baptist concerning repentance and baptism, and pointing the
379 people to One who should baptize with the Holy Spirit. ...**Yet**
380 **the heart-searching message of the Baptist had failed to work in**
381 **him conviction of sin.** He was a strict Pharisee; [who] prided
382 himself on his good works; ...He felt secure of the favor of God
383 [and] was startled at the thought of a kingdom too pure for him
384 to see in his present state" (The Desire of Ages, {DA} 171.2).

385

386 2. "...Repentance and faith are... the conditions of receiving
387 baptism" (The Great Controversy, {GC} 238.3). "The steps in
388 conversion... are repentance, faith in Christ as the world's
389 Redeemer; faith in His death, burial and resurrection shown by
390 baptism and His ascension on high to plead in the sinner's
391 behalf" (Lift Him Up, {LHU} 79.4). "Baptism represents true
392 conversion by the renewing of the Holy Spirit" (The Faith I Live
393 By, {FLB} 143.3). "As Christians submit to the solemn rite of
394 baptism, [they] **registers** [their] **vow ...to be true to [Christ**
395 **Jesus]**. **This vow is their oath of allegiance**" (FLB 145.3).

396

- 397 3. "Every man, woman and child that are not under the control of
398 the Spirit of God are under the influence of Satan's sorcery
399 [supernatural power]..." (Messages to Young People, {MYP} 278.2).
400 But "[God] does not leave His people [defenseless] to... Satan's
401 temptations" (Christian Service, {ChS} 166.4). **"All who live
402 have sins to wash away.** True repentance of sin, faith in the
403 merits of Jesus Christ and baptism into His death, [we rise] out
404 of the water to live a new life. [These] are the first steps in
405 the new birth that Christ told Nicodemus he must experience in
406 order to be saved. The words of Christ to Nicodemus are not only
407 spoken to him, but to every man, woman and child that should
408 live in the world" (LHU 79.7).
409
- 410 4. **The plan of redemption contemplated our complete recovery from
411 the power of Satan** (DA 311.2). **"Christ desires... to redeem His
412 heritage from the dominion of Satan"** (Christ's Object Lessons,
413 {COL} 174.3). "Under the leadership of Satan ...men... are
414 doing all in their power to plunge the world into commercial
415 strife" (This Day With God, {TDG} 309.5). Toxic Financial
416 Investment Products is but a recent example. However, **true
417 repentance [demonstrates sorrow for sin and] ...a resolute
418 turning away from evil, a turning away from it [in heart]**
419 (Patriarchs and Prophets, {PP} 557.2; Conflict and Courage, {CC}
420 63.6). Repentance is the entrée of God's recovery plan. **The
421 power of the truth to sanctify and ennoble appears... in the lives
422 of those who believe it...** (John 17:17 in Testimonies for the
423 Church, Vol. 9, {9T} 22.2). **When [we receive] truth into the
424 heart, it... refines and sanctifies the receiver** (Fundamentals
425 of Christian Education {FE}, 256.2). **"If the BIBLE were read
426 more, if its truths were better understood, we should be a far
427 more enlightened and intelligent people. Energy is imparted to
428 the soul by searching its pages"** (CG 507.2). Too many church
429 attendees are "Ever learning and never able to come to the
430 knowledge of the truth" (2 Timothy 3:7).

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5. **When people heed God's reproofs, He imparts His Spirit to [them] and makes His words know to [them]** (Proverbs 1:23). "The Holy Spirit is the breath of spiritual life in the soul. The impartation of the Spirit is the impartation of the life of Christ; it imbues the receiver with the attributes of Christ" (DA, 805); attributes such as "...liberality, generosity [and] tenderness, which reveals that Christ is abiding in the heart" (The Acts of the Apostles, {AA} 279.3).
6. Jesus Christ set us free from a life dominated by sin and death. Through repentance and baptism, [Christ] ...destroys the works of the devil and ...[makes] provision that the Holy Spirit shall be imparted to every repentant soul, to keep [us] from sinning (DA 311.2). "There is no excuse for sinning. **A holy temper, a Christlike life, is accessible to every repenting, believing child of God**" (DA 311.3). In his later years, "Paul [became] a living example of what every true Christian [can] be. He lived for God's glory. His words [echo] down the line to our time, **"For... me to live is Christ..."** (Phillippians 1:21). "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world (Galatians 6:14 in S.D.A. Bible Commentary, {6BC} 1112.9).

CONCLUSIONS: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Christ saw... that if human beings believed on Him, they would [receive] power against the host of fallen angels.... Christ strengthened His soul with the thought that, by the wonderful sacrifice which He was about to make, the prince of this world... [would] be cast out and men and women placed where, **through the grace of God, they could regain what [Adam] had lost**" (9T 21.4). Through Christ, we starve the sinful nature and walk with Jesus, relying on

464 His strength, power and grace to live... [in] a "tainted, corrupted
465 atmosphere..., [while breathing] the pure air of heaven... by lifting the
466 soul into the presence of God through sincere prayer" (Reflecting
467 Christ, {RC} 122.3). "Let the soul be drawn out and upward that God
468 may grant us a breath of the heavenly atmosphere (RC 122.5).

469
470 **Jesus frees us from the entanglements of sin** (John 8:36). Having
471 been set free, "no weapon... formed against [us] shall prosper; every
472 tongue [that] rises against [us] in judgment [we will] condemn. **This**
473 **[is] the heritage of the servants of the Lord [that] their**
474 **righteousness [is] of Me, says the Lord"** (Isaiah 54:17). "The Lord
475 says of those who believe in Him, 'I will dwell in them, and walk in
476 them; and I will be their God, and they shall be **My people**'" (2
477 Corinthians 6:16 in DA 311.4). Moreover, "If **My people**, which are
478 called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my
479 face, and turn from their wicked ways (sounds a lot like repentance,
480 doesn't it); then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin
481 and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

482
483 [We are] more than conquerors through Him who loved [us] and gave
484 Himself for [us] (Romans 8:37 in 9T 22.1). To him who is able to
485 keep [us] from stumbling and to present [us] before his glorious
486 presence without fault and with great joy (Jude 24); to the only God
487 our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus
488 Christ our Lord... now and forevermore (Jude 25, TNIV)! God has set a
489 high standard for His sons and daughters. The question remains, "Do I
490 have faith as a grain of mustard seed" (Luke 17:6 & Matthew 17:20) to
491 believe that God wants me to live without habitually yielding to sin.

492

493 **CALL TO ACTION: WHAT SHALL WE DO**

494
495 Repent, baptize and receive the Holy Ghost (Acts 2:38; 3:19). The
496 times of refreshing that comes from the Father equips us to die

497 daily..., to reflect... the bright rays of His glory (OHC 213.6) and to
498 represent and honor Christ (OHC 213.3).

499
500 **The life Christ lived in this world, we through His power and under**
501 **His instruction can live** (read Galatians 2:20). "We have this
502 treasure in earthen vessels that the excellence of the power may be
503 of God and not of us" (2 Corinthians 4:7). If we accept this
504 treasure, we can "Stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made
505 us free and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage"
506 (Galatians 5:1, KJV).
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