

Our Health Message: Pulling the Plug on Power

A Temcat Study

There are places in our Christian experience where we can be misled; where Satan finds a ripe ground to attack us, if we are not on guard. The health message, which is a great blessing given us by God, is not a blessing mixed with curse or anything of the sort, but Satan delights to take it out of its context, make it so extreme, so rigid, so unreasonable, that people are led to reject it as it seems impossible to them.

There are other aspects of our Christian life that can be just the same. Satan is a deceiver; he is a liar. He delights to give us the idea that there are a lot of good things to be had out in the world. When I say world, I am referring to outside, away from God, heathen, devilish. He gives us the idea that there are things that, although we know that they are not true, we can study these things and we can separate the good from the evil. Then we will be greatly blessed because we can get a lot of good from them.

I could probably show you articles that I had written a few years back advocating that very concept. I thought people were very narrow and bigoted when they would refuse to study such things because they said they were from the devil, and there was really a lot of good in these things and we could be greatly benefited by studying them. I know differently now, but it has taken a while for me to learn it the hard way, and I can only wonder at the incredible patience and graciousness of our Heavenly Father, who lets us run, when we are determined to do so, through all the manure piles and all the garbage heaps of worldly wisdom, until we finally realize that there is nothing good out there that He does not already have on the banquet table for us.

When Eve ate of the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, she obtained knowledge, but not of good and evil, she only obtained the evil because she already had everything that was good! Eve was led to doubt God's goodness because she felt something was withheld from her that she needed to have. When she ate of the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil, she mixed evil in with the good that God had already given her. The only thing that God had withheld from His children was the knowledge of evil. Evil doesn't bring any goodness, it is a destroyer, it brings sickness and death. Adam and Eve are not here with us today because they are dead. And millions of others are dead; why are they dead? Because of the evil, not because of the good that God had given them, but because of the evil that they were determined to have.

The beautiful truths that the pioneers studied out in early Adventism, when they spent many hours getting together, praying and studying through the night sometimes, pleading with the Lord that the Holy Spirit would teach them the truth, still stand true. They prayed for light, and God sent light to them. He sent light through the Holy Scriptures and He sent extra light through the Spirit of Prophecy and so they worked out line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little until finally the doctrines stood clear as the Bible taught them. Finally they gleamed forth free from all the accumulated baggage of heathenism that had gotten mixed in starting from the first century.

Why did God send extra light? Because He knew we needed it! We are the most degenerate and degraded generation that has ever walked the earth. We are 6,000 years from Adam, and corruption is so great that none of us has been able to be born and grow up with out being corrupted in some way by the society we live in. None of us have been free from the 'Wine of Babylon', none of us have been

protected from the influence of heathenism because our society is satiated with it and we think it to be 'normal'. We think many heathen things are Christian, and that means all of us, I'm talking about the most enlightened SDA, all of us have been influenced by the wine of Babylon and corruptions of heathenism.

God gave us a special gift in the Spirit of Prophecy. He gave us line upon line, precept upon precept; he gave us minute counsel to cover every aspect of life that we could possibly run into. Sometimes it is spelled out so clearly that you feel that somehow, it was written just for your needs and mailed to you. The Conflict of the Ages series acts as a magnifying glass to show us most clearly the lessons in the Biblical accounts. And we need a magnifying glass as we have bad eyes! Otherwise why did Jesus tell us to anoint them with eye salve? The Spirit of Prophecy is a part of that eye salve that we need so desperately.

We need to fear when we becomes so cocky and so arrogant as to think that we can 'just use the Bible' because it is said that *IF* we had studied as we ought to have done, we wouldn't have needed the Spirit of Prophecy; and so now, after God has looked down and saw our desperate need and felt He had to provide these for us, they turn around and cockily say, "Yes Lord, that's fine for those guys over there, but I'm so smart Lord, I don't need what You say that I need."

Did you know that every time God sent light into the world there were always many who said- "Oh I don't need this, I'm fine with what I already have." It was said about the Old Testament prophets, the New Testament writers, the writers of the epistles and so on. They said the same thing to the Lord Himself; "We believe Moses, but who do you think YOU are?"

