

*our firm*  
**FOUNDATION**

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The Immutable Law of God • Christ Our Righteousness • The Seventh-day Sabbath  
The Three Angels' Messages • The Non-Immortality of the Soul • The Sanctuary

# GROWING IN CHRIST



**IN THIS ISSUE: Constant Attainment Essential to Christian Life | Fellowship With Christ When God "Fights," What Kind of Fight Is It? | Climb to the Heights | The True Israel Health Gem: Broccoli - King of the Crucifers | Ellen White's Vision: Prayer and Faith**

# Editorial

Clark Floyd



Clark Floyd, editor of Our Firm Foundation magazine, has been co-host of the radio program Bible Answers with Clark and Lee and is a licensed attorney and an ordained Seventh-day Adventist pastor. He has spoken internationally and makes his home in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina.

My wife has been saving cats from euthanasia for many years and offering them for adoption to find nice homes for them. She has a web site, Marypaws.com, and has adopted out many cats to people who first came upon a cat they were interested in through her web site. It has always amazed me how far people will come in order to get a cat or a kitten they have seen on the web site.

The longest distance that we have ever seen a cat go for adoption has been to the Virgin Islands. This happened several years ago. A fellow employee of a lady in the Virgin Islands was coming to the Asheville area for a business meeting. I was able to meet this lady at the airport and bring her a cat to take back to her friend in the Virgin Islands.

These cats and kittens are not a special breed. They come from a county animal shelter my wife worked at for awhile, or from somebody turning over a cat or kitten they have found. My wife began doing these adoptions when she realized how many cats were being euthanized at the animal shelter.

Our home is twenty miles from the nearest town, Asheville, North Carolina, but people regularly drive here to get a cat or kitten. Some drive from other states. My wife also has two adoption days per week in Asheville.

This is not a profitable activity. All of the cats are spayed or neutered, given shots, fed, and sometimes taken to the veterinarian. But the satisfaction of saving lives, providing homes for these animals, and reaching out to people that might not otherwise be touched with the gospel makes it all worth while. Through her adoption activities we have met people from many walks of life, many of whom we would never have met in any other manner, and we have been able to share literature with some of these folks.

One of the most recent interesting persons who came here to adopt a cat was a lady who was originally from Russia. She and her husband won a lottery in which the prize was a “green card” and citizenship in the United States. They did not know anyone in this country. She closed her eyes and put her finger on a map of the United States and found her finger to be pointing to South Carolina, where they first moved. From there they went to Texas, and finally to Virginia. Her husband is a truck driver. They have been in this country 4 ½ years. She has a friend from the Ukraine who has helped her with her English.

This lady and her husband were unable to bring many possessions with them. They were unable to bring their two cats which they loved dearly. She found a cat on my wife’s web site that looked almost identical to her favorite cat that was left behind. She drove 4 ½ hours from Virginia to get to our home in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina to pick up the twin to her

cat—she showed us a picture of her cat, and the resemblance was uncanny.

Of course the trip back was another 4 ½ hours. But before she left, my wife gave her a copy of The Great Controversy. And that is the interesting “rest of the story”. Over twenty years ago when I was doing a lot of travel overseas for evangelistic purposes, I traveled with Steve Dickey to the Ukraine. I came back from that trip with a copy of the Russian Great Controversy. It had been sitting on our bookcase shelf for all those years. My wife had wondered why we had it and what we would do with it. She thought of that book as she spoke with this woman over the adoption. She asked the lady if she was a Christian, and the woman said she was not, but that her Russian friend back in Virginia was going to a weekly Bible study. My wife indicated to her that they both might want to read this book, and she agreed to take it with her.

The friend called a couple of days after our Russian lady returned home and thanked my wife for the book.

God cares for all people and would that all would be saved. He desires that we would be ready to reach out and touch people with His words when the opportunity comes. “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’” MH 143.

