



MINISTERING THE GIFTS

*Youth Revival Week
from September 6 to 14, 2019*



INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
REFORM MOVEMENT

Youth Department of the General Conference
625 WEST AVENUE • CEDARTOWN, GA 30125 • USA
P.O. BOX S • CEDARTOWN, GA 30125 • USA
TELEPHONE (+1) 770-748-0077 • FAX (+1) 770-748-0095
E-MAIL youth@sda1844.org • E-MAIL josevicenteginer@yahoo.es

www.sobrelasalturas.org



MINISTERING THE GIFTS

*Youth Revival Week
from September 6 to 14, 2019*

TABLE OF CONTENT

Introduction
Pg. 5

The Gift of Health
Benjamín Valdivieso, Bolivia.
Friday, September 6, 2019
Pg. 6

The Gift of Speech
Pr. José V. Giner, Switzerland.
Saturday, September 7, 2019
Pg. 8

The Gift of Wisdom and Intelligence
Elvis Echavarría, USA
Sunday, September 8, 2019
Pg. 11

The Gift of Music
Caress Prado, Chile.
Tuesday, September 10, 2019
Pg. 14

The Gift of Friendship
Pr. Yapci Trujillo, Netherlands.
Wednesday, September 11, 2019
Pg. 18

The Gift of Service
Marino Mazo, Colombia
Friday, September 13, 2019
Pg. 20

The Gift of Love
Ellen G. White
Saturday, September 14, 2019
Pg. 23

INTRODUCTION

Dear brethren, I greet you in the name of the Lord Jesus with the text of Psalm 71:5, For You are my hope, O Lord God; You are my trust from my youth.

Our God is wonderful, He has given us so many things that we can only thank him with all our heart. He equips each of the members of His church with gifts so that we all contribute to bless our brethren: “For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” Ephesians 4:12. The young people are also included in this reception of gifts; they can do a lot of good to the people of the Lord in this time of history and therefore to the whole world. Each young person is a potential within the ranks of the people of God, because consecrated to the Eternal they can do a work as valid and powerful as adults. This is clearly seen in the biblical story. Remember the case of Timothy, Paul’s pupil and faithful imager of the teachings of Jesus, gave his life to the Christian cause from his youth and left an indelible mark on the early church.

It is of the utmost importance to reach out to our young people to be consecrated to the cause of the Gospel. More and more young people are torching their lives on the altar of youthful passions. This world offers too many incentives and temptations that end up ruining the lives of thousands and thousands of young people worldwide. The Spirit of Prophecy tells us: “I have a deep interest in the youth, and I greatly desire to see them striving to perfect Christian characters, seeking by diligent study and earnest prayer to gain the training essential for acceptable service in the cause of God. I long to see them helping one another to reach a higher plane of Christian experience.” Messages to Young People, pg. 15.

We therefore have a goal to achieve as the Youth Department of the General Conference. We ask that God help us as responsible for this field worldwide, in order to be a strong support for the youth, an extended arm that provides adequate materials, manuals, music, spiritual guidance, instruction, etc., to our youth. The Youth Department invites all young people of the church to join us for the purpose of using the gifts that God has given us in a way that can be multiplied and blessed.

It would be very important to share and study these conferences of the Youth Revival Week, entitled “Ministering the Gifts”, during the week of September 6 to 14 and Saturday, July 14, to be read in the afternoon of young people and the special world offering for the Youth Department is collected. Let us pray together and ask God that these readings can be a great blessing for every reader, it is our desire and prayer. Amen.

*Pastor José V. Giner
Leader of the Youth Department of the General
Conference*



Friday, September 6, 2019

THE GIFT OF HEALTH

Benjamín Valdiviezo, (Bolivia)

Health is the complete physical, social, and mental well-being that must be extended to the whole society (World Health Organization). Being healthy is a way of living (expresses more a subjective feeling: I feel good) and objective evidence of not suffering from disease or bearer of signs of illness; it is important that there is the ability to do a job and feel integrated into society and in a state of harmony with oneself.

The state of health can be defined according to:

- 1) The absence of anatomical, morphological structural alterations of the body.
- 2) The absence of obvious causes of disease, such as genetic alterations (which are not always evident at birth), toxic substances, or foreign bodies. A person who has a disease and does not show clinical signs or suffering is of importance (can be a transmitter).

3) The vital signs, functional tests, and the activity of the organs and systems.

4) The fulfillment of activities (profession, intellectual, artistic, or compository creation).

5) The critical adaptation to the guidelines and objectives. Disproportionate ambition, along with envy and resentment, determine behavior and conduct apart from health. *Semiology and Pathophysiology*, Conde, pg. 2.

Why does God want us to be healthy?

Our body is a temple of God; the spirit of God dwells in the Christian and asks that our spirit, soul, and body be kept irreproachable for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:23). If we take care of our health we will enjoy it and its spirit will also be in us.

La palabra de Dios nos dice: “Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.” 3 John 1:2. And the Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day.” Deuteronomy 6:24. “So you shall serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you.” Exodus 23:25.

“The world is a lazar house filled with victims of both physical and spiritual disease. Everywhere people are perishing for lack of a knowledge of the truths that have been committed to us.” *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, pg. 455.

“Pure air, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, and trust in divine power... [are] the true remedies.” *Medical Ministry* pg. xiii.

What can the young person do to have health?

If we are created in Christ Jesus for good works (Ephesians 2:10) and of all the things we do, God will bring us to judgment (Ecclesiastes 11:9) then we must follow the only manual, the word of

God, because God knows what is best for the human body.

The world looks like a hospital and the young adult (18 to 35 years old) is not exempt from it. Physical and mental illnesses have escaped from hospitals, and the wavering spirituality that the young people have in the middle of so much deceit, when the truth is not known, is an issue.

One of the health problems cataloged by the WHO in 2017 was that among the 10 causes of greatest disability for 2020, the leader was unipolar major depression and in sixth place bipolar disorder (depression and mania). We say that diseases have escaped because education, the environment, music, etc. They influence depression. It is known that stressful events facing the human being are related to a gene called serotonin transporter (5HTT) that mediates the influence of stressful events, and this gene ends up being affected. (Kaplan psychiatry, Depression).

“Christ had been the guide and teacher of ancient Israel, and He taught them that health is the reward of obedience to the laws of God. The Great Physician who healed the sick in Palestine had spoken to His people from the pillar of cloud, telling them what they must do, and what God would do for them. ‘If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God,’ He said, ‘and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and wilt give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee.’ Exodus 15:26. Christ gave to Israel definite instruction in regard to their habits of life, and He assured them, ‘The Lord will take away from thee all sickness.’ Deuteronomy 7:15. When they fulfilled the conditions, the promise was verified to them. ‘There was not one feeble person among their tribes.’ Psalm 105:37.” The Desire of Ages, pg. 824. What must the young person must face in this society?

The society in which we currently live is immersed in mass consumption, there is no satisfaction of basic needs, but the desire to consume technology, biotechnology, new materials and social demand is more demanding. Children and young people immersed in this environment (constant change) live a life that is built under an uncertain sense. The reason is the selfishness to achieve self-satisfaction through the permanent consumption of material goods, entertainment and brands. El ser joven en la sociedad actual: El poder de las marcas, pgs. 19-91.

What is the purpose of your life? Life is more than getting up, studying, working, returning home, watching television, going to sleep, and getting up with the same routine. There must be a different sense of living.

