

A stylized illustration of a hand holding a pom-pom. The hand is rendered in various shades of blue and white, with a textured, brush-stroke-like appearance. The pom-pom is made of layered, jagged pieces of paper in shades of brown, tan, and yellow. The background features vertical stripes in grey, light blue, green, and light blue. At the top, there are three horizontal bars in dark blue, green, and light blue.

# Youth Revival Week

From 10 – 18 September 2010.

How can I be  
victorious?



Materials Developed by  
**General Conference  
Youth Department**

Design and Editing:  
**Graphic Design Student  
Ixzelt Aldana  
Youth Department  
Mexican Union**

"Then, children, come to Jesus. Give to God the most precious offering that it is possible for you to make; give him your heart. He speaks to you saying, "My son, my daughter, give me thine heart. Though your sins be as scarlet, I will make them white as snow; for I will cleanse you with my own blood. I will make you members of my family children of the heavenly King. Take my forgiveness, my peace which I freely give you."

(YI 306-1892)

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 Great Controversy, p. 510.

The Lord Jesus not only forgives us through His grace but grants us His power so we can overcome sin.

Paul does not describe only the sad condition of the human heart, but he teaches that the evil heart can be transformed by the Holy Spirit and together with the grace of Christ not one young person must think to yield to temptation: "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection." 1 Cor. 9: 27. To 'keep under' means to control the will, to submit our life to the life of Christ.

### **Your victory in Christ**

Now you can decide who you will serve, Jesus or the devil. If you decide to put your life in the hands of Jesus, through His divine grace you will be a new creature: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Cor. 5: 17. This does not mean that you will not have temptations any more, you will have them, we all have them. But if you surrender to God by baptism and accept Christ as your personal Saviour, then your conscience will not leave you in peace any more when you will do evil; you will be anxious when you will not obey Him and this will be a sign that you are not the same anymore; with all your heart you will desire not to offend your precious Jesus. In you will grow a spiritual urge you never experienced before, you will spend your energy to form a confirmed character, like Christ, you will live to love your neighbor, to bless, help, inspire and lift up humanity. Your desire will be to spread Jesus' message and prepare for heaven. Do you know a better enterprise than this?

Victory over sin will lead you to other victories and always onwards until you will enjoy obedience and you will not reckon the gospel as a weight, a nuisance or a chimera. If you are among those you did not succeed until now, go on! Do not render yourself! It is true that you have been weak and often have turned your back on Jesus. But...fall into Jesus' arms, ask Him for forgiveness and go on. Strike higher; be like the eagle soaring upward, up above the miasma of sin. The process has started in you and Jesus will finish it, do you desire to be like Him, to live His life, to be pure and holy? May your answer be a 'yes' loud and clear. Do not tarry, the time of probation is nearly over. The Lord Jesus will never abandon you, no, never, never: "All that the Father gives me shall come to me; and him that comes to me I will in no wise cast out." John 6: 37.

Remember, dear youth, victory is yours because Jesus overcame. Take the decision today to unite with Jesus as the branches with the vine to bear much fruit and one day, when all will be over, inherit eternal life. This is my wish for you. Amen.

*"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. Satan cannot read our thoughts, but he can see our actions, hear our words; and from his long knowledge of the human family, he can shape his temptations to take advantage of our weak points of character."*

*The Faith I Live By, p. 327.*

# INTRODUCTION

## Dear youths:

We greet you with brotherly love with the word of God: "Let no man despise your youth; but be you an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." 1 Tim. 4: 12.

After one year here we are again together by God's mercy to read these new readings for the youth revival week in the whole world. We thank the Lord for the privilege to be in His church, to know His message and to have the opportunity to live by it in a world in permanent fluctuation.

It is not easy to live Jesus' message on this earth contaminated by sin. Who said it was? For the majority, authentic Christianity is not an option, it is not convenient in material, social, political, and cultural matters. True Christianity does not echo in the human soul immersed in the consumerism of occidental countries. However some Christianity to the measure of the believer, to the measure of society has been created/ invented ??.

Many young people believe that true happiness is to be found in discos, drinking alcohol, smoking, or in relationships before marriage; others believe that happiness is in forming some kind of relationship with someone of the same sex or in following immoral and fascinating fashion trends; other young people, who have received a Christian education take the Bible and fashion it to their taste. In fact, by taking some verses out of their contexts, it seems that they underline all of these things and others. And then everyone makes up his own religion and the divine objective is not reached any more: to fashion the individual into the faith of Jesus.

To let oneself drift along with the current of the society is what prevails, but is it actually what satisfies the young? Is it really the true secret of happiness? We know very well that it is not. It is not by living a formal type of religion, to the measure of the carnal desires of the individual, being lukewarm or indifferent to God's voice. What can the young person do to overcome the powerful appeal of temptation? During these seven readings of the week of youth revival, we have tried to answer to this vital question for the soul and its present and eternal repercussions. We counsel you to put aside a part of your time to pray and to meditate on the contents of these readings.

The readings will begin on July 10 and terminate on July 18, 2010. The last Sabbath July 18, will be a day of worldwide fasting and prayer for the youth. The offering gathered on that day will be sent to the Youth Department of the General Conference to help prepare material for our dear youth around the world. We ask the youth leaders to collaborate with the minister or the leaders of the church, to facilitate the reproduction of the readings so that the largest number of youth may be able to read them and study them.

May the Lord grant His Holy Spirit in abundance on all the participants of these readings and may they be a blessing for the spiritual life of every youth, this is our wish and prayer.

Your brothers of the Youth Department  
of the General Conference.

## HOW CAN I BE VICTORIOUS?

- 1. My son, give me thine heart** **5**  
Mrs. Ellen G. White, USA  
Friday September 10, 2010
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- 5. Deliver us from evil** **17**  
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Br. Victor Carbajal, Peru  
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Br. José V. Giner, USA  
Sabbath September 18, 2010

“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” Rev. 12: 9.

This struggle between the powers of darkness and you, dear youth, is not a game, the natural enemy of your soul wants, through his temptations, degrade you, and lead you to sin to dishonor God and yourself. He wants to have you on his ‘enchanted’ ground to catch you in his nets with things you like but which unfortunately lead to perdition.

The battle against evil will go on until the second coming of Jesus. There will never be a time of truce. Until today the war goes on and the devil is determined to bring every youth to perdition and you with the rest.

We live in a world of sin; our nature has been transformed by the fall. We possess a sinful nature; Paul recognized he had this nature and he did experiment the power of it in his own flesh. But there is a solution: Jesus Christ.

### **Christ's victory**

It is true that Satan leads us into temptation, but the good news is that the devil cannot constrain us to sin, I repeat: he cannot oblige you to sin: “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. Satan cannot read our thoughts, but he can see our actions, hear our words; and from his long knowledge of the human family, he can shape his temptations to take advantage of our weak points of character. And how often do we let him into the secret of how he may obtain the victory over us. Oh, that we might control our words and actions!” *The Faith I Live By*, p. 327.

Dear youth, it is very important to understand this point presented by the Spirit of Prophecy: “The tempter has no power to control the will or to force the soul to sin.” This means that if you have heredity or cultivated tendencies toward evil, you are not obliged to sin; this will always be your own decision. The devil can throw you in a lion’s den such as with Daniel or in a fiery furnace as his three companions. He can put you in prison like Joseph, he can take away all your possessions and even your health, as with Job, but he cannot force you to sin. His battle against you is a battle that you do not have to fight alone. You can count on Jesus’ powerful strength for Christ was tempted in all, as you are and obtained the victory for you and all the young people.