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*He desires that we would be ready to reach out and touch people with His words when the opportunity comes.*

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**Our Mission:**

It is the mission of Hope International and the editors of *Our Firm Foundation* to clearly present Christ and His truth. The days remaining for this world are few, and we must work quickly. We must boldly proclaim the historic truths of Adventism that place us on so firm a foundation in the midst of this troubled world. —Editor

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# GROWING IN CHRIST

By Peter Laurin



Do you desire a deeper and closer relationship with Jesus and His Father? Is it your desire to know Him and to please Him, growing closer to Him every day? Do you want to be able to pray earnestly and sincerely so that you can almost hear God's voice? We need to allow God to touch our hearts so that Jesus becomes our main focus so that we will faithfully and intimately follow Him, wherever and however He may lead us.

## **How intimate do you want your relationship with Christ to be?**

One of the questions I always seem to be asking myself is this: "How can I live for God and grow in Jesus?" My heart's desire is to grow closer to God. We are told in James, "Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners, and purify your hearts, ye double-minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning,

and your joy into heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up" James 4:8-10.

Some people say that a person is as close to God as they want to be. What they mean by that, I am not sure. I know as I've grown up in the church I've seen a lot of people who are quite content to be where they are; and that is as far as they want to go in their relationship with God. Then there are those who seem to be totally on fire for God and in a close, intimate relationship with Him. This is the type of relationship I would like to have with God. This is the relationship that will be most productive on the road toward salvation.

## **If we truly follow the Lord, we will experience life in all its bounty**

"If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15. We should be obedient to what God's Word says. There are too many people today who claim that Jesus died for our sins and this allows us to do whatever we want and still be saved. This is a very dangerous thought to have. When Jesus Himself says to keep His Commandments, this is what we should do. Because God wants the very best for us in our lives, this is not an unfair request at all. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:5,6. If we listen to the Lord and follow Him as He asks, we will experience life in all its bounty. Jesus says in John 10:10, the second part, "...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

The family unit is meant to represent the church's relationship with God. Christ is the head of the family as well as the head of the church. Just as we are called to respect and obey our earthly parents we are all the more to respect and obey our Father who is in Heaven!

If I want to seek after the Lord and

learn to recognize His voice more, then I have to do what He tells me. It's no good for us to come to God each day praying, "What do You want me to do to get closer to You?" when He has already told us repeatedly and we ignore what He said because it is not what we want to hear.

### **Our sin is the primary cause of our separation from God**

As Jesus, who had everything, had to humble Himself by becoming human and going to the cross in obedience, we also need to learn humility and obedience. Paul tells us in Philippians 2:5-8, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

It's one thing to know we need to obey God, but another thing altogether to live our lives to show that we do indeed follow His Word.

James 4:8-10 tells us of our need to be forgiven of our sins, because it is our sin that is the primary cause of our separation from God. It is the reason why Christ had to come to Earth and

die! Every time we fall back into sin we are breaking the relationship we have with God.

### **Forgiving others is often a challenge**

As much as we need to be right with God, we also need to be right with our fellow man. Jesus said: "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Matthew 6:14-15.

This teaching is very important, but in some cases also one of the hardest things to do. In Matthew 18:23, Jesus told the parable of a servant who was forgiven by the king for his large debts, but then this servant went on to punish another servant who owed him a far less money. When the king found out how the servant treated his fellow servant, the king punished the first servant severely. In Matthew 18:35, Jesus ended the parable by stating, "So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses."

I'm sure this is or has been a challenge to all of us. Very often, when we tell ourselves we "need" to forgive someone we don't really feel like it. These are the times we need to be very earnest in our prayers. We need to pray intensely in Jesus' name because we lack the ability to forgive them at that moment. No matter what someone does to you, no matter how great it hurts, we need to remember that we have been forgiven of so much more by God than anything another can do to us. We can't allow ourselves to be like the wicked servant in the parable because every day we need continued forgiveness for our sins.



### **We cannot be forgiven unless we forgive**

If you ever think a day goes by in which you don't sin and need forgiveness, then according to the Bible you deceive yourself. 1 John 1:8 tells us, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." Sin tends to put up a barrier between God and us and we can't do anything about it - we are totally reliant on Jesus to make us right with God again. If we want to be growing closer to God we need to rely on forgiveness, which is not a "do it once" and all is forgiven, it is a continual process of confession and repentance every day of your life until the Lord returns. As mentioned before, we can't be forgiven unless we too forgive. We have to love those who hurt us and we have to pray for them, not only because that's what sets us apart as Christians, but it is what Jesus tells us to. You can find this in Matthew 5:43-47. Jesus also tells us earlier in Matthew that if we bring a gift to God and remember we have not forgiven someone, we are to leave our gift at the altar and go reconcile with our brother and then return to offer the gift.