Where will we go if we do not have our purpose clear?

The word of God has the answer in Genesis: you were created in the image and likeness of God. You are a child of God, not a cosmic accident! You are here to love your Creator and your fellow man (Mark 12:30-31) and come to reflect the character of CHRIST (Ephesians 4:13, Romans 8:29).

I want my destiny to be enjoyed in eternity where there is no pain, suffering, or death (Revelation 21:1, 4).

“Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you today; and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known.” Deuteronomy 11: 26-28.

“All our enjoyment or suffering may be traced to obedience or transgression of natural law... Many out of ignorance are living in a violation of the laws that He established.” 3 Testimonio Selectos Tomo 3, pg. 133.

Saturday, September 7, 2019

THE GIFT OF SPEECH

Pastor José Vicente Giner (Suiza)

A gift from God for humanity

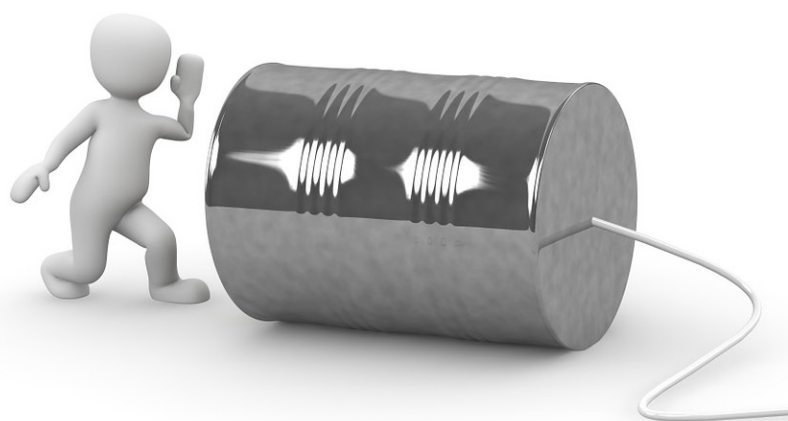
Dear youth, the ability to communicate through speech is a gift from God. God made us sociable beings, just as He speaks with His Son Jesus Christ and the angels, He also spoke directly with the first human couple in Eden. Likewise the Holy Spirit, when he came to this world, “spoke” to humans and continues to speak today: “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” John 14:26.

Normally we can all speak, but the ability to speak correctly and transmit the concepts in a clear way and that blesses the listener, is a divine gift. It is logical to think that Adam and Eve, before sin, were edified and delighted with their words. But after sin, this gift of God was perverted, and it has been through speech that we have hurt ourselves the most and we continue to do so. In fact, the Bible tells us that “we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man...” James 3:2. I wish we were already perfect beings! It would mean that we would use the word in such a manner that we would never harm our neighbor, ever.

The power of words

Words have so much power, that aside from hurting the person at the moment they are pronounced, apart from setting a bad example, they can be recorded in the mind for a lifetime, generating bitterness, frustration and resentment in the list-

ner, and of course, also in the mind of the one who uttered them. What we are discussing has an effect on our mood, affecting or improving the character. Surely will remember, dear youth, some negative word or expression that someone once told you. Hitler is said to have had contact with antisemitic ideas at a very young age, and this prejudice against the Jews took root until it led him to commit the greatest genocide in history. A perverse idea turned into words can unleash hell! On the other hand, “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.” Proverbs 25:11.



Parents and teachers interact with children.

A young lady once told me that when she was a child her parents and siblings often repeated that she was clumsy and that she did not know how to do anything. She grew up with this idea and after many years, being an adult, she still feels insecure and has a very negative view of herself.

Words that edify

The same process occurs, but for good, when we use words that edify and bless. It is said that Thomas Edison came to comment on a personal expe-

rience that helped him immensely in his life. When he was little, the school children made fun of him because he had a bigger head than the others. His mother, affectionately, said to him: "My love, do not listen to them, God has made you this way so that you can hold more knowledge in your head than all the other children." These words accompanied him throughout his life, stimulated and encouraged him to the point of inventing more than 400 things, including the electric bulb.

I know a pastor of our church who has the habit of speaking in a very positive and beautiful way. He always offers words of encouragement to people and he is very appreciated in our environment. He decided to bless with his speech. And you? What have you decided? What kind of words do you use daily?

The example of God

God made us social beings, therefore we depend on the faculty of speech to be able to communicate, either with our neighbor or with God. In biblical history we will find

God speaking with His people, addressing words of encouragement. He used special terms such as: "be of good courage," "strive," "fear not," "do not be afraid," etc. "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6. God knew how to strengthen tired hands, how to raise the spirits of His own, how to lift them from the ground. That is why he used an adequate language. No one is encouraged to be a better person if they are criticized and condemned. No one learns well if they are hit or mocked. A true word is like a dart thrown into the bullseye, but always aims to produce something good in the listener.

An angel encouraged the prophet Elijah when he wished to die, and said to him: "Arise and eat." 1 Kings 19:5. God spoke special words to Joshua when he wanted to encourage him to continue with his mission of introducing Israel into the earthly Canaan: "Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 Only be strong and very courageous..." Joshua 1:6, 7. God told Moses when the entire host of Israel was in front of the Red Sea: "And the Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward.'" Exodus 14:15. Jesus told the sinful woman: "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more." John 8:11. To all sinners Jesus speaks to their heart and invites them to go to Him: "The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out." John 6:37. Jesus addressed the leader of the synagogue with the following words: "Do not be afraid; only believe." Mark 5:36.

The words that come from the mouth of God are life: "But man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord." Deuteronomy 8:3. Every word that the Lord directs to us has the goal of approaching Him, encouraging us, hoping for us, showing us the way to heaven, encouraging us not to falter in the Christian struggle. How are our words? The Bible teaches us that the language



we use determines our character or is a clear reflection of it and that is why we are going to be judged considering what we speak on this earth: “For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” Matthew 12:37.

Conclusion

The mastery of speech is essential to achieve success in most branches of life. Speaking is the most wonderful human quality we have. The Spirit of Prophecy tells us: “Of all the gifts that God has bestowed upon men, none is more precious than the gift of speech.” The Colporteur Ministry, pg. 70.

The Bible censures the use of impure words, vain, irritating, light, inflated, false, seductive, flattering, hypocritical. Our speech must be pure, truthful, prudent; in short that blesses the listener as the word of God blesses each one of us.

We must be attentive to the use of our language, lest we inadvertently hurt the listener or inflict unnecessary harm on some person, because “death and life are in the power of the tongue...” Proverbs 18:21.

“Kind words... would be to many a struggling and lonely one as the cup of cold water to a thirsty soul.” Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings, pg. 23.

“Pleasant, cheery words cost no more than unpleasant, moody words. Sharp words wound and bruise the soul.” Our High Calling, pg. 294.