Joseph, the son of Jacob was tempted by Potiphar’s wife, he trained his will in favour of faithfulness and was an overcomer in Christ. Satan was not able to oblige him to transgress the sixth commandment. He tempted him in many ways, but he could not compel him, he did not overcome him. Joseph did not yield and you can do the same as Joseph, because you have the power of Christ to help you: “In all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.” Rom. 8: 37. “For it is God which works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” Phil. 2: 13.

“Whatever may be the nature of your defects, the Spirit of the Lord will enable you to discern them, and grace will be given you whereby they may be overcome. Through the merits of the blood of Christ you may be a conqueror, yes more than a conqueror...” *Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 349.

These are the good news, dear youths; Jesus overcame in His personal struggle against the devil and His victory is at your disposal.

“Satan assailed Christ with his fiercest and most subtle temptations, but he was repulsed in every conflict.

Daniel, the author of one of the most important books of the Bible and of all times, was tempted; his three companions were tempted in Babylon.

These were not superficial temptations, but dangerous and very difficult to resist using only human capacity. David was tempted when he least expected it. For sure, Satan spent some time planning his stratagem against the most important man of biblical history. The people of Israel, special treasure of God, were tempted. Moses, the meekest man on earth, was tempted. John, Peter, Judas and all the disciples were tempted. The Christians of all times have been tempted.

And to give a clearer example, we can speak about our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, the meek and humble Jesus, the root of Jesse, the lion of Judah, the rose of Sharon, the lily of the valleys, the bright morning star, and the light of the world... He was also tempted by the devil, without going for it, in the solitude of the wilderness and being in a condition of holiness and perfect communion with God.

### **The objective of the Devil**

How will you not also be tempted, dear youth? You cannot escape and you cannot expect that the devil will make a pact with you, that he will pat you on the shoulder and tell you: "Ok, I see that you are a good guy (or a nice girl), different from the others, you reject everything worldly, only the Lord's matters interest you... that's ok, I'll respect you. Go, forward in your life of faith.

No! No! Satan will look everywhere to ruin your life with his snares and temptations cut to your measure. And he will tempt you every day of your life. When the devil invents a temptation he does not let go; he takes all his time to elaborate his destructive scheme; he studies the character of the individual, he knows his past, his walk in life, his tastes, his affections, his weaknesses, even his genetics and the weight of his heredity.

He is an expert in the knowledge of human nature.

Think one moment, dear youth, to what the apostle Peter wrote: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour." 1 Pet. 5: 8. As the lion walks around its victim in such a way that one is not aware but only when it is too late, in such a manner the devil walks around every youth waiting for the right moment to jump on him and devour him. You may think this is hard language? But this is reality! I am trying to impress you, to wake you up, to encourage you to watch and pray because your soul is in danger, like mine and the soul of every human being who comes into the world.

Who tempted our first parents and introduced sin in the world? Who invented crime, robbery, polygamy, adultery, war, covetousness, selfishness? Who is at the origin of the death of more than 40.000 children dying of hunger every year in the whole world? Who has sent death through Aids to two million people in 2008? Who conceived the plan so that around 100.000 people die each year in the USA because of alcohol and among them the number of youths has gone up by 20%? Who is behind the six million abortions on our planet each year and who enjoys that these crimes against babies are committed among teens from 11 to 19 years old in 26% of the cases? Who has open his hand to offer heroin, cocaine, marihuana, hallucinogens, tobacco, amphetamines, sleeping pills and other...so that millions of youths are drowning and destroying themselves in mortal pleasures? Who inspires 3.000 persons to take their life each year in the world? Who is behind these 1000 unmarried teens who become mothers much too early and these 4.219 teens who get infected with venereal diseases each year in the USA? Who enslaves millions of youths in the whole world with pornography and depraved sex? The devil! The devil!



## GIVE ME THINE HEART

Ellen G. White, USA



Ellen G. Harmon was born November 26, 1827, at Gorham, near Portland (Maine) USA. When Ellen was nine years old, she was hit on her face by a stone that nearly cost her life. During her youth she attended some meetings presented by William Miller, announcing the Lord Jesus imminent return, she then decided to give her heart to the Saviour. In August 1846, Ellen Harmon was united in marriage with James White. She travelled extensively with her husband, a renowned preacher, leaving her children in the care of friends. Her life was filled with joys in spite of moments of poverty and sadness. The Lord called her to be His messenger giving her visions on the condition of Christians and their duty to proclaim Christ's second coming; faithfully she accomplished this responsibility. In spite of her lack of education, she received power from the Lord to write a large number of articles covering all the concerns of Christian life. These articles have become books and in particular Steps to Christ, published in more than sixty languages and has been read by millions of readers. Ellen G. White died in California on July 16, 1915.

Friday September 10, 2010.

**“My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.” Proverbs 23:26 (KJV)**

**“Jesus teaches us to call His Father our Father. He is not ashamed to call us brethren. Hebrews 2:11. So ready, so eager, is the Saviour’s heart to welcome us as members of the family of God, that in the very first words we are to use in approaching God He places the assurance of our divine relationship, “Our Father.” ...**

“God loves us as He loves His Son... “But if you call God your Father you acknowledge yourselves His children, to be guided by His wisdom and to be obedient in all things, knowing that His love is changeless. You will accept His plan for your life. As children of God, you will hold His honor, His character, His family, His work, as the objects of your highest interest. It will be your joy to recognize and honor your relation to your Father and to every member of His family. You will rejoice to do any act, however humble, that will tend to His glory or to the wellbeing of your kindred.” Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, pp. 103-105.

“Then, children, come to Jesus. Give to God the most precious offering that it is possible for you to make; give him your heart. He speaks to you saying, “My son, my daughter, give me thine heart. Though your sins be as scarlet, I will make them white as snow; for I will cleanse you with my own blood. I will make you members of my family--children of the heavenly King. Take my forgiveness, my peace which I freely give you. I will clothe you with my own righteousness,--the wedding garment,--and make you fit for the marriage supper of the Lamb.

When clothed in my righteousness, through prayer, through watchfulness, through diligent study of my word, you will be able to reach a high standard. You will understand the truth, and your character will be moulded by a divine influence; for this is the will of God, even your sanctification.”” SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 3, p. 1162.

“The heart belongs to Jesus. He has paid an infinite price for the soul; and He intercedes before the Father as our Mediator, pleading not as a petitioner, but as conqueror who would claim that which is His own. He is able to save to the uttermost, for He ever lives to make intercession for us. A young heart is a precious offering, the most valuable gift that can be presented to God. All that you are, all the ability you possess, comes from God a sacred trust, to be rendered back to Him again in a willing, holy offering. You cannot give to God anything that He has not first given you. Therefore when the heart is given to God, it is giving to Him a gift which he has purchased and is His own.

“...The world claims the heart; but that heart belongs to the One who redeemed it. If given to the world, it will be filled with care, sorrow, and disappointed hopes; it will become impure and corrupted. It would be the worst kind of robbery to give to the world your heart’s affections and service, for they belong to God. You cannot with profit give your heart to pleasure-seeking.

“God loves to make the youth happy, and that is why He would have them give their hearts into His keeping, **that all the God-given faculties of the being may be kept in a vigorous, healthful condition.** They are holding God’s gift of life. He makes the heart beat; he gives strength to every faculty. Pure enjoyment will not debase one of God’s gifts. We sin against our own bodies, and sin against God, when seeking pleasures which separate our affections from God. The youth are to consider that they are placed in the world on trial, to see whether they have characters that will fit them to live with angels.