What is God's greatest desire for you? God sees you as a precious treasure, and He wants to have a close relationship with you. More than anything He wants us to have a love relationship with Him. God wants you to spend time with Him and communicate closely with Him,





to enjoy fellowship with Him, to trust and follow Him. God wants to give our life meaning and purpose and He does this by giving us the privilege of joining Him in His work.

**After you become a Christian, what are the things you should do to continue to grow closer to Christ?**

**1. PRAYER**

The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, and Jesus taught them the simple prayer we know as “The Lord’s Prayer”. Prayer does not need to have special or fancy words. Prayer is talking to God. We tell God what we think, what we like, what we fear, and what we want, and we can be sure that God hears us.

As Creator, God has all the power of the universe. We can be sure that he is able and willing to answer our prayers. But he is also wise enough not to give us everything we ask for. As James says in James 4:3, “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye seek amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.” Or in other words, “When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may fulfill your pleasures.” God doesn’t give to us what isn’t good for us. He doesn’t want to hurt us, or to make us selfish brats.

Although there is much that can be said about prayer, the main thing is to *keep* praying. In the Lord’s prayer we ask for “daily bread” — we look to God to supply daily needs. That means we pray each day. Looking

to God each day, it should become a habit in our lives. It should build a relationship with God.

**2. BIBLE STUDY**

Christians have found that regular Bible study; reading and thinking about the words inspired by God, is also a way that God can speak to us.

Although the words came through human beings, the message came from God. We are told in 2 Peter 1:21, “... holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” As a result of this, these writings, “...are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” 2 Timothy 3:15.

But again, the key is to *keep* studying; the Bible is a big book, with ideas that touch on many things in our life. Although the main message is simple, and the Bible does interpret itself, it is also filled with profound insights. There are many things to think about, each time we read it, but we need to remember that, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” 2 Timothy 3:16,17.

Even though God tells us “My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways...” Isaiah 55:8. He does reveal His thoughts to us. These are things that He wants us to know, so we do our part to try to understand them. The Bible tells us what God is like,

what He has done, what He will do. These are the writings that also tell us what Jesus Christ is like, and what He wants us to be like.

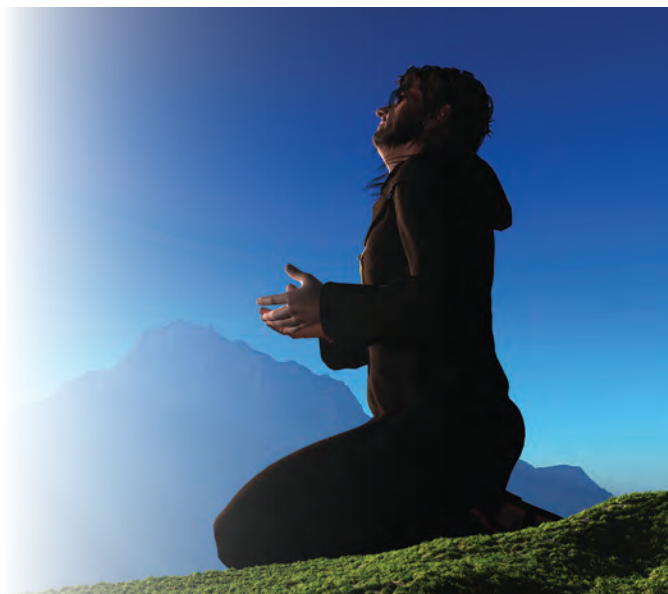
The Bible has been called a “love letter from God” and “God’s instruction manual”. It is worth reading the Bible over and over again, and we should make time for doing it.

**3. FELLOWSHIP**

God doesn’t just call people — He calls them to come together and become brothers and sisters. The Bible tells us that people who believe in Jesus Christ are part of a family, the “Family of God”.