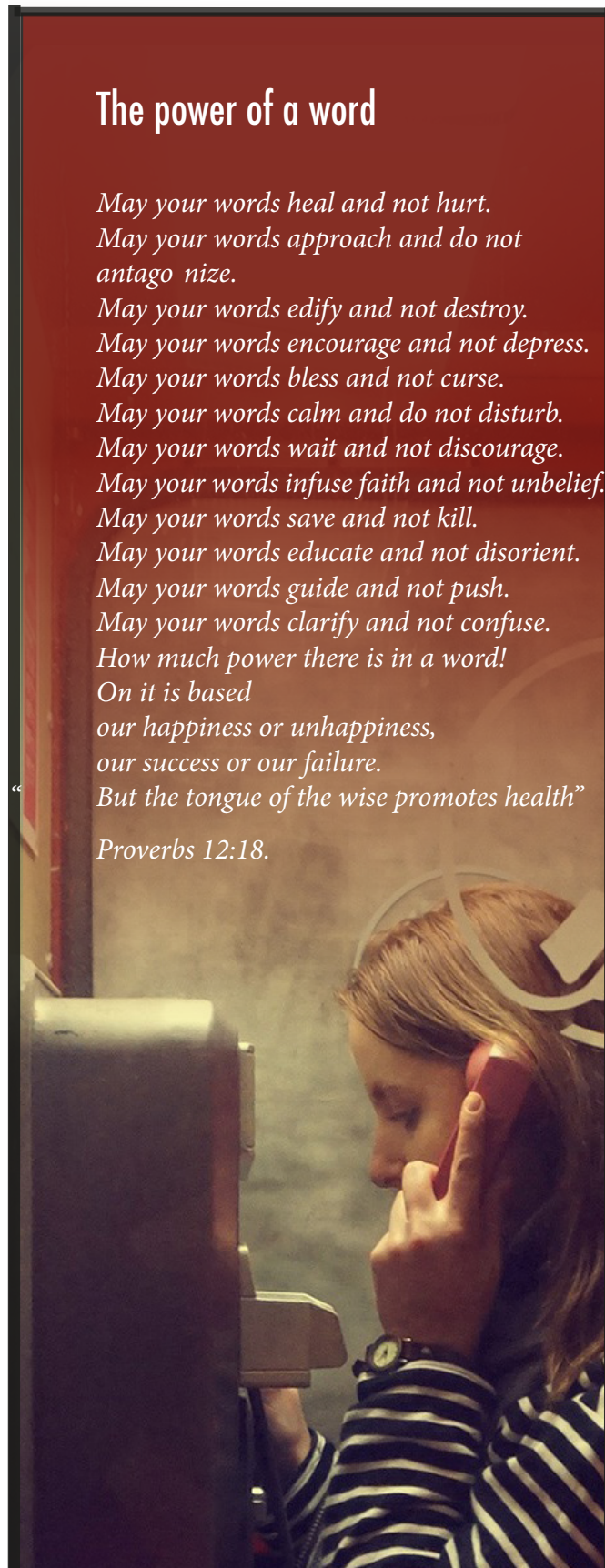
“Satan puts into the mind thoughts which the Christian should never utter. The scornful retort, the bitter, passionate utterance, the cruel, suspicious charge, are from him.” Upon Heavenly Places, pg. 174.

Dear youth, I invite you to purpose to use your words to heal, to bless and to bring souls to the feet of Christ. “The Prince of teachers, His words

will be found a guide to His co-workers till the end of time.” Edu-ca-tion, pg. 81. My wish is that this conference can be useful for your personal edification. God bless you. Amen.

The power of a word

*May your words heal and not hurt.
May your words approach and do not antagonize.
May your words edify and not destroy.
May your words encourage and not depress.
May your words bless and not curse.
May your words calm and do not disturb.
May your words wait and not discourage.
May your words infuse faith and not unbelief.
May your words save and not kill.
May your words educate and not disorient.
May your words guide and not push.
May your words clarify and not confuse.
How much power there is in a word!
On it is based
our happiness or unhappiness,
our success or our failure.
But the tongue of the wise promotes health”*
Proverbs 12:18.





Sunday, September 9, 2019

The Gift of Wisdom and Intelligence

Elvis Echavarria (USA)

But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; And the birds of the air, and they will tell you; Or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; And the fish of the sea will explain to you. Job 12:7, 8

Blueprint to Heaven

“**M**any illustrations from nature are used by the Bible writers; and as we observe the things of the natural world, we shall be enabled, under the guiding of the Holy Spirit, more fully to understand the lessons of God’s Word. In the natural world God has placed in the hands of the children of men the key to unlock the treasure house of His Word. The unseen is illustrated by the seen; divine wisdom, eternal truth, infinite grace, are understood by the things that God has made.” Child Guidance, pg. 46.

What are these hidden messages and lessons we find in the natural world, which can only be seen through the eyes of wisdom and understanding? To find the answer we must begin with the building block of all matter, the atom.

“From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love.” The Great Controversy, pg. 678.

Of all the known elements of the universe which form solid structures, carbon is the most abundant. The carbon atom is used to define the study of chemistry and its two branches: inorganic and organic. Organic chemistry is defined by the study of molecules that contain carbon compounds. Inorganic chemistry is therefore the study of those that do not contain carbon. For our purposes we will focus on an organic compound; something we’re all very familiar with.

Many years ago I planted several fruit trees in my parents’ yard: peach, apple, fig and pear. I remember for the first year or so my mom would water them every day, not too little and not too much. She fertilized them, ensured they had good and clean soil, and tended them with all the detail necessary for healthy growth, but they did not all take with the same strength. The peach trees never took size, the fig trees died after a harsh winter a few years ago, and one of the apple trees withered away. The pear trees however, have taken a different course. They have grown into beautiful trees: they withstand the harsh winters that have come and gone, the intense heat of the summer, the dry spells of the fall, and the plague of insects that sometimes attack them. They blossom every year with pastel pink flowers that turn into beautiful white in full bloom, and most important of all they bear much fruit each season, beautiful, sweet pears, causing the branches to bow as consequence of the load. Irrelevant of the circumstances around them these two trees continue to grow and bear fruit. As a result of this resiliency to withstand all difficulties, past and present, they hold a special place in my heart, and I have been able to take many beautiful lessons from them, and I would like to share one of them with you.

The Bible outlines a process, a roadmap, a blueprint on how to get to heaven. I think partaking

in these reading this week is evidence enough that you seek to one day be in that beautiful place. I'd like to share this simple three-step process with you that can be abbreviated into three letters, J-S-G, and we're going to look at how this lesson can be found—if we look closely and with understanding—in something as common as a pear tree.

At the Root of it

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1. The process of justification by faith is our first step in our journey and occurs the moment we accept Jesus in our life as our Lord and Savior. Through His amazing grace Jesus comes into our life, forgives us of our past transgressions, and makes all things new; no longer are we sons and daughters of men, but of God. The Father looks upon the sacrifice of the Son upon Calvary and removing our sins imputes Christ's righteous, holy life unto us. Our sins are forgiven and we have been given a new beginning. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:17.

In the model of our pear tree we find this first principle outlined in two different areas of the tree. Just as the process of justification occurs in two parts, the Giver Jesus Christ, and the recipient, so the journey of a plant begins in two areas, the roots and the leaves. You may think, “well that's odd, those are opposite ends,” but I promise you there's a good reason for it. We begin in the ground with soil. The soil is the good news of the gospel that brings to us the tidings of a new life full of happiness, pea-

ce, and love. These are the minerals and vitamins that a plant needs to grow and be healthy. These are mingled with water, a symbol of the blood of Christ which purifies us of sin. Even so, the water may be pure and the soil rich and bountiful, but if the roots do not take those nutrients, absorb them, and make them their own, then they are of no avail. The Lord has provided all these things to us, but we as the roots must choose to accept them and bring them into our life. “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!” Psalm 34:8. Jesus is not only the water necessary for life, but is also the leaves of the plant which play a pivotal role in the plant's growth and development. It is through the leaves that plants do their most wonderful work, photosynthesis, the process of taking the sunlight and converting it into food for the plant. Jesus brought to us the light of God, His message, His word and converted it into form which we can understand and consume. As the great Teacher and Master Jesus opened to humanity God's law of love, His own character.