“When your associates urge you into paths of vice and folly, and all around you are tempting you to forget God, to destroy the capabilities God has intrusted to you, and to debase all that is noble in your nature, resist them. Remember that you are the Lord’s property, bought with a price, the suffering and agony of the Son of God. . . .

“The Lord Jesus claims your service. He loves you. If you doubt His love, look to Calvary. The light reflected from the cross shows you the magnitude of that love which no tongue can tell. “He that keepeth My commandments, he it is that loveth Me.” We are to become acquainted by diligent study with the commandments of God; and then show that we are His obedient sons and daughters.

“All your happiness, peace, joy, and success in this life are dependent upon genuine, trusting faith in God. This faith will prompt true obedience to the commandments of God. Your knowledge and faith in God is the strongest restraint from every evil practice, and the motive to all good.” Messages to Young People, pp. 407-410.

“Young friends, seek the Lord with all your heart. Come with zeal, and when you sincerely feel that without the help of God you perish, when you pant after Him as the hart panteth after the water-brooks, then will the Lord strengthen you speedily. Then will your peace pass all understanding. If you expect salvation, you must pray. Take time. Be not hurried and careless in your prayers. Beg of God to work in you a thorough reformation, that the fruits of His Spirit may dwell in you, and you shine as lights in the world. Be not a hindrance or curse to the cause of God; you can be a help, a blessing. Does Satan tell you that you cannot enjoy salvation, full and free? Believe him not.” Messages to Young People, p. 132.

“When secret prayer and reading of the Scriptures are neglected today, tomorrow they can be omitted with less remonstrance of conscience.

# VICTORIOUS IN CHRIST

José V. Giner, USA.



I was born in Valencia, Spain. I studied technical drawing and book-keeping. I was 24 years old and a Catholic when I came into contact with the church of the Reform. My wife and I accepted the faith and were baptized in May 1983. I continued my education in the health field, such as herbal therapy, therapeutic massage, chiropractic, and health reform. During three years, I took courses of pedagogy at the University of Education Sciences. I canvassed for seven years. I was in charge of the canvassing department of the Spanish Field and later I was called to collaborate as a Bible worker in the same Field. I have been secretary of the Union of Occidental Europe. In 1992, I was ordained to the ministry and I collaborated as president of the Spanish Field during various periods and also in Portugal and France. For some time, I was minister on the Canarias Isles and from 1997 to 2002 I was in charge of the Canvassing Department of the General Conference. I collaborated as a regional representative of the General Conference and in 2007 I was elected as director of the Youth Department of the General Conference. Actually I am taking care of that branch of the work and also as leader of the South-Western Field of the American Union.

Sabbath September 18, 2010

## The power of temptation

**Once I spoke with a young man in one of the countries I visited for youth conferences and seminars. He was sincere and open. He asked to talk with me confidentially and when we found ourselves alone together, he told me he had a problem controlling his will. In other terms, he could not stop sinning.**

I looked him in the eyes and said: "Well. You are a human being and it is normal that you cannot stop sinning, and with your own strength you will never be able to; but, have looked for help with Christ? Have you really given Him your life, so that His life can be the example for yours and the Holy Spirit can do His work such as the willing and the doing according to His good will in your feeble and useless life? The young man remained thoughtful and I believe that he understood that we cannot be victorious in the struggle against sin if we do not render ourselves fully to God.

It is not easy to confront the dazzling course of wickedness that has invaded the whole world. Where can youth flee to enjoy true peace and where there will not be any of the terrible temptations confronting them each day? Live in a small village? Far away in the mountains? Live in a Christian community? Wherever you will go, wherever you will be, satanic temptation will find you.

Joseph was tempted in Egypt which was the metropolis of vice at that time; on the other hand, Jacob was tempted at home close to his father and mother, who paradoxically served as the instrument to tempt him, and this cost him a lot of sorrow later in his life. Job, the most patient man on earth, was tempted.

## AFTER THE TEMPTATION – YOUTH

In general, because of lack of experience, the youth has to enter the school of discipline (temptations-trials), and this training will give him the capacity to confront daily vicissitudes. Each young person finds himself in optimal conditions to enrich the fibers of his spiritual experience; it is precisely through the temptation that he has to face that he will be more than conqueror by divine grace. Every test, every temptation will attack specific weaknesses, and these trials will help him to challenge future tribulations. Remember, dear youth that what is most impressionable in a human being is his character and his temperament. These fundamental elements are specifically affected in each person and you, as a young person, are no exception. Moreover, these characteristics are even more pronounced in the youth, and if they are not sanctified by the power of the Holy Spirit, you will be victims of their difficult and perverted impressions that will affect your surroundings, your wife, parents or brothers and sisters and all those you love.

Dear youth, even if you suffer intensely when you experiment temptation, remember that Jesus has overcome “but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” John 16: 33. With this warrant and security you can live in this world with such assurance because the Lord is able to help you effectively. “For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.” Hebrews 2: 18.

Think: “Satan well knows that all whom he can lead to neglect prayer and the searching of the Scriptures, will be overcome by his attacks.” The Great Controversy, p. 519.

Share your faith and your spiritual life will be benefited.

Dear young friend, you will be more than conqueror: “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.” Romans 8: 37. The Lord overcame, as well as the patriarchs and the prophets of old; they were overcomers and triumphed against wickedness; they were subjects to the strongest temptations and trials and obtained as fruit, patience, firmness, faith in the Lord and His truth.

Remember other youths such as Joseph, Daniel and his companions, David, Ruth, Esther and many others. They were all young people who obtained the victory for themselves, for their next of kin and for the church in general; their teachings are still valid ? for us today and we cannot ignore them, because we feed on such experiences.

May the Lord bless you dear youth, to enjoy the greatest results and victories upon the temptations and trials that God allows in your life to prepare you for this life as well as for the one to come. You will be happy while obtaining a positive spiritual enrichment. “And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience.” Romans 5: 3. The results will be even more appreciated when you read 2 Corinthians 4: 17, “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” May the Lord bless you. Your friend in the faith of Jesus. Amen.

*Christ has redeemed Adam's disgraceful fall, and has perfected a character of perfect obedience, and left an example for the human family.”*

*That I May Know Him, p. 32.*

There will be a long list of omissions, all for a single grain sown in the soil of the heart. On the other hand, every ray of light cherished will yield a harvest of light. Temptation once resisted will give power to more firmly resist the second time; every new victory gained over self will smooth the way for higher and nobler triumphs. Every victory is a seed sown to eternal life." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 20.

"The youth who finds joy and happiness in reading the Word of God and in the hour of prayer is constantly refreshed by drafts from the Fountain of life. He will attain a height of moral excellence and a breadth of thought of which others cannot conceive. Communion with God encourages good thoughts, noble aspirations, clear perceptions of truth, and lofty purposes of action. Those who thus connect their souls with God are acknowledged by Him as His sons and daughters. They are constantly reaching higher and still higher, obtaining clear views of God and of eternity, until the Lord makes them channels of light and wisdom to the world." My Life Today, p. 83.

"The youth living in this age will have a stern battle to fight if they make right principles their rule of action. It is the highest effort of a large class in society to do as others do, to shape their course according to the world's standard. Like the empty bubble or the worthless weed, they drift with the current. They have no individuality, no moral independence. The approval of the world is of more value to them than the approval of God or the esteem of those whom He esteems. Their only motive or rule of action is policy. ...