In Acts 2:40-46 you see that the early Christians were a close-knit community of believers, meeting together, eating together, and discussing their faith together. In 1 Corinthians 12:27 Paul said that the followers of Christ become the “body of Christ”. We are not the body individually, but as a whole. Each part of the body has its job, and, as Paul says in the first part of 1 Corinthians, all the parts cannot do the same job. The body is not made up of one part, but many parts. We each have different strengths and abilities, given to us by God to help one another. No one has all the ability; this is why we need to work together so that we can benefit from one another.

In some ways, we are able to give



help to others; but in other areas, we receive help from other believers. We are working together, learning to care for one another, growing in Christ. That is why God has brought us together and given us different abilities.

This is the reason we are told in Hebrews 10:25, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

#### 4. WORSHIP



When we Christians get together, we not only get together to discuss and learn about Jesus, but we also gather to worship God. When we do this, we express how much He is worth to us. We praise Him for his greatness and goodness, we humble ourselves before Him, we thank Him for what He gives, we look to Him for help, and we show our desire to do what He wants.

As a part of worship, we use music. Hymns help express our emotions in a way that common words can't. Paul tells us in Colossians 3:16, "Let the word of God dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord."

But worship includes more than

music; it includes our entire lives. The Bible tells us "...to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God,..." Romans 12:1. Praying shows how much God is worth to us, and praying is an act of worship.

Every time we study the Bible, to learn more about God, we are worshiping Him. Every time we do what Jesus tells us to do, every time we change our behavior in response to what He says, we are worshiping God. Every time we tell someone about God's love we are worshiping Him.

God wants us to worship Him; and He does this for our good, not His. God doesn't need to be flattered. This is one of the ways that we are drawn closer to Him, it helps us to see the wonderful things He has in store for us.

#### 5. MINISTRY

As mentioned above, God has called us together to serve one another. Since God has given us certain abilities "for the common good" (1 Corinthians 12:7), We are supposed to use the abilities He has

given us, no matter how insignificant we think they are, to serve others. God tells us this for our good. We grow spiritually by doing this. We become more mature Christians, more like Jesus Christ.

In 1 Peter 2:5, we are told that each of us is a "priest". Each one of us is to offer spiritual sacrifice and worship with praise and prayers.

Every Christian is a minister, pastor or priest, whichever you wish. Each one of these people is called to serve in the way that God enables them. Singers and church leaders also serve in the way that God enables them, as do apostles, prophets, evangelists, and teachers.

The point is that everyone is to serve. Everyone ministers in one way or another, and by doing so, we are all strengthened in the faith.

It has been said that the way we live our lives will be the only sermon some people will see.

Each one should use whatever gift



he or she has received to serve others. Peter said in 1 Peter 4:11, "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through



Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever, Amen.”

### What are some of the things we can do to stay close to Jesus?

**Live humbly**, and provide no place for doubt. From the Gospel, you know that Jesus is the “Lamb of God”. He was tempted like everyone else, but sinned not -- so as He was as meek as an innocent lamb, we should be also.

**Offer a hand to others**. Help them to receive all that God has for them: Include prayer and medicine. Use doctors that God has given us in these modern times, as well as His healing the spirit, not just the body, and appreciate everything good as being from God.

**Give to the poor**. Think of living for the good of others. That includes being kind and helping even your enemy to be better. Serve Christ with kindness to all people. You know that God rejoices to see that love for others is growing in you.

**Soften hard hearts** with the love of God. Through the help of the Holy Spirit see your own doubt and fear melt away by bringing Christ to others. Help the spiritually blind see their way out of darkness into the light and love of Jesus Christ.

- Be careful, however; we are told in John 3:19,20, that some will love darkness more than light.

The correct approach is to speak of the love of God and Jesus. Do not bring church doctrine into the conversation unless they ask. If they reject the Word of God, let them stay in the dark as they choose.

- Remember what we are told in Matthew 7:6, “Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.” If you try to preach Jesus to those who don’t want to hear, they will bring up everything they know about you and the things you did before you found Christ. And... if you are not talking and acting like a Christian, they will let you know.
- Another thing to remember, “Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye.” Don’t try to tell others what is wrong in their lives unless you are living a perfect life.