But He does something else. Just as a plant breathes in carbon dioxide, a pernicious gas, and exhales oxygen, so Jesus takes our burdens of guilt, shame, remorse, and exchanges them for peace, love, joy, and eternal life. “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30.

The Journey Upward

Once we accept Jesus and He transforms our life, then the work of sanctification begins, which unlike justification is a work of a lifetime. To sanc-



tify something means to make it holy, and that is what the Lord desires to do with us. “Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.” Hebrews 12:1. “For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.” Romans 8:13. “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:1, 2.

The work of sanctification is then encompassed by the simple principle of ceasing to do evil and learning to do good (Isaiah 1:16, 17). This is a daily task that must be undertaken with a resolute fervor and determination. Once the nutrients and water are absorbed by the roots of the plant, they must undertake a journey up the stalk and through the branches. This is accomplished through the principle of capillary action, which is the movement of a liquid across the surface of a solid caused by the attraction of such liquid to the molecules of a solid. It may sound complicated, but we’re familiar with the principle. When you spill a liquid and wish to clean it, it is very likely you will reach for a paper towel. The reason the water is absorbed by a paper towel is due to this capillary effect. It is this attraction of the liquid to the cellulose of the plant that causes it to move upward. If we wish to be like Him, and are attracted to His life and character, we too will move upward as we seek to be like Jesus. “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.” Colossians 3:2. Beyond the capillary action, friction also plays a role in keeping the liquid from traveling back down the stalk due to the force of gravity. Unpleasant as it may be, we need this friction in our life. Friction caused by: misunderstandings and

differing opinions within the nuclear and church family, coworkers, and classmates, trials that come to us through the circumstances of life, temptations brought about by our own proclivities; all of this the Lord allows and uses to refine our character that we may continue in the journey upward. “And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.” Romans 5: 3, 4.

The Fruits of Glory

What we all look forward to is that day when Jesus will return, and we shall be transformed and will receive the incorruptible crown of glory. “You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory.” Psalm 73:24. “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body...” Philippians 3:20, 21. It is through the process of sanctification that we will graduate to glorification when He who we await shall come. Little by little we are storing in the treasury of heaven until that day when the work which the Spirit began in us will be complete.

Just as the gardener takes the ripe fruit from the tree, at the end of our journey God himself will pluck us from this earth to take us to our heavenly home. The Master Gardener is pruning you, giving you shape, enriching your soil, watering you daily, protecting you from the bitter cold and scorching heat, removing the weeds and stones, giving you every aid and opportunity to blossom, to be fruitful, to live a life of purpose and joy. Every difficulty we endure, every evil thing we abstain from, every sin we overcome is taking us ever higher and closer to that day when we will be with the Lord in heavenly places. “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” 2 Corinthians 4:17. “... If



indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” Romans 8:17, 18.

Dear youth, the Lord has outlined His plan for you in everything that He has created. Every living thing, every cell, every atom testifies of God’s love for you. Will you seek out that knowledge? Will you seek understanding? He wishes to cleanse you and make you whole, to refine and perfect your character to reflect His own image, He desires that you may live with Him for all eternity. Are you willing to give Him that place in your heart? Will you make Him the center of your life?

Are you prepared to choose happiness? I encourage you to give of your fruits freely, share and develop your talents, use them to uplift and inspire others, live a life worth living, live for the good of others, live for God and your place in heaven will be sure. “Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’” Matthew 25:34. May the Lord bless you and guide you in this journey to the heavenly city, our eternal home. Amen.

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

THE GIFT OF MUSIC

Caress Prado, (Chile)

We know in detail the power that music has to subjugate and open the heart of the listener. In the Bible we have the example of Saul, whose demon possessed spirit was comforted when listening to the harp played masterfully by David. Countless studies have been done about it, and I think it would be redundant to talk about it again. We all know that music exerts a powerful influence for good or for evil.

The degeneration of music

Music is present in the worship of the heavenly courts, and I firmly believe that God made us with the capacity to be sensitive to the influence of music. Unfortunately, Satan also knows this. Remember that he was the main musician in heaven before his fall. And he knows how to use that influence for evil. Previously, using subliminal messages in the songs that were repeated over and over again. But lately, it has gone from the subliminal to the totally explicit, the lyrics of the songs that our children and young people listen to invite them openly to “free” sex, to drugs, to alcohol. I have been a music teacher for



many years, and I have seen this decline in the schools where I have taught. Formerly, the dance classes of the schools were folkloric, with long dresses for the girls, hats for the boys. Nowadays, the dance presentations of the schools are limited to exposing children from two years of age to doing sexual choreography, to the rhythm of some fashionable song of the moment: "Remove your skirt, take off your bra." Faced with the claim I made to a fellow faculty member who is a dance teacher, she only said: "Times change, and we must change too."

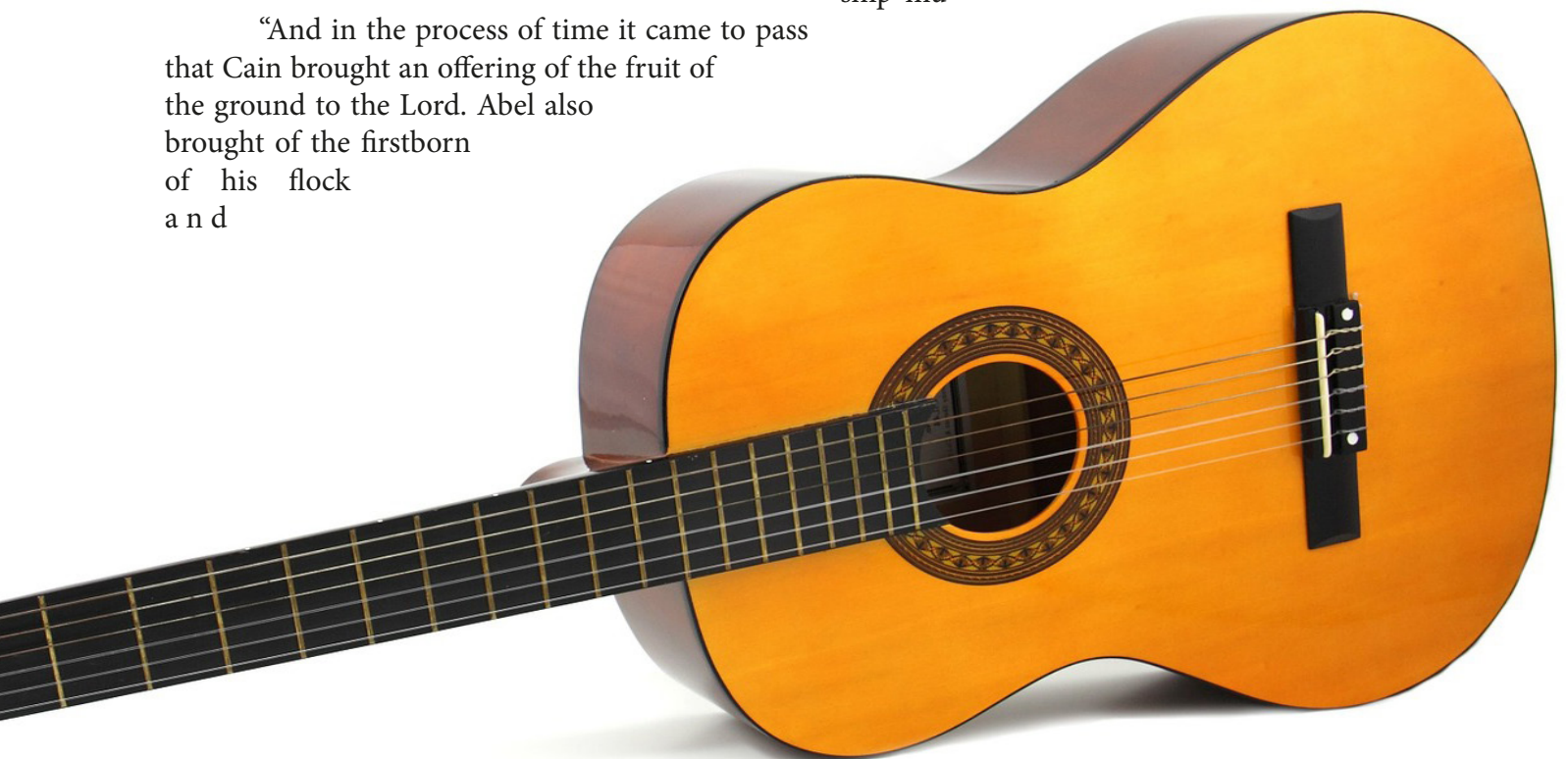
Should the people of God also have to change? Recreate themselves to not lose membership? Adapt so that young people stay in the church? Should we change our "boring" music and make it "modern"? Can we adapt the music of the world by placing Christian lyrics to make our meetings more enjoyable?