What does the Bible say? "Despise not prophesying, but try the prophets whether they are of God". Once this has been done, and it has, and the prophet has passed the tests, then he/she is to be accepted as the voice of God. If someone brings us a spiritual message, we are to look at it comparing it to the existing inspired counsel, if it passes the tests, it is truth. But what do we do when we find information that has some good stuff in it and yet has some things not true? That is what we need to look at now as many of us are falling for a mixture of truth and error especially in health lines.

Actually the Bible tells us what to do about such things, doesn't it? "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20. Notice it does not say we are to look carefully and gather light out of them, it says there is NO light in them! Not 100% according to the light of the Word? Then there is NO LIGHT in them. What a lot of trouble that rule can protect us from falling into!

We were given an amazing health reform message as our birthright. In it's original and pure form it is simple, powerful, available to all classes and in all countries, it has the blessing and sanction of God and it really works! If we had always followed this precious light we would have been one of the wonders of the world! Seventh-day Adventist health clinics and sanitariums, using the simple yet profound knowledge that has been our blessed inheritance, would have shone like a beacon into this dark and suffering world, alleviating sickness and suffering and giving a practical demonstration to the world that obedience to the laws of heaven is indeed a great blessing.

These simple health centers, using the 8 laws of health and simple hydrotherapy, basic massage and a few fundamental remedies like poultices of charcoal and such would have sprang up wherever a few of God's people were, and people would have learned to associate us with practical, simple and economic

health treatment, affordable even to the poorest and effective even to the richest. We could have left the worldly wise physicians to go the way of costly apparatus, huge emporiums of hospitals costing millions, and elaborate unnatural treatment and surgical facilities, as well as the ridiculously expensive schools to teach these man-made complexities.

Why, oh why is it, when God gives us the very best, perfect gifts, do we insist on mixing the pure heavenly light with more and more earthly dross until the last rays of that godly bounty flicker out and we are left no different in any way from the world?

Why am I dwelling at large on this subject? I'll explain, the Bible says in these last days, Satan shall seek to deceive, "Even the very elect"; now, who are the elect in SDA circles? Those who seek to follow the counsels. They see the worldly, drug based unnatural methods of our hospitals and they seek to move in a more natural direction. This is good if they remain on what the Lord has given us, But Satan jumps in with his holistic stuff- and by the way, he never would have gotten to first base in this 'New-Age' Holistic deluge that he is now using to sweep millions into the snare of spiritualism, if we would have been true to Our birthright! Our clinics teaching the simple God-given truths would have occupied the territory long before him and his agents would never have had the success they are now having. Also neither would the drug-based medical industry that has the world enslaved so badly now.

So Satan comes to the elect with his spiritualistic based 'therapies'; he starts with things really backed up in our health reform message and then mixes in a bit of poison. It is interesting to note that when the Israelites apostatized it was always by adding something from the heathen that wasn't really forbidden by God and seemed to have good in it, but it led minds away from the firm foundation and eventually more and more heathen things came to be seen as 'having a lot of good in them' and before you know it, it didn't even seem wrong to them to offer their children to idols! It has always worked the same way. This is always followed up by the ones accepting the 'advanced ideas' condemning and persecuting those who stand firm for God's truth as being backward and fanatical.

There was a time in the days of Nehemiah, that even the descendants of the priests had intermarried and mixed so with the heathen that they didn't even speak the Hebrew language any more and didn't understand the truths God had given them. I fear the same thing has been repeated today amongst us as we have adopted so much from the so called 'scientific community' and now we are taking in large draughts of spiritualistic, energy-concept theories from heathenism, that we speak only a polyglot and anyone who teaches the straight truth of our birthright, is no longer understood by us!

Why do I entitle this message, "Pulling the Plug on Power?" well you see, God does not give power to those who do not walk according to His council. He only promises power if we obey Him, completely. His power is to bless and enable His children to live in the ways He has laid down for them. He has never authorized us to add to, or take away from His counsel. If we do start practicing things He has not enjoined or neglecting things He has enjoined, He can't bless us, we cut the Power lines off completely.