**Feed the hungry**. Help the poor and hungry. Although you are not judged on your works, you can lay up treasures in heaven by helping others, and they will see your desire to do God’s will. Give what you can afford to the poor. But then, do not ask for

repayment. When giving to the poor and feeding the hungry, do not brag about it or tell everyone what you are doing. In Matthew 6:1-4 we are told that we should do our helping of others in secret. When we do, God will reward us openly.

**Appreciate the gift of choice**. God allows Satan to tempt us. But, God gives us the strength to choose what we will do. When you choose God’s way freely and without pride, you have the satisfaction of knowing what you have done is right. Seek to do the will of God and choose to follow Jesus Christ. There is nothing to fear when you are doing His will.

**Stop making excuses**. When you make the wrong choices in your own life, accept the fact that you have sinned, but remember that there is Someone you can turn to, to help you get back on the right path.

**Live your new life in Christ to its fullest**. This life is by grace through faith into good work, which leads to a new way of thinking, like getting a new mind - the Mind of Christ.

**Expect to see Jesus return**. Don’t doubt. Jesus promised before He departed that He would return to receive us that we will be with Him where He is. Know that you can have the assurance of salvation.





# Constant Attainment Essential to Christian Life

[SERMON AT POTTERVILLE, MICH., NOV. 24, 1888]

By Mrs. E. G. White

Text: "Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God; even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints; to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. Whereunto I also labor, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily." Colossians 1:25-29.

## *The work of ministry cannot be done negligently*

In this scripture, instruction is given as to the position of those who are seeking to open the word of God to others. This work cannot be done negligently. It cannot be undertaken in mere human strength. The work of the ministry has been carried forward altogether too much in our own human wisdom. We have seemed to think that an understanding of the theory of the truth was sufficient for the work. When we have talked to the people, we have gone over the ground to them, and explained all the lines of truth, and yet we have not brought into it the divine power of the truth to transform the life and character. When the work of God is done mechanically, it cannot be effective in converting souls. Though we have the truth, though our position be so well taken that our enemies cannot controvert it, this is not all that is necessary. There must be a power with our work beyond the mere

knowledge of the theory of the truth. We must have divine energy to accompany our human effort.

## *The truth of God is infinite*

Paul speaks of the riches of the glory of the mystery that is to be made known to the Gentiles. There are many mysteries in the word of God that we do not comprehend, and many of us are content to stop our investigation when we have just begun to receive a little knowledge concerning Christ. When there begins to be a little unfolding of the divine purposes to the mind, and we begin to obtain a slight knowledge of the character of God, we become satisfied, and think that we have received about all the light that there is for us in the word of God. But the truth of God is infinite. With painstaking effort, we should work in the mines of truth, discovering the precious jewels that have been hidden. It is the minister's privilege to have a constant supply of fresh truth for the people. He should be in such a position that he can bring from the treasure-house of God not the same thing over and over, but new beauty and new truth.

The Spirit of God will rest upon the diligent searcher for truth. He who desires the truth in his heart, who longs for the working of its power upon the life and character, will be sure to have it. Says the Saviour, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled." When ministers themselves taste and see that the Lord is good, when their minds are filled with thoughts of heaven, then the eternal realities of the unseen





world will open to their understanding, and they will be able to present the truth of God, and it will make an impression upon human minds.

*We should draw fresh, new matter from the store-house of God's word*

Those who seek for more and still more of the Spirit of God, will not be disappointed. They will hold daily communion with God, and divine power will surely attend their efforts as they present the truth. As certainly as the truth is presented in the Spirit of Christ, it will reach the hearts of the people. Brethren, we should not go into the desk unless we have previously devoted some time to wrestling with God in prayer. We should not be satisfied to use the set discourses that we have preached over and over for the last ten, fifteen, or twenty years. We should draw fresh, new matter from the store-house of God's word. We are desirous that the angels of God may stand by our side when we are in the sacred desk, that God may impress the mind; that there may be glorious unfoldings of the truth; that it may be presented in the demonstration of the Spirit; that it may be meat in due season to the flock of God. It is the special grace of God that makes the sermon effectual. The minister's words will have very little influence upon the people, unless divine enlightenment accompanies them to the hearts of the hearers. We need much more of the Spirit of God than we have had in the past. Brethren, how long are you going to continue to labor without receiving the holy unction from on high?

