

The Full Inspiration of the Word of God: Bible and Spirit of Prophecy

From Seven Threatened Truths

The Written Word of God, the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, is fully inspired. We who know about the Spirit of Prophecy have a responsibility to study it, obey it, and defend it. It is equal in inspiration, accuracy, and authority with the Bible.

"If you lose confidence in the Testimonies you will drift away from Bible truth. I have been fearful that many would take a questioning, doubting position, and in my distress for your souls I would warn you. How many will heed the warning? As you now hold the Testimonies, should one be given crossing your track, correcting your errors, would you feel at perfect liberty to accept or reject any part or the whole? That which you will be least inclined to receive is the very part most needed." 5 Testimonies. 98.

"It is Satan's plan to weaken the faith of God's people in the Testimonies. Satan knows how to make his attacks. . The gifts are next questioned: then, of course, they have but little weight, and instruction given through vision is disregarded." 5 Testimonies. 672.

"Next follows skepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the pillars of our position, then doubt as to the Holy Scriptures and then the downward march to perdition. When the Testimonies, which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable and ends in destruction." 4 Testimonies. 211.

"I was shown that many had so little spirituality that they did not understand the value of the Testimonies or their real object. They talked flippantly of the Testimonies given by God for the benefit of His people, and passed judgment upon them, giving their opinion and criticizing this and that, when they would better have placed their hands upon their lips, and prostrated themselves in the dust; for they could not appreciate the spirit of the Testimonies, because they knew so little of the Spirit of God." 5 Testimonies. 672-673.

"God sets no man to pronounce judgment on His Word, selecting some things as inspired and discrediting others as uninspired. The testimonies have been treated in the same way; but God is not in this." 1 Selected Messages 23.

"There are some in -- who have never fully submitted to reproof. They have taken a course of their own choosing. They have ever, to a greater or less degree, exerted an influence against those who have stood up to defend the right and reprove the wrong. The influence of these persons upon individuals who come here and who are brought in contact with them . . is very bad. They fill the minds of these newcomers with questionings and doubts in regard to the Testimonies of the Spirit of God. They put false constructions upon the Testimonies." 4 Testimonies, 513-514.

"Some express their views that the testimony of Sister White cannot be reliable. This is all that many unconsecrated ones want. The testimonies of reproof have checked their vanity and pride; but if they dared, they would go to almost any length in fashion and pride. God will give all such an opportunity to prove themselves and to develop their true characters." 5 Testimonies. 673.

"I saw that the reason why visions had not been more frequent of late is, they have not been appreciated by the church. The church have nearly lost their spirituality and faith, and the reproofs and warnings have had but little effect upon them. Many of those who have professed faith in them have not heeded them." 1 Testimonies 119.

"I have been shown that unbelief in the testimonies of warning, encouragement, and reproof is shutting away the light from God's people. Unbelief is closing their eyes so that they are ignorant of their true condition." 5 Testimonies 674.

"If you really believe that the voice of God has spoken to you, pointing out your dangers, do you heed the counsels given? Do you keep these testimonies of warning fresh in your minds by reading them often with prayerful hearts? . . . You will be held accountable for every one of these appeals and warnings." 3 Testimonies, 362-363.

"There will be a hatred kindled against the testimonies which is satanic. The workings of Satan will be to unsettle the faith of the churches in them, for this reason: Satan cannot have so clear a track to bring in his deceptions and bind up souls in his delusions if the warnings and reproofs and counsels of the Spirit of God are heeded." 1 Selected Messages, 48

"Satan is . . . constantly pressing in the spurious to lead away from the truth. The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. 'Where there is no vision, the people perish' (Proverbs 29:18). Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony." 1 Selected Messages, 48 [see 2 SM 78 for context].

The Full Acceptance of God's Word

"In ancient times God spoke to men by the mouth of prophets and apostles. In these days He speaks to them by the testimonies of His Spirit. There was never a time when God instructed His people more earnestly than He instructs them now concerning His will and the course that He would have them pursue." 4 Testimonies 147-148.

"The plain, straight testimony must live in the church, or the curse of God will rest upon His people as surely as it did upon ancient Israel because of their sins." 3 Testimonies, 269.

"Never was there greater need of faithful warnings and reproofs. . . than at this very time. Satan has come down with great power, knowing that his time is short. He is flooding the world with pleasing fables, and the people of God love to have smooth things spoken to them . . . I was shown that God's people must make more firm, determined efforts to press back the incoming darkness. The close work of the Spirit of God is needed now as never before." 3 Testimonies, 327-328.

"My brethren, beware of the evil heart of unbelief. The Word of God is plain and close in its restrictions; it interferes with your selfish indulgence; therefore you do not obey it. The Testimonies of His Spirit call your attention to the Scriptures, point out your defects of character, and rebuke your sins; therefore you do not heed them. And to justify your carnal, ease-loving course you begin to doubt whether the Testimonies are from God. If you would obey their teachings you would be assured of their divine origin. Remember, your unbelief does not affect their truthfulness. If they are from God they will stand." 5 Testimonies, 234.

"There are some in these last days who will cry: 'Speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits.' But this is not my work. God has set me as a reprover of His people; and just so surely as He has laid upon me the heavy burden. He will make those to whom this message is given responsible for the manner in which they treat it. God will not be trifled with, and those who despise His work will receive according to their deeds." 4 Testimonies, 231-232.

"If God has given me a message to bear to His people, those who would hinder me in the work and lessen the faith of the people in its truth are not fighting against the instrument, but against God." 5 Testimonies, 680.