Dear youth, our God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He does not change. His principles are not modifiable to our liking, far less in the way to offer our adoration, but ask Cain:

"And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock
a n d

of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. Genesis 4:3-5.

Cain expected God to accept his offering, because it was "from the heart," because "appearances don't matter, God looks at what's inside" (are these phrases known to you?). But he was terribly disappointed. I cannot worship God as I wish. If God has asked for a lamb, you cannot bring him fruit. The same principle applies to music: if God has asked for worship in a specific way, we cannot pretend to worship Him by importing genres created in the world, to praise the world, and pretend to "sanctify" them through Christian lyrics. The lyrics do not sanctify the music, just as water cannot remove the effects of a powerful poison; if you take it, you die the same. For this reason the Lord makes this claim to his church in Malachi 1:7, "You offer defiled food on My altar, But say, 'In what way have we defiled You?'" Are we not committing this same sin by offering on the altar of worship mu-



sic “stolen” from the world, music “contaminated” with musical elements unfit for the service of God in the temple?

Many will say, “alright, so not in the church. And in my house? On my phone? Can I listen to whatever I want?”

Many years ago I met a young man, very active in the church, a leader and collaborator. He was always leading the youth department; he was a natural leader and everyone followed him, but he had a “small” weakness. The music of the world attracted him strongly, it was his struggle. But there was always an excuse: “it’s just a ballad,” “it’s just soft rock,” “it’s a song that talks about love and with which I feel identified,” “it’s just for ambience,” “this does not make me bad,” don’t be so fanatical...” in short, you probably know someone like that. Let me tell you, dear youth, that this friend I am telling you about today is not in the church. The reason? The music exerted such a negative influence on him that he began to lower his principles, according to what he was hearing. Little by little his conscience was hardened until there was no turning back. He decided to leave the church that saw him grow, and he left us all with a bitter taste. Something that seemed so harmless, according to this youth’s point of view, was so dangerous and attractive that it ended up leading to ruin and sin. Very true is the saying: “tell me what music you listen to, and I’ll tell you what kind of Christian you are.”

The music that praises God

I would like God to send us audio of what the music from heaven sounds like. Unfortunately, we do not have any sound recording, but we do have a description from Sister Ellen White of a visit she made to heaven.

“I have been shown the order, the perfect order, of heaven, and have been enraptured as I listened to the perfect music there. After coming out of

vision, the singing here has sounded very harsh and discordant. I have seen companies of angels, who stood in a hollow square, everyone having a harp of gold. At the end of the harp was an instrument to turn to set the harp or change the tunes. Their fingers did not sweep over the strings carelessly, but they touched different strings to produce different sounds. There is one angel who always leads, who first touches the harp and strikes the note, then all join in the rich, perfect music of heaven. It cannot be described. It is melody, heavenly, divine, while from every countenance beams the image of Jesus, shining with glory unspeakable.” *Counsels for the Church*, pg. 172.

From this description, we can come to some conclusions that are applicable to today’s church:

1. The music of heaven is perfect: There is no place for out of tune instruments. Celestial music is harmonious. Dear young people, I beg you before playing in the church and praising the Lord, take the time to tune the instrument. There are infinite technological resources that help us today in this task: downloadable applications in cell phones, handheld tuners that can adapt to different instruments, in short.



2. The main instrument is the harp, which is played delicately, string by string: In the ecclesiastical musical service, there is no place for noisy instruments that divert attention from the lyrics to the music. You cannot pretend to praise God with a rambunctious drum in the background, accentuating the weak beats of the time signature and creating rhythmic patterns suitable for a dance hall, not for a temple. For this reason, the main musician of the Bible, David, makes this invitation: “For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful.” Psalm 147:1. There are musical instruments that simply cannot be played in a “gentle” manner. They have been created to make noise, to fill melodic and harmonic voids that could be in the music. In this way, the brain is so dulled with this type of “mending,” that it enters a euphoric state, but as soon as the music ends, it remains with a feeling of desperate emptiness.

3. There is an angel who directs the music and who gives the initial note: Dear youth from all over the world: I advise you to designate someone to lead the music in the church. It does not matter if you are few, it does not matter if you do not have instruments. Designate someone to give the tune, in

an accessible tone so that everyone can sing. I had the opportunity to visit a church once. Since I did not know the address, I arrived a little late, when they had already started the service. There were no musical instruments. There was no one to lead the singing. Each one sang in a different pitch, at a different time, and each one tried to raise his voice so that the other understood that he was doing it wrong.

Sacred music and its benefits

In the schools of the prophets, sacred music was part of the daily teaching, but that music had a holy purpose: “to lift the thoughts to that which was pure and noble and elevating, and to awaken in the soul devotion and gratitude to God” Counsels for the Church, pg. 172.

That is the power that sacred music has. It allows us to feel unity, because when we play or sing together, our hearts are synchronized. Learning to play an instrument encourages young people to new challenges, allows the brain development of children to be superior to those who do not learn any type of instrument, and in serving God with that gift, you feel in return the satisfaction of offering a sweet smelling sacrifice to God. For this reason Paul urges us in Ephesians 5:19, “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”

Yes, dear youth. Use this precious gift of music that God has given to His church to praise Him and glorify Him, and you will see in return how your life will be filled with wonderful experiences with Him. May God help us so that we can praise Him as He wills and as He deserves.

God bless you!



Wednesday, September 11, 2019

THE GIFT OF FRIENDSHIP

Pastor Yapci Trujillo (Holland)

Christ defined what it means to be a good friend: “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.” John 15:13-15.