*The Bible should be studied with prayer*

If you search the Scriptures with a meek and teachable spirit, your efforts will be richly rewarded. "The natural man receiveth not of the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." The Bible should be studied with prayer. We should pray as did David, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of

thy law." No man can have insight into the word of God without the illumination of the Holy Spirit. If we will but come into the right position before God, his light will shine upon us in rich, clear rays. This was the experience of the early disciples. The Scriptures declare that "when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as a rushing, mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." God is willing to give us a similar blessing, when we seek for it as earnestly.

The Lord did not lock the reservoir of heaven after pouring his Spirit upon the early disciples. We, also, may receive of the fullness of his blessing. Heaven is full of the treasures of his grace, and those who come to God in faith may claim all that he has promised. If we do not have his power it is because of our spiritual lethargy, our indifference, our indolence. Let us come out of this formality and deadness.

*Compare scripture with scripture, and spiritual things with spiritual*

There is a great work to be done for this time, and we do not half realize what the Lord is willing to do for his people. We talk about the first angel's message, and the second angel's message, and we think we have some understanding of the third angel's message; but we should not be satisfied with our present knowledge. Our petitions, mingled with faith and contrition, should go up to God, for an understanding of the mysteries that God would make known to his saints. We should have a realization that unless taught by the Holy Spirit, we shall not rightly comprehend the Bible; for it is a sealed book even to the learned, who are wise in their own conceit. Jesus meant just what he said when he directed his disciples to "search the Scriptures." Searching means to compare scripture with scripture, and spiritual



things with spiritual. We should not be satisfied with a superficial knowledge. We should search for the hidden treasure concealed beneath the surface, as the merchant-man seeks for goodly pearls. Light, great light, will reward the diligent searcher for truth.

*We are living on the borders of the eternal world*

There are many who have not taxed their mental powers, and who have no experience in putting to the stretch their utmost ability to find out what is truth. It is not possible that the Holy Spirit shall fall upon you unless you feel your need, and are more desirous for its descent than you now are. You should realize that you are living upon the very borders of the eternal world, that Christ is coming very soon, and that all heaven is interested in the work that is in progress in fitting up a people for his coming. If ever there was a people that needed to heed the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodicean church to be zealous and to repent before God, it is the people who have had opened up before them the stupendous truths for this time, and who have not lived up to their high privileges and responsibilities. We have lost much in not living up to the light of the solemn truths which we profess to believe.

*We need to have the experience of Isaiah, with living coals placed upon our lips*

Isaiah had a wonderful view of God's glory. He saw the manifestation of God's power, and after beholding his majesty, a message came to him to go and do a certain work. He felt wholly unworthy for the work. What made him esteem himself unworthy? Did he think himself unworthy before he had a view of God's glory?-- No; he imagined himself in a righteous state before God; but when the glory of the Lord of hosts was revealed to him, when he beheld the inexpressible majesty of God, he said, "I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphim unto me, having a living coal in his hands, which



he had taken with the tongs from off the altar, and he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged." This is the work that as individuals we need to have done for us. We want the living coal from off the altar placed upon our lips. We want to hear the word spoken, "Thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged."

*Wrestling with the problems of truth in the Bible will develop the intellect*

If you are content to think and to preach in one narrow channel, you will not advance in understanding, nor know the depth and grandeur of the truth. If you desire to understand the mysteries of God, you must search the Scriptures. There is nothing that will develop the intellect like wrestling with the great problems of truth revealed in God's word. You may keep your mind in constant meditation and prayer, even when your hands are busy. The truth of God is a treasure that is of more value than everything else in the world. Its priceless value is illustrated by the parable of Christ, concerning the man who found a treasure in a field, and he went and bought that field, that he might plow every part of it, and search out all the treasure that it contained. The blessed Bible, the field that contains the treasure, the garden of God, is open to you. Search the Scriptures; dig in the mines of truth until the precious jewels that have been hidden there for ages shall be brought out, and you can present them to the people.

