

What is New Light?

We are told in the Spirit of Prophecy to search for new light. But a careful examination of the passages reveals several important facts:

1 - The "new light" will be clearly found in God's Word; it will not be found in the opinions and theories of men. Test: if the "new light" is not directly given in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, reject it!

2 - The "new light" will be clearly stated in the Bible, and especially the Spirit of Prophecy (which states inspired truth in far greater detail). Test: if the "new light" is not plainly stated in the Bible, and especially the Spirit of Prophecy, reject it!

3 - The "new light" is not about novel new things and startling theories; it is generally about how to deepen your personal Christian experience with God. Test: if the "new light" does not make you a better person in daily life, it is not important!

4 - The "new light" will not contradict the light already given. Test: if the "new light" does away with any truths already given in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, reject it!

New light will not contradict light earlier given us in God's Word—"We are not to receive the words of those who come with a message that contradicts the special points of our faith. They gather together a mass of Scripture, and pile it as proof around their asserted theories. This has been done over and over again during the past fifty years." 1 Selected Messages. 161.

Thank the Lord for the light we have in God's Word—"Upon us is shining the accumulated light of past ages. The record of Israel's forgetfulness has been preserved for our enlightenment. In this age God has set His hand to gather unto Himself a people from every nation, kindred, and tongue. In the advent movement He has wrought for His heritage, even as He wrought for the Israelites in leading them from Egypt." 8 Testimonies. 115.

Abundant light in the Spirit of Prophecy—"Abundant light has been given to our people in these last days. Whether or not my life is spared, my writings will constantly speak, and their work will go forward as long as time shall last. My writings are kept on file in the office, and even though I should not live, these words that have been given to me by the Lord will still have life and will speak to the people." 1 Selected Messages, 55.

Cling to God's Word—"The time has come when we cannot depend upon the doctrine which comes to our ears unless we see that it harmonizes with the Word of God. There are dangerous heresies that will be presented as Bible doctrines; and we are to become acquainted with the Bible so that we may know how to meet them." Evangelism, 590-591.

Looking to men instead of to God's Word—"When Satan has undermined faith in the Bible, he directs men to other sources for light and power. Thus he insinuates himself. Those who turn from the plain teaching of Scripture and the convicting power of God's Holy Spirit, are inviting the control of demons." Evangelism. 592.

Beware of false teachers—"All should become familiar with God's Word; because Satan perverts and misquotes Scripture, and men follow his example by presenting part of God's Word to those whom they wish to lead in false paths, withholding the part which would spoil their plans. All have the privilege of becoming acquainted with a plain 'Thus saith the Lord.' There are false shepherds who will say and do perverse things. Children should be so instructed that they will be familiar with God's Word, and be able to know when part of a Scripture is read and part left unread in order to make a false impression." Manuscript 153. 1899; Evangelism. 591.

Be careful about what is termed "new light"—"We are to pray for divine enlightenment, but at the same time we should be careful how we receive everything termed new light. We must beware lest, under cover of searching for new truth. Satan shall divert our minds from Christ and the special truths for this time. I have been shown that it is the device of the enemy to lead minds to dwell upon some obscure or unimportant point, something that is not fully revealed or is not essential to our salvation. This is made the absorbing theme, the 'present truth.' when all their investigations and suppositions only serve to make matters more obscure than before, and to confuse the minds of some who ought to be seeking for oneness through sanctification of the truth." Letter 7, 1891; 1 Selected Messages. 159.

When we venture on forbidden ground—"God is displeased with us when we go to listen to error, without being obliged to go; for unless He sends us to those meetings where error is forced home to the people by the power of the will. He will not keep us. The angels cease their watchful care over us." Early Writings. 125 [read 124-125].