"In forming your opinions and choosing your associates let reason and the fear of God be your guide. Be firm in your purpose here, regardless of the opinions which others may entertain concerning you. When God's requirements lead you to an opposite course from that which your associates are pursuing, go resolutely forward, whether you follow many or few. Whatever God's Word condemns, that reject even though the whole world adopt and advocate it...."

"All are personally exposed to the temptations that Christ overcame, but strength is provided for them in the all-powerful name of the great Conqueror. And all must, for themselves, individually overcome. He knows every trial and sorrow of childhood and youth. He was once just your age. The temptations and trials which come to you came also to Him. The sorrows which come to you came to Him. But He was never overcome by temptation. His life held nothing that was not pure and noble. He is your helper, your Redeemer." My Life Today, p. 317.

"The Lord Jesus Christ has paid the price for you, not to secure a mere assent to the truth, but for heart service. He desires the homage of your soul. You cannot cease to believe that you ought to do the will of God. You can no more release yourself from the claims of duty than you can flee from the presence of God. It is only in obedience to God that you will realize true happiness. . . .

"I entreat you to open the door of your heart and let your Saviour in. Give Him the whole heart--that which He has purchased. Ever bear in mind that it is you who must choose. God forces no man. He has chosen you, and engraven your name in the palms of His hands. Will you not give yourself fully to Him? Time is short. You have not a moment to lose in hesitation. The divine Word is in your hands, to be a lamp to your feet and a light to your path." The Upward Look, p. 25.

"If Christ abides in the heart by faith . . . you will be happy, full of praise and joy." My Life Today, p. 157.

"Our happiness comes not from what is around us, but from what is within us not from what we have, but from what we are." My Life Today, p. 185.

*You will rejoice to do any act, however humble, that will tend to His glory or to the wellbeing of your kindred."*

*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing,*

*pp. 103-105.*

# CHRIST'S FIRST TEMPTATION

Elder Smith, Argentina.



Name: Elder Smith.

Country of birth: Colombia.

Country of residence: Argentina.

Actual position: academic committee member of the Union South and president of the Mission in Cuyo.

I collaborated in Colombia as a worker in the south of the country and then as national director of the Youth and Mission Work departments. Furthermore, I worked with passion for education in the Colombian, Peruvian and Argentinean Seminars. In Argentina, I collaborated as a worker in Patagonia and then as leader of the Youth department at national level. My wife Raquel and my son Elder junior are the permanent demonstration of the Lord's love toward me. With a strong brotherly embrace.

**¿Have you ever asked yourself why you have such little power and why you feel this lack of determination when you are going through trial, instead of going to the Lord? Why do you yield at the first insinuation of sin? How can we be strong when temptation assails us? These questions have answers when we study the lessons given by our Lord's experience when He was greatly tried in the wilderness.**

Sabbath September 11, 2010.

## GLOBAL PANORAMA AND THE WILDERNESS OF TEMPTATION

Satan had stolen the management the Lord had given to man: "After tempting man to sin, Satan claimed the earth as his, and styled himself the prince of this world... he thought to establish here his empire...he held dominion over the world." The Desire of Ages, p. 114. He himself wanted to fight the Prince of heaven on the least favorable ground for the Son of man.

Satan presented himself to fight against Christ. The scenery around the Saviour was impressive. Satan made plans and executed his strategy to overcome Him. "He must personally conduct the warfare." He did not let this matter in the hands of his acolytes. The situation was too dangerous; the redemption of man was at stake and was in the hands of a being such as us. All Satan's power and cunningness were used to obtain victory in this mission.

## THE SURROUNDING OF THE TEMPTATION SCENE

Jesus in disadvantage  
"But the glory departed, and He was left to battle with temptation. It was pressing upon Him every moment. His human nature shrank from the conflict that awaited Him. For forty days He fasted and prayed. Weak and emaciated from hunger, worn and haggard with mental agony, "His visage was so marred more than any man and His form more than the sons of men." Isa. 52:14. Now was Satan's opportunity. Now he supposed that he could overcome Christ." The Desire of Ages, p. 118.

## AFTER THE TEMPTATION

Victor Carbajal, Peru



When I was four years old, my mother became acquainted with the Adventist church and seven years later she accepted the Reform Movement. I started canvassing when I was eighteen years old and for almost four years I worked in several cities in Peru and Bolivia, from 1976 to 1979. Since 1980 to 1983, I worked in the Peruvian Union offices as the president's secretary, and the Publishing House. In 1983, I was united in marriage with Gladys Salvaña. From 1984 to 1986, I was a Bible worker, working in the country's many cities and towns. At the end of 1986, I was ordained in the ministry. Since then, I have been given responsibilities at the Peruvian Union, such as secretary, missionary work director, youth director, publishing director; as president of the Bolivian association; as professor at the theological seminars of Peru (EMINEL) and in Argentina (BEREA). I have been chosen as delegate to the General Conference, in the USA in 1989, in Holland in 2002 and in Mexico in 2007.

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Friday September 17, 2010.

**“For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.”** Hebrews 2: 18. Why is it that in the beginning of Christ's ministry he was led to the wilderness to be tempted? The Spirit took Him there. However, it was not that He needed it personally, but it was for us, to overcome in our stead...He would be tempted as the representative of the human race. He would mainly face the enemy to overcome him who pretended to be the prince of this world.

“Satan met Him and tempted Him on the very points where man will be tempted. Our Substitute and Surety passed over the ground where Adam stumbled and fell. And the question was, Will He stumble and fall as Adam did over God's commandments? He met Satan's attacks again and again with “It is written,” and Satan left the field of conflict a conquered foe. Christ has redeemed Adam's disgraceful fall, and has perfected a character of perfect obedience, and left an example for the human family.” That I May Know Him, p. 32.

### DEFINITION OF TEMPTATION

The Pocket Oxford Dictionary: “thing that attracts, attractive course, impulse”. The Bible dictionary says: “incitation”. In James 1: 13, the Holy Scriptures say “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man.” Matthew 4:2-4, tells us clearly who is the tempter, it is Satan. Nevertheless the enemy's temptations are allowed by the Lord, in order to prove the believers, develop their faith, strengthen them in their experiences and prepare them to endure greater tribulations and temptations that are to come into the life of every faithful in Christ.

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful...The ungodly are...like the chaff which the wind driveth away...For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.” Psalms 1:1, 4, 6.

### **Temptation Is Not Sin**

Temptations can also be described as tests or trials. In a school system, tests are meant to assess the learner whether he/she adheres to the curriculum successfully so that he/she can be rewarded or selected to another level. In this sense, tests make a learner be fitted for a particular course in life. And so the bible says, “In this you greatly rejoice, though how for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 1:6, 7. “Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been proved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love him.” James 1: 12. Thus we see that, when encountered with temptation, it is for our own good. For this reason, temptation is not sin.

### **An appeal**

None need to be discouraged when tempted. None need to think that he has gone too far from the savior to be welcome back. But “when brought into trial we are not to fret and complain. We should not rebel, or worry ourselves out of the hands of Christ. We are to humble our soul before God “though the Lord be high, yet hath He respect unto the lowly” Psalms 1:36 those who reveal the meek and lowly spirit of Christ are tenderly regarded by God” DA 301.