*It is our work to free the precious truths of God from superstition and error*

In the time of the Saviour, the Jews had so covered over the precious jewels of truth with the rubbish of tradition and fable, that it was impossible to distinguish the true from the false. The Saviour came to clear away the rubbish of superstition and long-cherished errors, and to set the jewels of God's word in the frame-work of truth. What would the Saviour do if he should come to us now as he



did to the Jews? He would have to do a similar work in clearing away the rubbish of tradition and ceremony. The Jews were greatly disturbed when he did this work. They had lost sight of the original truth of God, but Christ brought it again to view. It is our work to free the precious truths of God from superstition and error. What a work is committed to us in the gospel! An angel's pen could not portray all the glory of the revealed plan of redemption. The Bible tells how Christ bore our sins, and carried our sorrows. Here is revealed how mercy and truth have met together at the cross of Calvary, how righteousness and peace have kissed each other, how the righteousness of Christ may be imparted to fallen man. There infinite wisdom, infinite justice, infinite mercy, and infinite love were displayed. Depths, heights, lengths, and breadths of love and wisdom, all passing knowledge, are made known in the plan of salvation.



superstition. Jesus reveals the light of God, and brings forth the beautiful radiance of the truth in all its divine glory. The minds of the honest are filled with admiration. Their hearts are attracted in holy affections toward him who brought forth the jewels of truth and displayed them to their understanding.

*Many who claim great light have misunderstood and misrepresented the work of God*

When the scribes and Pharisees saw that Christ did not reverence their forms and traditions, they accused him of contempt for the law and the prophets. But Christ did not show the least contempt for the old truths. Because he did not work in the same narrow forms that they did, they said, "He is come to destroy the law." But there fell upon their astonished ears the words of Christ, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets; I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in nowise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Christ was the originator of the law; and the blindness of the Pharisees is an illustration of how people who claim great light and knowledge can misunderstand and misrepresent the work of God. Glorious truths have been buried out of sight, and have been made lusterless and unattractive by error and

*Christ swept away the rubbish of tradition as we must*

The Jews understood some portion of the truth, and taught some part of the word of God; but they did not comprehend the far-reaching nature of the law of God. Christ swept away the rubbish of tradition, and displayed the real kernel and heart of the purposes of God. When he did this, they became exasperated beyond control. They circulated false reports from one town to another that Christ was destroying the work of God. But while Jesus did away with the old forms, he re-instated the old truths, placing them in the frame- work of truth. He matched and joined them together, making a complete and symmetrical system of truth. This was the work our Saviour did; and now what shall we do? Shall we not work in harmony with Christ? Shall we be ruled by hearsay? Shall we let our own imaginings hide from us the light of God? We are to read attentively, to hear understandingly, and to teach others also the things we have learned. We must be constantly hungering for the bread of life, constantly seeking for the living water and the snow of Lebanon, that we may be able to lead the people to the living, cooling waters of the Fountain of truth.



**Editor's Note:** THIS IS COUNSEL TO MINISTERS, INITIALLY, BUT ALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE IN THESE LAST DAYS SHOULD CONSIDER THEMSELVES AS MINISTERS AS THEY REACH OUT AND MINISTER TO OTHERS THAT THEY COME IN CONTACT WITH.



Ellen G. White, 1827–1915, received the spiritual gift of prophecy, and the fruits of her life and work accord with the biblical tests of a true messenger of God. To this day, her counsels are an incalculable blessing to God's people around the world.

# Fellowship With Christ

By N. W. Vincent

In dark Gethsemane  
Christ prayed and wept alone;  
He felt our misery,—  
O Worthy of the throne!  
The blood-drops from thy brow that fell  
Bespoke thy love, Immanuel!

While hanging on the cross,  
Christ heard the contrite thief;  
He knows our want and loss,  
He shares our woe and grief!  
Pure, bright, like Christ, that thief will rise  
To share Christ's joy in paradise!

There we shall hail Christ King—  
All free from sin and care—  
And loud his praises sing,  
And long his glories share!  
To him let all our powers be given,  
The fruit is joy, the end is heaven.





# WHEN GOD "FIGHTS," WHAT KIND OF FIGHT IS IT?

By Joe Olson

"Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle." Zech. 14:3.

When we read in the scripture where or when the Lord "fights" for us, what does He do? How do you "fight" the God of creation? These are some of the most faith-building concepts in the scripture. When God fights, there isn't actually much of a fight; it is more of a decision. When God wars against someone, there are no days-long, weeks-long, arduous battles where side fights against side and there are casualties on both sides. I'm talking about when God Himself fights. When God determines it is time to go to battle, the other side simply loses, and they lose quickly. There is just nothing to it, which only makes sense with Someone who can command the seas and the waves and the wind, and speak worlds into existence.