“It is said that a certain Chinese emperor, when told that in one of the provinces of his empire there was an insurrection, told the ministers of his government and the military leaders who surrounded him: ‘Come, follow me, I will soon destroy my enemies.’ When the emperor and his troops arrived where the rebels were, he treated them affably, who, out of gratitude, submitted to him again. All those who formed the entourage of the emperor

thought that he would order the immediate execution of all those who had revolted against him; but they were very surprised to see that the Emperor was humanely and even lovingly treating those who had been rebellious. Then the prime minister asked the emperor angrily, in this way does your Excellency fulfill his promise? You said that we were coming to destroy our enemies, you have forgiven them all and many, even with affection, you have treated them. Then the emperor, with a kind attitude said: I promised to destroy my enemies; and you all see that no one is my enemy anymore, I have made all my friends.” 500 Ilustraciones.

When the first couple decided to disobey the Creator, they unfortunately brought on the consequences of sin and death. There was no human outlet for their situation, Satan had achieved his purpose. The world and its inhabitants were constituted enemies of God, because they had decided to accept the deceptions of the father of lies. “But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.” Isaiah 59:2.

Have you ever found yourself in a desperate situation where there seemed to be no way out? That’s when you realize who your friends really are. Christ appears in the scene of the dramatic situation of this world to help the fallen race. He was not obligated to do it, but he was moved by love.



Jesus did not come to recriminate us or remind us how bad we are and how much we deserved to be punished. Neither came He to condemn us because the world was already condemned. The Creator “clothed” as a created being to reach the depths to rescue the human being and to embrace him again with the Father.

A well-known television program presents the head of a large company that infiltrates as an employee in his own company, he leaves his position in the office, he takes off his expensive suit to dress with the clothes of an employee. He becomes an employee of his own company. Sometimes he has to clean the bathrooms, wash dishes, and do tasks that do not correspond to his high status. Other times he has to receive reprimands and unfair treatment from abusive managers who did not do their job well and who did not know they were dealing with their own boss. In this way the boss comes to know what the weak points of your company are and what are the situations that his employees go through.

The day comes when this boss reveals his identity and everyone is surprised. Some are ashamed of the abuse they inflicted on their own boss, others are left with a clear conscience that they have done their job well. However, the boss shows a cordial aptitude and willingness to forgive and solve problems in order to grow the quality of their own company.

With this secular example we can direct our thoughts to the spiritual field to see that Christ did not come to be served but to serve, to rescue our souls from sin; He went through the most terrible humiliation, He received the consequences of sin but without sinning in one point.

However, with His closeness and humility he managed to reflect the image of the Father in this world of darkness so that we can all be saved. Jesus knows and sympathizes with our weaknesses. By the death of Christ the demands of the law (the death of the sinner) were met. Now we are not slaves

of sin, we are not enemies of God, we are called friends of Christ because we sincerely wish to obey Him, because we do everything possible to show love for the One who loved us so much that he gave His own life to save us.

Dear youth, the friends of this world can disappoint you but Christ is the friend who never fails.

The enemy can accuse you by making you see that your sin is so serious that it will never be forgiven, but today you can have the full assurance that Christ can forgive your faults, start a new life, and have the great privilege of being called a friend of Christ, a son of God.

Jesus came for you farther than anyone could ever do. It is up to you to let Him enter your heart. It is up to you to have a personal experience with Him and not just have a theoretical Christianity.

To have a deep friendship with Him who loved us until He sacrificed his life for each one of us, will lead us to be good friends of our friends. Relating to Jesus will help you to improve your character because the Savior was humble, patient, disinterested, pacifying, kind, sincere, sacrificed, forgiving... and contemplating His character is how we are transformed in His image.

Dear youth, someone who loves God with all his heart will love and respect you always, will seek to benefit you, help you, understand you, protect you. From one who does not love God you cannot expect these things.

If you only ask Christ to enter your heart and show you his will, you will begin to live a new life and experience the value of true friendship. Will you accept him today? It is my desire and prayer.

Friday, September 13, 2019

THE GIFT OF SERVICE

Marino Mazo, (Colombia)

“If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.” John 12:26

“**H**im My Father will honor” are the words of our Lord Jesus Christ that have transcended time to our days as a valuable promise for those who in their fidelity to God exercise the gift of service. The finite mind fails to understand

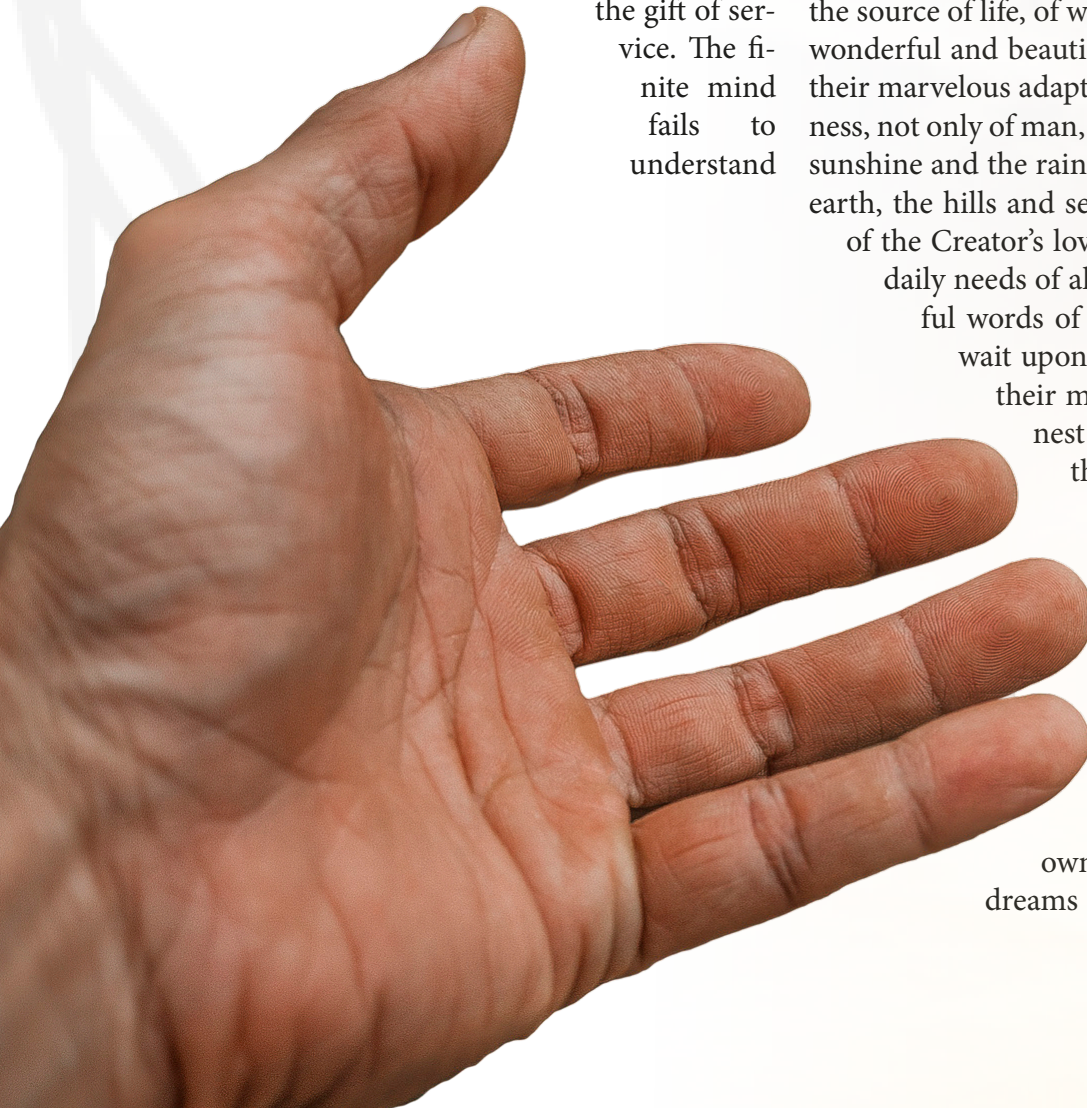
what it means to be accepted by the Heavenly Father to receive the undeserved reward. We are unworthy of such a great salvation, in front of each young person a legacy is placed, that is, to serve God and humanity.