Jesus loves us so much. He knows and feels all our weaknesses because he was “Made like His brethren that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest... to make propitiation for the sins of the people.” Hebrews 2:17. Will you allow Him to take control of your life today? If you hear His voice do not hesitate for there may be no tomorrow for you. He says; “All that the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will by no means be cast out” John 6:37

Dear youths, take the name of Jesus wherever you go, and He will shield you from temptations. He will give the right to become the children of God. Why should we die yet we have one who loves us so much? “There are difficult times ahead. As the end approaches people are going to be self absorbed... cynical, treacherous, ruthless, bloated-windbags, addicted to lust and allergic to God” 2 Timothy 3:1-5, MGE

It is my prayer to God, not to let us be let into temptation but to deliver us from the evil one, so that we may see Him in His Glory in the new World, for ever more. Amen.

*“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful...The ungodly are...like the chaff which the wind driveth away...For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.”*

*Psalms 11, 4, 6.*



## **Messenger and false message**

Now, the father of lies poses as a heavenly angel having a so-called message and using a passed successful episode he had had with Abraham 'good, it is enough...you have shown your good conduct...the Father is satisfied with your good disposition to follow the blood stained path...it is not necessary to go through such a great sacrifice, eat as you wish to satisfy your hunger...' But Satan was not interested neither about His hunger nor about His love for us; what interested him most was that Jesus would renounce obeying His Father, that He would abandon His mission, for His mission was dangerous for the devil.

## **The supreme need of the Son of man**

"And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungry." The Greek text mentions the word hungry as "epeinase" indicating that Jesus' hunger was acute, intense, He was literally famished. This was really the opportunity to speak about bread after fasting for forty days in the wilderness. It was really what He needed most at that moment.

## **Discovering the enemy**

The words pronounced by this angel were: "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." Matthew 4: 3.

"But in Satan's insinuation of distrust, Christ recognized the enemy whose power He had come to earth to resist." The Upward Look, p. 255.

## **Overcoming the enemy**

"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."

His negative answer underlined that Jesus as a man depended on His Father for His food.

## **CHRIST TRIUMPHED WHERE ADAM FAILED**

"Christ knew that in order to successfully carry forward the plan of salvation He must commence the work of redeeming man just where the ruin began." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 3, p. 486.

"The Redeemer of the world knew that the indulgence of appetite would bring physical debility, and so deaden the perceptive organs that sacred and eternal things would not be discerned." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 3, p. 486.

## **TODAY'S SCENERY**

When are you mostly put to the test? When you are alone or with a member of your family with the refrigerator and the kitchen at your disposal to eat at whatever hour of the day? Or when you are on the street, at college, at the university and you see some product or you smell something nice and without really being hungry you buy something to eat knowing perfectly well that it is not good for your health?

Or when you are at work and lunch-time has not yet come, yet you gobble down something even something healthy when you know you should wait until lunch time? When sitting down at your own table or at a friend's table, you take the decision that one helping is not enough and you go on eating until you cannot even leave the table and then with a guilty feeling you go and vomit everything you have just eaten? Where and when are you mostly tempted with your appetite?

*"Christ knew that in order to successfully carry forward the plan of salvation He must commence the work of redeeming man just where the ruin began."*

*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 3, p. 486.*

Satan has been greatly astute even to our days, manipulating the natural origin of food created by the Lord, adding tastes and making that it is always more difficult to abandon certain products elaborated by man to which is added for example monosodium glutamate, which is responsible to produce an uncontrollable appetite (at least 40% higher than a normal appetite) and provokes health collateral effects, destroying certain parts of the brain implicated in the control of appetite.

If you have the tendency to eat whatever, of any quantity, and any time of the day, think sincerely and meditate on the wilderness scene valuating your Saviour's attitude overcoming the trial out of love for you.

### THE BEGINNING OF OUR VICTORY

"Christ fought the battle upon the point of appetite, and came off victorious; and we also can conquer through strength derived from him. Who will enter in through the gates into the city?--Not those who declare that they cannot break the force of appetite. Christ has resisted the power of him who would hold us in bondage; though weakened by his long fast of forty days, he withstood temptation, and proved by this act that our cases are not hopeless. I know that we cannot obtain the victory alone; and how thankful we should be that we have a living Saviour, who is ready and willing to aid us!" Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene, p. 19.

"A pure and noble life, a life of victory over appetite and lust, is possible to everyone who will unite his weak, wavering human will to the omnipotent, unwavering will of God." Counsels on Diet and Foods, p. 170.

### COUNSELS OF OVERCOMERS

"Those who obey the laws of health will give time and thought to the needs of the body and to the laws of digestion. And they will be rewarded by clearness of thought and strength of mind.

*On the other hand, it is possible for one to spoil his Christian experience by abuse of the stomach." Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students, p. 298.*

*Put the following counsels into practice:*

*\_Live in communion with Jesus, with your neighbour and read the Bible.*

*\_Let go of stimulants (chocolate, tea, coffee, alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, etc.), and spices such as pepper, chili, hot sauces, etc.*

*\_Do not eat from fast food counters.*

*\_Have a rich diet of fruit, salad, vegetables, cereals, beans and vegetable oils.*

*\_Drink at least two liters of water a day.*

*\_Do not eat anything between meals.*

*\_Eat two or three times a day at regular hours.*

*\_Do not venture on dangerous ground, too many Christians move ever so close to sin, even when they know they should not; stay away from risky situations.*

*Today, when everything is permitted, may the Lord's experience in the wilderness teach us, who are the work of His hands, to depend on the Father's counsels for our diet. Let us cultivate a cautious life so that whatever enters our mouth and whatever we do can glorify Him who with His blood has opened the way of abnegation and humbleness. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Him so that our love for Him can grow and become even deeper. I pray the Lord may give us strength by His power.*

*"A pure and noble life, a life of victory over appetite and lust, is possible to everyone who will unite his weak, wavering human will to the omnipotent, unwavering will of God."*

*Counsels on Diet and Foods, p. 170.*

Talent is good, and needs to be cultivated and improved. The bible should be our remote controller for all the talents and careers that we develop. (Philippians 4:8) Most talents in the world today are those that encourage the lust of the eyes. Theatres have been brought into homes through the television and internet and young brothers and sisters just watch these things freely until their morals get corrupted.

"Watching TV and other media is gradually taking more and more of our leisure time.....many studies have been done to examine the effects of media violence on behavior. Research suggests that there are three major ways in which media violence may influence adults and children. One way is promoting aggression and using it as a means to solve problems, the other is making viewers less sensitive to the pain and suffering of others as well as being increasingly tolerant to violence in the real world." Sunday, April 11, 2010/ The Standard.

Sports have become a god of many. People love sports. The Sabbath has been turned into a sports day, to an extent that even church members forfeit church Sabbath attendance to satisfy the lust of the eyes.

The pride of this life has blinded many youths from seeing the light of the gospel. Almost each one of them has a vision of having a better future in this world. In many of their discussions, Jesus is not mentioned. Even the second advent of Christ is now placed in the distant future, yea; into infinity. There is power in the word of God to give us everlasting life. "The words that I speak unto you," says Jesus, "they are spirit, and they are life." John 6:63.

Man cannot live by bread alone; neither can he expect peace and protection from moral corruption that is now assailing the world, "but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Deut 8:3.

## **Being Tempted and Getting Into Temptation.**

One may be tempted without necessarily exposing himself/herself to temptations. He/she has not invited temptations. To such the apostle Peter says: "Believe, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you." 1 Peter 4:12. To such it may be said "they are partakers of Christ's sufferings," and they are "reproached by the name of Christ." Verse 13,14.