His power can no longer be in one who has taken methodologies and theories from the world or heathenism and added them to our health message, he no longer has the power of heaven, God's blessing just won't be there!

On his own, man does not have power to do anything but obey Satan and exult himself. It is important to realize that the heathen don't have a monopoly on this problem, any time we try to practice

religious tenets of our own choosing God can't empower us, and the best we can ever become is a hypocrite just like the Pharisees! They refused to accept God's doctrines in the simplicity in which they were given and added their own rules to God's truths and embroidered them. So they had pulled the plug on God's enabling power and a life of externals and lying hypocrisy was the best they could ever have. Only religion that comes from God can lead to God!

We see another example there where people didn't recognize the language any more; Jesus came and what was He teaching? You know many people claim He had completely new, unheard of ideas! Some even go so far as to claim Jesus went to the east in His youth and brought his teaching from there! But every thing He taught was taken from their own scriptures! He had nothing new, but they had so far mixed in Greek philosophical error, their own traditions and departed from the Bible truths, that they didn't even recognize them any more. Jesus, through the enlightenment of the Spirit, stripped away the man-made additions and presented the pure scripture truth.

Whenever you mix the perfect word of God with any heathenism, the result is heathenism, it's not perfect anymore once it's mixed and it isn't the Word of God any more, once it's mixed. The Jews religion was mongrelized so badly they couldn't even understand the simple scripture truths any more. Jesus cleared away the trash and when the disciples first went forth to carry the truth of Christianity to the world, it was at first pure and so it was powerful. God could bless it.

Very early, however, scholars coming in from heathenism began to think that they could improve Christianity by combining the 'best' of their own higher educations in heathenism with it and once again, a mongrel religion came about. God's power could no longer bless and soon the church took hold of the arm of the state to enforce its now powerless religion and the papacy was born.

The health reform that was given us by God is perfect! It could not be improved upon. In its purity and completeness it is powerful and practiced as given to us according to God's instructions, it has the added power of His blessing! This message seems so simple that many grossly underestimate its power and grab after more complex theories of the world, which are only spiritualism in its new, scientific disguise, and seek to add to it or update it or make it even better, and the result is that we loose it, and we loose God's blessing and power. Then Satan lures us on into his snares until we loose our souls as well. God's pure message is backed with His omnipotent power, but just add to it man's theories and His blessing vanishes as the morning mist.

With the things of the Lord, there is solid, authoritative truth and even though one can go on learning forever and not exhaust the bounties of the Lord, as soon as you submit to Him you are given real solid evidence and have something to stand on that makes sense. "Taste and see that the Lord is good." God invites us, "Take of the water of life freely." When we have a "thus saith the Lord" then we know what the truth is, we don't have to suppose and wonder.

I am sad to tell you that some of the "New Theology" being preached in our pulpits today has the same effect, the person feels a wonderful exhilaration; he thinks he has never heard any thing quite so wonderful. He is sure he has received a real blessing from the Lord, but in reality it fades away and leaves him more spiritually dead than ever before. Whole audiences experience this 'false sense of revival' together, and when it wears off, they have to look for some new excitement to keep them going. The hypnotic power of demons is involved in these false doctrines. Don't ever underestimate the hold it can take on your mind!

I hope you are able to see the implications of this phenomenon in relation to alternative medicine. It is an easy thing for Satan's angels to give a pleasant sensation, or wonderful sense of well being as you receive one of these therapies, but unless you bring your life into harmony with God's genuine health laws, there can be no lasting benefit. People seem now to base their choices of whether or not to use a therapy on how it feels or if it seems to work. We must make our choices based on what the Bible and inspired counsel has told us is acceptable therapy in the sight of the Lord.

Remember, a treatment with God's blessing on it is worth far more than something under His curse! God has given us the laws of health, simple herbs, hydrotherapy and massage. Practices based on 'energy' theory, balancing of forces, eastern religions and such are not under His blessing even if they seem to be 'natural' to us. It is safer to err on the side of caution and have God's blessing than to take one step beyond the boundaries He has placed and lose it. Without God, no lasting good can come of it and Satan may use it as the doorway to come in and destroy your soul and others through your influence.