“... The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28. “We are not to live for ourselves. Christ came to this world to live for others—not to be ministered unto, but to minister. If you strive to live as He lived you are saying to the world, “Behold the Man of Calvary.” By precept and example you are leading others in the way of righteousness.” Our Father Cares, pg. 159.

In God’s creation, with the exception of the human being, nothing lives for itself, everything lives and exists to serve; service is in the language of God. Says the inspired pen: “Nature and revelation alike testify of God’s love. Our Father in heaven is the source of life, of wisdom, and of joy. Look at the wonderful and beautiful things of nature. Think of their marvelous adaptation to the needs and happiness, not only of man, but of all living creatures. The sunshine and the rain, that gladden and refresh the earth, the hills and seas and plains, all speak to us of the Creator’s love. It is God who supplies the daily needs of all His creatures. In the beautiful words of the psalmist: ‘The eyes of all wait upon Thee; And Thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest Thine hand, And satisfiest the desire of every living thing.’ Psalm 145:15, 16.” Steps to Christ, pg. 9.

An unhappy heart

We live in a world where selfishness, individualism reigns, everyone seeks his own, people fight for their own dreams no matter who they have to



pass. Many times the gaze focuses too much on one's own desires, neglecting what others want or could feel. A heart that lives for itself is an unhappy heart, because we were created to serve and we will only find happiness when we fulfill the purpose for which we were created.

Thousands of young people roam the world, in diversions, in degrading vices, looking for pastimes in which to hide the deep emptiness of their lives, with their unhappy hearts full of fears, anxieties, seeking happiness where there is none, as it says the word of God, "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water." Jeremiah 2:13.

The inspired pen says, "No one can live the law of God without ministering to others. But there are many who do not live out Christ's merciful, unselfish life. Some who think themselves excellent Christians do not understand what constitutes service for God. They plan and study to please themselves.... They are not in touch with humanity." *The Desire of Ages*, pg. 584.

To God and to one's neighbor

When we talk about service in the Christian life, we ask ourselves: whom should we serve? We can say that there is a vertical sense and a horizontal sense to exercise the gift of service. In the vertical sense we refer to our service to God, which is our first motto. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." The three Hebrews in Babylon said, "our God whom we serve." Daniel 3:17. Here is the courage of these three young people who are exiled and in the midst of a great crossroads, however they did not hesitate to declare that they were servants of the Most High God.

The other sense in which we must exercise the gift of service is in the horizontal aspect, that is, that

directed to our neighbor, "Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Matthew 22:37-39.

"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." Philippians 2:3, 4.

The gift that guides happiness

The gift of service is one of the most beautiful gifts that God gives to human beings. To serve God and neighbor is to find the true meaning of life; it is the way to happiness. We must serve selflessly, and in doing so we will live wonderful and unequalled experiences, which are more than enough payment or reward for selfless service. Christ fills the hearts of those who live to serve with happiness. But among all the services that we can do for our fellowman, the most important is to guide them to the way of salvation, so that the blood of Christ has not been poured out in vain for their lives.

The earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ was dedicated to service for humanity; every moment of his life He dedicate to alleviate the pain and suffering of those in need, He denied himself to give himself to others. As disciples who follow the footsteps of the great Teacher, we indispensably need the gift of service. We will only find happiness when we begin to serve our fellowman.

The Spirit of Prophecy says, "The thing essential for successful work is a knowledge of Christ; for this knowledge will give sound principles of right, impart a noble, unselfish spirit, like that of our Saviour whom we profess to serve. Faithfulness, economy, care-taking, thoroughness, should characterize all our work, wherever we may be, whether in the kitchen, in the workshop, in the office of publication,

in the sanitarium, in the college, or wherever we are stationed in the vineyard of the Lord. 'He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.'" Luke 16:10." Messages to Young People, pg. 230.

Young people called to Serve

"My eyes shall be on the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me; He who walks in a perfect way, He shall serve me." Psalm 101:6.

A teacher asked his students, how long have you lived? No one answered; he addressed a particular student and asked, you, how long have you lived? The young man replied, I have lived 23 years. The professor answered, I am not asking you how old you are, but how long you have lived. The student didn't seem to understand, to which the teacher began to share part of his life, that he had dedicated

himself to altruistic work helping people in need, relieving the pain of many, carrying messages of hope to people who have lost the joy of living. He also related that when he saw the happiness of those people he had helped, he felt that he had found peace and happiness. To which the student replied, professor, I think that from moments like that, I have only lived a few minutes.

Dear youth, how much have we lived? Are we dedicating our lives to serving God and the people who need it? Or simply, do we live life as if others do not matter? Are we being useful or are we spoiling the life that God has given us? In front of each young person there is a challenge, there are dreams to achieve and life projects to be accomplished. God calls you dear youth, so you can put your life at the service of the Teacher. Let the Lord Jesus take control of your life and holding on to His blessed hand you can walk to the final day. God bless the youth is my desire. Amen.





Saturday, September 14, 2019

THE GIFT OF LOVE

Elena G. de White

The source of true love

“**G**od is love.” 1 John 4:16. His nature, His law, is love. It ever has been; it ever will be. “The high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity” (Isaiah 57:15), whose “ways are everlasting” (Habakkuk 3:6), changeth not. With Him “is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17).

“Every manifestation of creative power is an expression of infinite love. The sovereignty of God involves fullness of blessing to all created beings...” *Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 1, pg. 247.

“God is the source of life and light and joy to the universe. Like rays of light from the sun, like the streams of water bursting from a living spring, blessings flow out from Him to all His creatures. And wherever the life of God is in the hearts of men, it will flow out to others in love and blessing.” *Steps to Christ*, pg. 77.

“God is love’ is written upon every opening bud, upon every spire of springing grass. The lovely

birds making the air vocal with their happy songs, the delicately tinted flowers in their perfection perfuming the air, the lofty trees of the forest with their rich foliage of living green—all testify to the tender, fatherly care of our God and to His desire to make His children happy.” *Steps to Christ*, pg. 10.

“How much the Father loved us we can never compute. There is no standard with which to compare it.” *Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 1, pg. 249.

The gift of love manifested in Christ

“He bore the cross of self-denial and self-sacrifice for us, that we might have life, eternal life. Will we bear the cross for Jesus?” *Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 1, pg. 248.

“Love for a lost world was manifested every day, in every act of His life. Those who are imbued by His spirit will work in the same lines as those in which Christ worked. In Christ the light and love of God were manifested in human nature. No human being has ever possessed so sensitive a nature as did the sinless, Holy One of God, who stood as head and representative of what humanity may become through the imparting of the divine nature.” *Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 1, pg. 249.