Other people fetch temptations from far. They awaken the sleeping dog only to sleep themselves. They suffer because they troubled trouble, before trouble troubled them, such are not blessed "for the spirit of glory and of God resteth not upon them."

As the people of God, we should not place ourselves on a vantage ground for temptation when it is not necessary to do so. "But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters."

Many young people get into temptation, especially when it comes to forming relationships; both in friendships and marriage. "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" asks prophet Amos. "It is a dangerous thing to form a worldly alliance," whether it be business wise or marriage wise, "Satan knows that the hour that the hour that witnesses the marriage of many young women and women closes the history of their religious experience and usefulness. They are lost to Christ.....Hundreds have sacrificed Christ and heaven in consequence of marrying unconverted persons. Can it be that the love and fellowship of Christ are of so little value to them that they prefer the companionship of poor mortals? Is heaven so little esteemed that they are willing to risk its enjoyments for one who has no love for the precious saviour?" Counsel for the church. pg225

At the end of the last temptation, Christ commanded the devil to depart from him, "Get thee hence, Satan....." he said. (Mathew 4:10) "Divinity flashed through suffering humanity. Satan had no power to resist the command. Writhing with humiliation and rage, he was force to withdraw from the presence of the world's Redeemer." DA130 After the foe had departed; Jesus fell exhausted to the earth, with pallor of death upon His face. The angels of heaven had watched the conflict, beholding their loved commander as He passed through inexpressible suffering to make a way of escape for us. He had endured the test, greater than we shall ever be called to endure. The angels now ministered to the son of God as he lay like one dying. He was strengthened with food, comforted with the message of His father's love and the assurance that all heave triumphed in His victory." DA 131.

### **Tempted Now as Christ was Tempted**

Chris was in all points tempted as we are. But he did not invite temptation to his side. He grew up as a youth just like many of us." For as much then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy that had the power of death, which is the devil...he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham." Heb.2:14, 16.

From the above scriptures; it is evident that Jesus was of the same nature as we human beings....He took on him not the nature of angels but the seed of Abraham, meaning the same flesh and blood as had Abraham. He inherited the Abrahamic genes, to an extent that he "he hath suffered being tempted," so that he can be able to succor them that are tempted" verse 18.

The reality of the whole matter is, Jesus did not invite temptations to himself, and neither did he yield to Satan's demands.

When Satan quoted the promise, "He shall give His angels charge over thee," Jesus answered "Though shall not tempt the Lord thy God."

### **Do Not Play About with Temptations**

Today, many youths plunge themselves into temptations voluntarily, without considering the repercussions. Can one play around a viper's nest without getting its bite? Surely, the venom thereof becomes deadly.

Whenever we pray to god, bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one, "we should be careful not to tread on dangerous grounds and then expect to have the protection of God. We cannot offer this prayer in sincerity, and yet decide not to walk in any way of our own choo-sing." MB118. Let every child of God who offers this prayer remember remember that the Deity does not tempt any human being. His thoughts are not our thoughts. "God cannot be tempted with evil, and He Himself tempteth no man." James 1:13 (R S.V)

### **What is Temptation?**

"Temptation is entering to sin, and this does not proceed from God, but from Satan and from evil of our own hearts."MB116, James 1:14

The world is full of enticements to sin." For all that is in the world: the lust of the flesh (in the guise of appetite) that our first parents were overcome, the same temptation of appetite was brought upon Christ but He overcame it. "Christ withstood the test upon appetite, upon the love of the world, and upon that love of display, which lead to presumption." DA116. The world today is on the verge of a stupendous crisis, where appetite is almost uncontrollable. Men and women eat and drink, even that which is considered sacrilegious, to satisfy their cravings. As a result, we are experiencing a high rate of moral decadence. Civilization is almost toppled while the rule of anarchy is being exulted.

# CHRIST'S SECOND TEMPTATION

Oscar Oviedo, Canada, USA

Sunday September 12, 2010.



I was born in Bogotá, Colombia in 1980. My Family was acquainted with the Adventist message. At the age of 13 years, my mother got in contact with the SDA Reform church. I decided to be baptized in the church when I was 16 years old. A Year later, I had the privilege of going to the Missionary School in Hungary (Europe). When I was 20 years old, I was commissioned to work in Suriname with Br. Gabriel Porras in the pioneering work that was being carried out there. At the age of 22 years I married Magnolia Correa. Later that year, I came to work in Canada, where I work as a Bible Worker and committee member of the Canadian Field .By the grace of God I was ordained as a Local Church Elder in August 2009. I've been almost eight years in Canada. I have a 6 year old son. I thank the Lord for his work in me and through me.

**There are two extreme conditions we as Christians face in our walk with God. One: Losing our trust in Him; our faith, which can cause us to fall into the despair of unbelief, and two: presumption stemming from our own pride in regards to our own spiritual condition. Some get a persuasion that since Jesus is able and willing to save them from their sins, he will save them in their sins.**

Our Lord Jesus faced such a temptation from Satan himself. In Matt. 4: 5- 7 we read: " Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 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. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

Let's us analyze this second temptation, especially how it can be applied in our lives as youth. Let's see the place of the temptation.

"Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple." Here we can see that Jesus was taken to the highest point of the temple of God, and asked to jump. Our own lives will consist of many "pinnacles": The physical and mental vigor we experience in our adolescence, the accomplishments and achievements we experience in the workforce, and the spiritual growth we experience in our lifelong walk with God. It is in these moments of height that Satan tempts us to walk our own paths, tempting us to assume, or presume God's love and guidance will be with us every step of the way.

Now, let's see the argument Satan uses to bring us into sin. "and saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God," When we have grown knowing the Lord and enjoy his love, we are challenged by this: if you are God's child why don't you just do this... It is the same in the case of those who have come to father's house after wandering in the world. What these challenges mean is that we can prove who we are by "showing off". By doing what everyone else is doing. We prove who we are by following God's word by Faith.

The pressures of life such as afflictions, burdens or simply personal wants should be brought to Him who cares, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." 1 Pet 5: 7

A superficial knowledge of God's word is also dangerous facing the enemy of our souls. Satan quoted Ps. 91: 12 when he tempted our Lord Jesus. But he omitted the previous verse. Let's read it: "For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;" One thing is true in the bible verse: the angelical protection. Angels are "ministering spirits". Their mission is "to minister those who will inherit salvation" Heb. 1: 14. The second part of the Vers. 11 says "to guard you in all your ways;" There is much to say about our ways. Isa 55: 8 says "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD." It states that our ways are not God's ways. So what kind of ways are "our ways"? "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Prov. 14: 12. Our own ways lead us always to death. It is only by the grace of our God, by His leading hand what we succeed in life. It is only by His power that we are more than overcomers. To jump from the pinnacle was not God's plan or way for our Lord Jesus. Off course Satan omitted the context of the verse. Angel are to protect us from all danger and attack from the enemy as long as we walk in God's way. It is true indeed as well that we have walked far from the Lord's path and still he has offered us his care and he has drawn us with His cord of love. But once we are saved it is dangerous to walk own path and expect God to protect us. That, my dear brother and sister, is presumption.

It is good for us upon all occasions to consult the scriptures themselves, and not to take things upon trust, that we may not be imposed upon by those that maim and mangle the word of God; we must do as the noble Bereans, who searched the scriptures daily.