"Angels of God will preserve his people while they walk in the path of duty; but there is no assurance of such protection for those who deliberately venture upon Satan's ground"

"In the name of Christ I would address his professed followers: Abide in the faith which you have received from the beginning. "Shun profane and vain babblings." [2 Timothy. 2:16.] Instead of putting your trust in witchcraft, have faith in the living God. Cursed is the path that leads to Endor or to Ekron. The feet will stumble and fall that venture upon this forbidden ground. There is a God in Israel, with whom is deliverance for all who are oppressed. Righteousness is the foundation of his throne.

"There is danger in departing in the least from the Lord's instruction. When we deviate from the plain path of duty, a train of circumstances will arise that seems irresistibly to draw us farther and farther from the right. Needless intimacies with those who have no respect for God will seduce us ere we are aware. The fear of offending worldly friends will deter us from expressing our gratitude to God, or acknowledging our dependence upon him." Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene: Consulting Spiritualist Physicians 115

Now some point out that the Spirit of Prophecy talks about 'electric currents' in body and brain and so they feel that this verifies the 'energy balancing' theories. Well, it must be noted what God showed us effects those currents, and that if such therapies were important, God could easily have directed us to them instead of what He did give us.

"The brain nerves which communicate with the entire system are the only medium through which Heaven can communicate to man and affect his inmost life. Whatever disturbs the circulation of the electric currents in the nervous system lessens the strength of the vital powers, and the result is a deadening of the sensibilities of the mind" Testimonies, vol. 2, p. 347.

"...His Spirit, operating upon the heart, has acted like an electric battery, arousing the apparently benumbed faculties to vigorous and persevering action. ..." RC 300

"Physical inaction lessens not only mental but moral power. The brain nerves that connect with the whole system are the medium through which heaven communicates with man and affects the inmost life. Whatever hinders the circulation of the electric current in the nervous system, thus weakening the

vital powers and lessening mental susceptibility, makes it more difficult to arouse the moral nature." Education 209.

"These signs shall follow them that believe on Christ as a risen Saviour, who proclaimed, over the rent sepulcher of Joseph, "I am the resurrection, and the life." But if the workers neglect to link themselves in divine connection with God, the electric current of reviving, life-giving spiritual energy can not flow in full, rich streams to the people." RH 07-19-98.

What are we shown here that affects this current of electric energy? Why clearly the laws of health and contact with the power of God through His Spirit! So we have been given the best energy therapy on the planet and we certainly don't need to run after Satan to have something from him. Can't you see what his game is? By getting people looking to each other for energy and rituals and therapies, he keeps them away from looking to God and plugging into Real Power!

Remember, don't depend on feelings to show you guidelines as to what is right or wrong, or what you should or shouldn't do. Feelings and sensations and impressions and 'wonderful experiences' are all Satan's specialties to deceive, manipulate and lure man to destruction. It can be so real! You can be so sure you are seeing wonderful light when all is darkness! If you follow your own ideas, or the ideas of any man, ancient or modern, you walk in the sparks of your own kindling, not in God's heavenly light and there is no real power!

"There is a science that the Most High would have these great men understand; but they can not see the Truth, the Life, the Light of the world. Human science is not divine enlightenment. Divine science is the demonstration of the Spirit of God, inspiring implicit faith in him. The men of the world suppose this faith to be beneath the notice of their great and intelligent minds, something too low to give attention to; but here they make a great mistake. It is altogether too high for their human intelligence to reach." RH 07-18-99

I urge you, dear ones, don't leave God's table, where on are heaped all the treasures of eternity and the universe, to seek for scraps of truth in Satan's dumpster. Everything worth having has already been given to us. God will give you much more; wonderful heartfelt Joy and Peace through His Word and in harmony with His truth. The security of belonging to Jesus, who loves us, is better than any of Satan's counterfeits. Take God's inspired writings, pray for guidance, ask God for the Holy Spirit to be your personal Teacher, Your Master, (He never rejects a student!) bring to Him whatever questions you have and allow Him to lead you into all truth.