"It is not the instrument whom you slight and insult, but God, who has spoken to you in these warnings and reproofs. It is hardly possible for men to offer a greater insult to God than to despise and reject the instrumentalities that He has appointed to lead them." 5 Testimonies. 680.

"One stood by my side and said: 'God has raised you up and has given you words to speak to the people and to reach hearts as He has given to no other one. He has shaped your testimonies to meet cases that are in need of help. You must be unmoved by scorn, derision, reproach, and censure. In order to be God's Special instrument . . . It is Satan's special object to prevent this light from coming to the people of God, who so greatly need it amid the perils of these last days.'" 2 Testimonies. 607-608.

"The volumes of Spirit of Prophecy should be in every family, and should be read aloud in the family circle. . . The Testimonies contain instruction which meets the case of all, both parents and children." Sons and Daughters of God. 178.

"Parents, your children are in danger of going contrary to the light given of heaven, and you should both purchase and read the books, for they will be a blessing to you and yours. You should lend Spirit of Prophecy to your neighbors and prevail upon them to buy copies for themselves. . . Many are going directly contrary to the light which God has given to His people, because they do not read the books which contain the light and knowledge in cautions, reproofs, and warnings." 4 Testimonies. 391.

"We are not to receive the words of those who come with a message that contradicts the special points of our faith." Counsels to Writers and Editors. 32.

"The track of truth lies close beside the track of error, and both tracks may seem to be one to minds, which are not worked by the Holy Spirit." 1 Selected Messages, 202.

"God is either teaching His church, reproofing their wrongs and strengthening their faith, or He is not. This work is of God, or it is not. God does nothing in partnership with Satan. My work. . . bears the stamp of God or the stamp of the enemy. There is no halfway work in the matter." 5 Testimonies, 671.

The Authority of God and His Word

God's people cannot find success in their personal lives or in their service for God, until they are fully yielded to His authority and the authority of His Inspired Writings.

THE BIBLE

"For He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes." Matthew 7:29.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All authority hath been given unto Me in heaven and on earth." Matthew 28: 18.

THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

"The Lord God of heaven ruleth. He alone is above all authority, over all kings and rulers." Temperance, 53.

"In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, I beseech the people of God to depend upon the Lord for strength. Beware how you place men where God should be. We are not safe in taking men as our authority or our guide, for they will surely disappoint us. Individually, we are to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, 'for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.' We have a high calling in Christ Jesus; we are carrying forward a vast and holy work, and God calls upon each one to uplift His standard in the sight of this world and of the universe of heaven, by the power of the Lord Jehovah, in whom is 'everlasting strength.'" Testimonies to Ministers, 386.

"The Word of our God shall stand forever.' 'All His commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.' Isaiah 40:8; Psalm 111:7-8. Whatever is built upon the authority of man will be overthrown; but that which is founded upon the rock of God's immutable Word' shall stand forever." Great Controversy, 288.

"The opinions and customs of men are not to be received as of divine authority, God has revealed in His Word what is the whole duty of man, and we are not to be swayed from the great standard of righteousness . . . We must not be influenced from the truth as it is in Jesus, because great and professedly good men urge their ideas above the plain statements of the Word of God." Fundamentals of Education, 128.

"But when the world makes void the law of God, what will be the effect upon the truly obedient and righteous? Will they be carried away by the strong current of evil? Because so many rank themselves under the banner of the prince of darkness, will God's commandment-keeping people swerve from their allegiance? Never! Not one who is abiding in Christ will fail or fall. His followers will bow in obedience to a higher authority than that of any earthly potentate. While the contempt placed upon God's commandments leads many to suppress the truth and show less reverence for it, the faithful ones will with greater earnestness hold aloft its distinguishing truths. We are not left to our own direction. In all our ways we should acknowledge God, and He will direct our paths. We should consult His Word with humble hearts, ask His counsel, and give up our will to His. We can do nothing without God." 2 Selected Messages, 368-369.

The responsibility for this great gift rests with those whom God has blessed with a knowledge of His word. We are to receive this Word as supreme authority. We must obey God rather than men, God's Word must be recognized as above all human legislation. A 'Thus saith the Lord' is not to be set aside for a 'Thus saith the church' or a 'Thus saith the state,' The crown of Christ is to be lifted above the diadems of earthly potentates." Acts of the Apostles, 69.

"The principle we are to uphold at this time is the same that was maintained by the adherents of the gospel in the great Reformation. When the princes assembled at the Diet of Spires in 1529, it seemed that the hope of the world was about to be crushed out. To this assembly was presented the emperor's decree restricting religious liberty and prohibiting all further dissemination of the reformed doctrines. Would the princes of Germany accept the decree? Should the light of the gospel be shut out from the multitudes that were still in darkness? Mighty issues for the world were at stake. Those who had accepted the reformed faith met together, and the unanimous decision was: 'Let us reject the decree. In matters of conscience the majority has no power.'

"The banner of truth and religious liberty which these Reformers held aloft has in this last conflict been committed to us. The responsibility for this great gift rests with those whom God has blessed with a knowledge of His Word. We are to receive God's Word as supreme authority, We must accept its truths for ourselves. And we can appreciate these truths only as we search them out by personal study. Then, as we make God's Word the guide of our lives, for us is answered the prayer of Christ. . The acknowledgment of the truth in word and deed is our confession of faith. Only thus can others know that we believe the Bible.

"Those Reformers whose protest has given us the name Protestant felt that God had called them to give the gospel to the world, and in doing this they were ready to sacrifice their possessions, their liberty, and their lives. Are we in this last conflict of the great controversy as faithful to our trust as were the early Reformers to theirs?" 6 Testimonies, 402-403.

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].