We find beautiful lessons in the way Jesus handled temptations. Jesus said "it is written.." He showed from the scripture what was really at stake. He knew that by complying with Satan he would be tempting his Father. He would have doubted of he who really was. He would have been looking for a confirmation of something which had already been confirmed. As the Pharisees tempted Christ; when they had so many signs on earth, they demanded a sign from heaven. To expect that because God has promised to keep us, we may willfully thrust ourselves into danger, and may expect the desired end, without using the appointed means; this is presumption, this is tempting God. It is an abuse of the privilege we enjoy, in having Him for our God; he has thereby encouraged us to trust Him, but we are very ungrateful, if therefore we tempt Him; it is contrary to our duty to Him as our God.

At the root of presumption is pride. In our modern Christian world, we hear that all that we want can come to pass if ONLY we ask God and believe. All the passages, "Believe and it be done unto you", "ask and it shall be given unto you" are quoted but the trust and submission to God's will are left aside. It is when we start using the counterfeit of faith: Presumption. We are too proud to accept or see that our wishes and desires are sometimes not the best things for us. We do not see our real needs. We do not feel the need to humbly trust in the leading hand of our God.

"Many of our youth suffer shipwreck in the dangerous voyage of life, because they are self-confident and presumptuous. They follow their inclinations, and are allured by amusements, and indulgence of appetite, till habits are formed which become shackles, impossible for them to break, and which drag them down to ruin. . . ." HR April 1878.

In the Bible we find the case of Uzziah. He is known for rebuilding Judah's army, promoting his country's agriculture, and re-organizing its defenses (2 Chr 26: 9-15).

## DELIVER US FROM EVIL

Frederick Ayunga, Kenya (Africa)



Name: Frederick Ayunga Onger.

Date of birth: October 20, 1981.

Country of residence: Kenya.

After the normal school years, I was able to attend Kenyatta University where I graduated as a Bachelor of Education in biology and geography. I have some teaching experiences, and have also taken part as secretary of the Berea Adventist Missionary Institute, Nairobi (BAMI). I served as Youth director in the Central Kenya Mission Field; assistant Youth director for the Kenya Union, IMS SDA Reform Movement, and for the time being, chairman of IMS East Africa Youth organization. I like singing and listening to spiritual music; I like reading books in groups, discussions, public speaking, and teaching prophecy.

**After the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, the voice that pronounced him the "beloved son" of the most high aroused the listeners who stood by the river side, and also the "devil and Satan which deceiveth the whole world" Rev 12:9**

**Wednesday September 15, 2010.**

"At the savior's baptism, Satan was among the witnesses. He saw the Father's glory overshadowing His son" (DA pg. 116 pp3)

"Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil." Matt4:1

The bible is very clear; Jesus did not take himself into the wilderness to be tempted, but "he was led up of the spirit". What he had in mind were only good intentions: "to be alone, to contemplate his mission and work. By fasting and prayer he was to brace Himself for the bloodstained path he must travel." DA 114. But Satan knew that the Savior had gone into the wilderness and he thought it the best time to approach him and assail him with temptations. Jesus did not invite temptation to his side.

Our savior, Jesus Christ, prayed and fasted for forty days. He became weak and emaciated from hunger and mental agony.

As if an answer to his prayers, there came one who was in the guise of an angel of light from heaven. The savior said nothing, but in a steady and a calm mood, he waited for any utterances from him. "the savior was faint from hunger, He was craving for food, when Satan came suddenly upon him".... Though he appeared as an angel of light, his first words betrayed him with his character. "If thou be the son of God," he said. No wonder, in all the three temptations, Satan used the expression "if thou" to give allowance for doubting on the savior's side.

The savior used the word of God to sustain His faith in all the three temptations. He always quoted, it is written. "The tempter also used the same scriptures "to countenance his deception." But in every deception the weapon of His welfare was the word of God.....so long as Christ held to this position, the tempter could not gain advantage" DA 120.

“And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.”

Jesus did not have any advantages when confronted with the temptation in the wilderness of Judea. As a man He was tempted in all (Heb. 4: 15) and in spite of being God He did not use His might to His own advantage.

As Christ overcame with the help of the Father, so can you be an overcomer, dear youth. The deal that Satan proposed to Christ is the same as the one he proposes today to His followers: “All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me”, this implies to renounce the kingdom of God for an inferior one; exchanging the incorruptible with the momentary. Would you make such a deal? Satan puts forward the apparently exciting part of drugs, sexual debauchery, indulgent appetite, riches, fame, power, etc., as something wonderful and to be experimented and lived for. But these things are violations of God's Holy Law and are like selling one's soul to the devil at a giveaway price, because we give it to him for nothing, for a world of sin, a passing world, an enslaving, degrading deceptive world.

You will never meet a youth living in sin that will edify you, who will give you peace, security, stability, embracing values and love with purity of heart; who will help you keep your conscience clean, will incite you to grow as a person, will inspire you to be a good man or a good woman ready to surrender all for others as Christ did. Jesus had many arguments to refute Satan but He did not enter into discussion “Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”  
Matthew 4: 10.

The knowledge of the truth makes us free from the deceit of sin. That is why Satan tries to cut us off from communion with God... Dear youth, when you are tempted, keep your eyes on Jesus! He tells you “Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” John 16: 33. In Christ you will find spiritual stability.

In the known story of young Daniel and his companions we find two kinds of believers:

1. Those who bowed down out of fear before Nebuchadnezzar's the golden statue (many Hebrews lived in Babylon).
2. Those that preferred to be burnt before dishonoring God.

The former professed to believe in God but considered more important their own interests. The testimony of the three young Hebrews gave the whole world knowledge of the only true God and out of the mouth of a pagan king came words of awe and praises. These youths honored God with their lives and played a role in the society that every young person should act upon in our days. Even the king honored them. To grow in faith you need to have this kind of experience. Commit yourselves to God, not to the world; commit yourselves to the truth and not to lies and deceit; commit yourselves to Christ because He gave His life for you. To which class of Christians do you want to belong?

My wish and prayer is that we will all belong to the group of young people committed to God. Amen.

*But Jesus says:*

*“Without me ye can do nothing.”*

*John 15: 5.*



He was also responsible for restoring his nation's military fame by a number of victories over Philistine cities and Arabian tribes, and by forcing the Ammonites to pay tribute to him (Vs 6-8). He is described as a good king, although he tolerated the worship of other gods on the high places (2 Ki 15:3, 4; 2 Chr 26:4, 5). However, his success led him to presumption. He was at the "high place" of his reign. He entered the temple in order to exercise priestly functions by offering incense. 2 Chr 26: 15 says "But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction:" Here we find a clear reference to pride. Then "for he transgressed against the LORD his God," he tempted God. He challenged the Almighty God, by assuming a position that did not belong to him. The Lord sent a warning through the priest Azariah as well as other 80 priests of the Lord. Azariah clearly explained why it was not right for him to burn incense. His pride blinded him not to heed the Lord's warning. He became angry instead and the Lord smote him with leprosy. From that time until his death he lived as a leper in a separate house.

It is a clear example for us as young people of how pride leads to presumption and presumption leads to punishment. Had Uzziah listened to Azariah, he would not have been smitten with leprosy. Prov 3: 6 says: "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Had Uzziah acknowledge God, He would have allowed his path to be directed.

We secure our victory against presumption by following the example of successful characters from God's word. One of those examples is Joshua, as he became the new leader of the people of God. God told him, "I will not fail thee, not forsake thee" God should always come first in our lives. His power and His guiding hand are the only safe and sure elements for our lives. They alone bring us prosperity in all aspects of life. We come to know God and understand His will through his word.