“It is the love of Christ that makes our heaven. But when we seek to tell of this love, language fails us. We think of His life on earth, of His sacrifice for us; we think of His work in heaven as our advocate, of the mansions He is preparing for those who love Him; and we can but exclaim, “Oh, the heights and depths of the love of Christ!” As we linger beneath the cross, we gain a faint conception of the love of God, and we say, “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:10). But in our contemplation of Christ, we are only lingering round the edge of a love that is measureless. His love is like a vast ocean, without bottom or shore.” *Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 1, pg. 251.

“The love of God is something more than a mere negation; it is a positive and active principle, a living spring, ever flowing to bless others. If the love of Christ dwells in us, we shall not only cherish no hatred toward our fellows, but we shall seek in every way to manifest love toward them.” Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, pg. 58.

True religion

“Supreme love to God, and love to your neighbor equal to that which you bear to yourself, is the basis of true religion.” Testimony Treasures, vol. 1, pg. 512.

“The heart of the true Christian is imbued with true love, with a most earnest hunger for souls. He is not at rest until he is doing all that is in his power to seek and to save that which is lost. Time and strength are spent; toilsome work is not shunned. Others must be given the truth which has brought to his own soul such gladness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.... Is not God the proper object of imitation? It should be the work of the Christian’s life to put on Christ, and to bring himself to a more perfect likeness of Christ.” Testimonies for Ministers and Gospel Workers, pg.122.

“It is the work of the Christian to mend, to restore, to heal. This healing process saves many a soul and hides a multitude of sins. God is love; God is, in Himself, in His essence, love.” Testimonies for Ministers and Gospel Workers, pg. 265.

“None but a wholehearted Christian can be a perfect gentleman; but if Christ is abiding in the soul His spirit will be revealed in the manner, the words, and the actions. Gentleness and love cherished in the heart will appear in self-denial, in true courtesy. Such workers will be the light of the world.” Testimonies for Ministers and Gospel Workers, pg. 264.

“Love illuminates the countenance and subdues the voice; it refines and elevates the entire



man. It brings him into harmony with God, for it is a heavenly attribute.” Testimony Treasures, vol. 1, pg. 579.

“Love should be seen in the looks and manners and heard in the tones of the voice.” The Adventist Home, pg. 109.

“The love of Christ is not a fitful feeling, but a living principle, which is to be made manifest as an abiding power in the heart.” The Acts of the Apostles, pg. 516.

“Love cannot long exist without expression. Let not the heart of one connected with you starve for the want of kindness and sympathy.” The Ministry of Healing, pg. 360.

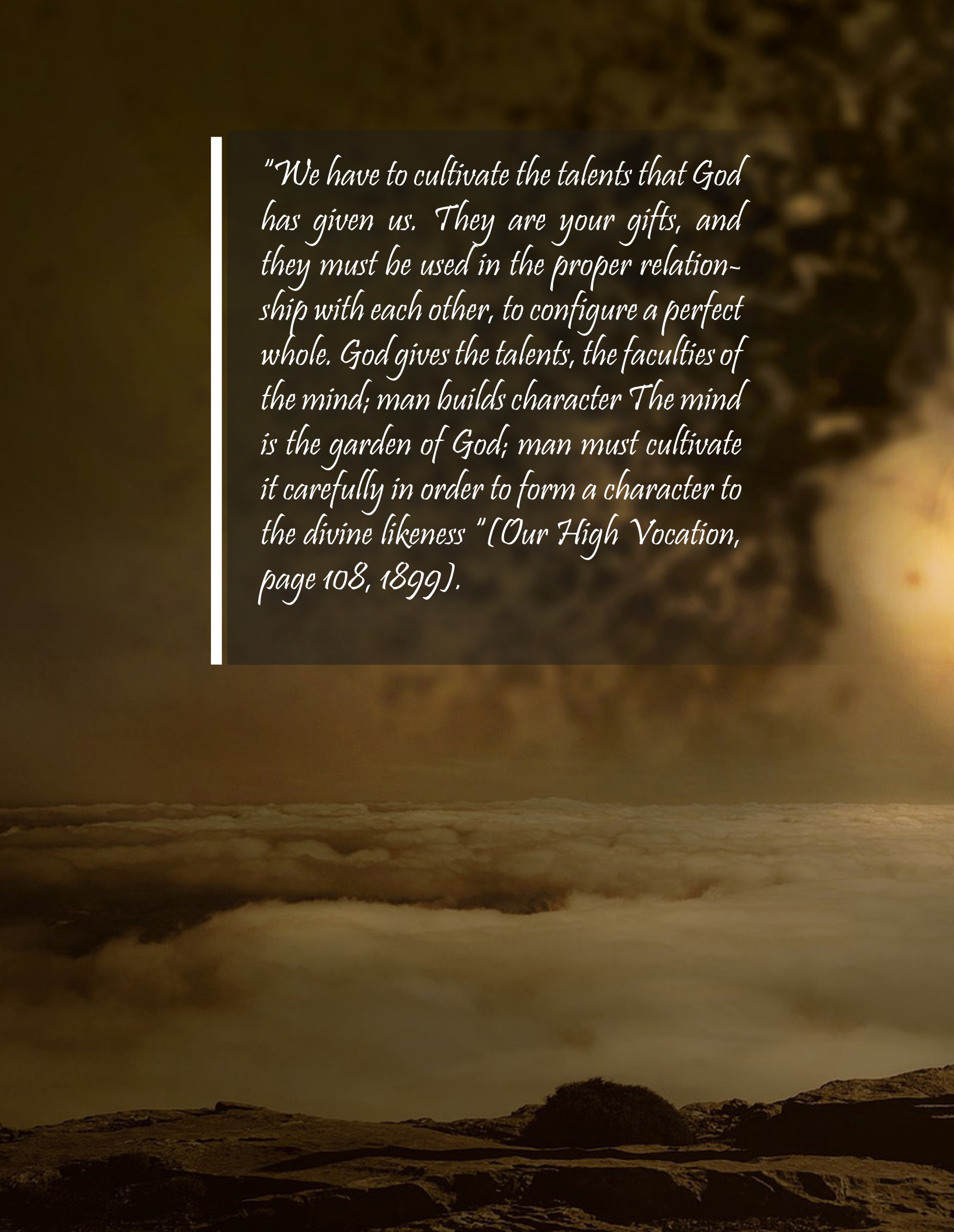
“Christian love is slow to censure, quick to discern penitence, ready to forgive, to encourage, to set the wanderer in the path of holiness, and to stay his feet therein.” The Desire of Ages, pg. 462.

“The Lord wants men to forget themselves in the effort to save souls. Our life is worse than a failure if we go through life without leaving waymarks of love and compassion. God will not work with a harsh, stubborn, loveless man. Such a man spoils the pattern that Christ desires His workers to reveal to the world. God’s workers, in whatever line of service they are engaged, are to bring into their efforts

the goodness and benevolence and love of Christ.”
Evangelism, pg. 629.

“And the years of eternity, as they roll, will bring richer and still more glorious revelations of God and of Christ. As knowledge is progressive, so will love, reverence, and happiness increase. The more men learn of God, the greater will be their admiration of His character.” The great Controver





"We have to cultivate the talents that God has given us. They are your gifts, and they must be used in the proper relationship with each other, to configure a perfect whole. God gives the talents, the faculties of the mind; man builds character. The mind is the garden of God; man must cultivate it carefully in order to form a character to the divine likeness" (Our High Vocation, page 108, 1899).