That is why God also told Joshua to "observe to do according to all the law... that thou mayest prosper withersoever thou goest" Jos. 1: 5, 7.

Every day we need to surrender ourselves continually to God in prayer and also take our daily spiritual alimentation from God's word, the Bible. After these daily steps, comes the practical application of God's word. "Faith comes the hearing and hearing of the word of God" Rom 10: 17. Obedience will always follow faith. It was in case of Joshua as he followed all the order from God, so it is for us.

May the Lord grant us His Spirit so that we may take at heart the beautiful lessons we find in Jesus' second temptation is my wish and prayer for all of us as young people in the Lord, Amen.

*"Many of our youth suffer shipwreck in the dangerous voyage of life, because they are self-confident and presumptuous. They follow their inclinations, and are allured by amusements, and indulgence of appetite, till habits are formed which become shackles, impossible for them to break, and which drag them down to ruin. . . ."*

*HR April 1878.*

## CHRIST'S THIRD TEMPTATION

Yapci Trujillo Pérez, Spain

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I was born 33 years ago in Tenerife on the Canarias Isles (Spain). My mother accepted the Adventist message when I was still quite young, and when I was fourteen, nearly all our family accepted the Reform message. I studied music and learned to play the piano. As time went by, I composed some hymns and have produced a CD. I studied at the Missionary School of Albertirsa in Hungary (Europe) for three years and it was there that I met my bride to be. During that time I learned to canvass. At the end of my studies, I was sent as a Bible worker to Portugal where I worked for one year and I was also the Rinchoa's church leader. After that period, since 2001 the Spanish Field gave me various responsibilities such as: Field Bible worker, member of the committee, leader for two periods of the Missionary Work and in 2009 I was ordained Elder of the Madrid church. Lately, and with the help of God, I am in charge of the audiovisual Field department and I have collaborated in the realization of various projects.

**“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; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 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. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.” Matthew 4: 8-11.**

As we can see Satan's temptations are traps to have us fall into sin. However, tribulations come from God to purify us and make us better Christians. Temptations are deceitful and can bring us even to physical and spiritual death. Tribulations keep us closer to the truth; they sanctify us and lead us to a more elevated standard.

When someone falls into temptation he feels weak and far from God, his faculties are degraded and if he does not react in time it could be too late for remedy. Those who bear tribulations are blessed and faithful.

Falling into temptation is establishing a voluntary commitment with Satan. One step leads to another and slowly we depart from God. This withdrawing is such that the sins we commit do not seem so serious or important any more.

When the enemy of souls is able to conquer the conscience of the people, he can induce them in various ways to follow the path to eternal perdition. He leads them to two dangerous situations:

The first situation is to make believe that with keeping church rules and obeying its principles we can be good Christians. We think: “The better vegetarian I am, the holier do I feel”.

"The more modest is my dress, the better Christian I am"... this brings us to the situation that we justify our life through our own actions. Our own reference to holiness is ruled by what others think or say of us. This is a common attitude; many among us have been able to live for many years in this condition. But sooner or later our imperfect character slackens. We have been carrying our burden for such a long time that we cannot endure any longer, we become weak and fall into the pit that Satan has prepared so carefully. That is why so many declare "Now I am much at ease". "Now I can do what I want". But Jesus says: "Without me ye can do nothing." John 15: 5.

The other dangerous situation has much to do with the third temptation that Christ had to face in the wilderness. It consists in the love of the world even while being Christians. The devil brought Christ to consider the attractions and kingdoms of this world. When an enchanting wonderful touristic place is promoted, the best pictures of the location are shown. Attractive men and women are shown enjoying happily the delights of the site; 'perfect' families having a great time.

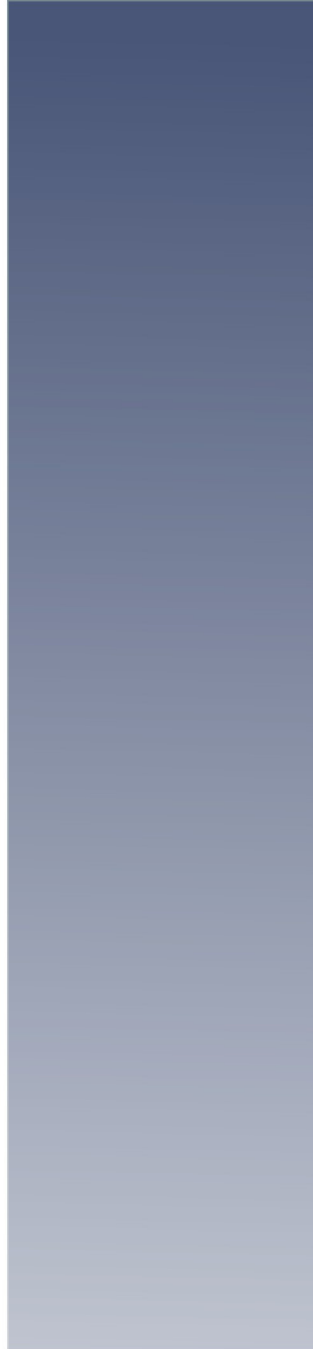
When Jesus was tempted He was in the Judean wilderness. In December of last year I was able to visit that arid and solitary place and I tried to imagine how Jesus had to face the temptations alone in such a region. As we were nearing the Dead Sea, we saw a palm tree full of lovely dates. This gladdened our sight. How much more it must have been for Christ, after so many days in this arid wilderness, to be able to look at the attractions of the world! Wonderful palaces with their gardens, riches of incalculable value, fame, prestige, honor... all these on one condition, to prostrate Himself before Satan and adore him.

Everything was ready; a simple act of reverence could have converted the humble carpenter from Nazareth into the richest and most honored man on earth. But it is not so. Love of the world is one of the most subtle delusions that Satan uses in the church today.

What is love for the world? It is loving something or a person of this world more than God. Many of us may think that this is not the case with us. Let us just make a personal spiritual diagnosis: how much time do we dedicate to the study of the Word? How much time do we give away for television, Internet, secular reading...? How much time do we dedicate to pray? Is it the same amount of time that we take to speak to our best friends? How much time do we spend to give testimony of our faith through missionary work?

We will surely reach to the conclusion that the world is influencing our lives more than we think. The objective of this reading is not only to spend a nice moment with brothers and sisters and friends in faith. We wish that the Holy Spirit moves us to take decisions that will transcend our lives and will help us to grow. We cannot stay in our condition because we will be lost. I believe that all of us want to do our best for God, but when the moment arises to put things into practice something is missing. We live in this world and we are related to it. Satan has an infinite number of attractions in which he knows we can fall. Often we feel that the temptations are so strong that we cannot resist them, but in reality it is we who decide to sin or to do what is right before God.

The enemy induces us to think that the world is more attractive than the church and we may reach the point to believe that it is so. Sometimes we may feel ashamed because our Christian customs do not agree with those of the world. However, the truth is, that if our heart is devoted to Christ, we belong to His eternal kingdom which is the best country in the whole universe where its inhabitants live in harmony with the will of God. In that place, gold, such a valued metal in this world (and where) that people work it into rings, earrings, and necklaces, is the material used to pave the streets of the Holy City. In Revelation 21: 19-21, it is written:



**International Missionary Society**  
**Seventh Day Adventist**  
**Reform Movement**  
Youth Department  
General Conference  
625 West Ave.  
Cedartown, Ga 30125. USA  
Tel.: 1-770-748-0077 - Fax: 1-770-748-0095  
[youth@sda1844.org](mailto:youth@sda1844.org)