Think of the stories like the flood for instance. How much fighting was there? God decided their time was over, and it rained and they all died.

When the Israelites were allowed to leave Egypt, and the Pharaoh decided to go after the slaves to get them



back... how did God fight Pharaoh? The Red Sea closed in on them and they all drowned. "Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea." Ex. 15:4.

### **HOW CAN WE NOT BE BOLD WHEN GOD IS ON OUR SIDE?**

These words are poetically written to show how effortless it is for God to fight and to overcome. The scripture says that God simply cast them, or threw them into the sea. It is like we would pick up a pebble and toss it into the water. In other words, there is no effort.

These stories are written for us that we might have the courage of a mighty man of valor. Like Paul said in Romans 8:31, "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" We are supposed to be bold for the Lord. Our heavenly Father is with us! How can we fail?

### **THERE IS NO CONTEST WHEN GOD FIGHTS FOR US**

Remember the story where there were many thousands of enemy soldiers coming to war against God's people and in the middle of the night, God makes the enemy hear strange noises and they all rise up and kill each other? God's people just watched. When God fights for us, there is no contest. Actually, you can't "fight" God... not physically.

"And the Lord GOD of hosts is he that toucheth the land, and it shall

melt, and all that dwell therein shall mourn: and it shall rise up wholly like a flood; and shall be drowned, as by the flood of Egypt." Amos 9:5. Explain to me how you fight a God who touches land and it melts? What kind of fight is that? There is no fight... and that's the point. You cannot fight against God and win.

### **BY HIS TOUCH, THE ELEMENTS MELT**

You can't even really fight against God. Remember the "war" in heaven?

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels," Rev. 12:7. Just the way that is written, most of us think of a battle with swords or laser guns or some wild weapons. But how do you fight against a God who touches things and makes them melt? How do you really have combat with One who speaks and the very elements do what He says? The short answer is that you don't.

What was the result of this war in heaven? What happened to the devil and his angels? "And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven." Rev. 12:8. The wicked angels and their new master, Satan, prevailed not. No kidding they didn't prevail. What weapon could you possibly use to prevail against God Almighty? Their place was no longer found in heaven. That was a nice way of saying that they didn't live there anymore. What happened? Did they die? Were they killed in battle? Were there a lot of casualties? No, their place was no longer found in heaven, not because they were dead, but because they were cast out. "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." Rev. 12: 9.

The Bible says that the devil's angels were cast out with him. It doesn't say the ones that remained

went with him. It says that "his angels" or the ones on his side, were cast out with him. None of them died. There was no physical battle. How could there be? God melts land with a touch. He speaks and you die. He speaks and you live. He speaks and you are cast out.

### **GOD SPOKE, AND IT WAS DONE**

That's why there are so many stories of Jesus casting out demons. "And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him." Mark 1: 23-25. There was no séance. No rituals or smoke or praying for hours or whatever else. God spoke





– it was done. The devils asked if Jesus was there to destroy them. It seems that they knew there was no chance for them. They didn't ask if Jesus was there to fight. They asked if He was there to destroy them. There would be no fight, and they knew it. Doesn't that just thrill you? To know that we serve a God that cannot ever lose... does that not make you want to shout, "Hallelujah!"?

**THE DEVILS WERE ALREADY BEATEN, AND THEY KNEW IT**

Here in Matthew, it is interesting what the devils asked... "And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?" Matt. 8:29. "Are You here to torment us?" Doesn't sound like much of a battle to me. Doesn't that sound like they have already fought and realize there is no winning? They can do nothing but endure whatever torment Jesus decides to inflict upon them. These are beaten devils. These are beings that realize there is no contest. And one more thing... these are beings who know there is a time when they will be no more. "...art thou come hither to torment us before the time?" Before the time? What time? They know there is a time that Jesus *will* torment them. There is a time when fire is coming. And *they* know it. And they knew the time was not yet, but they were wondering if Jesus was going to do it ahead of time. Were they going to be tormented now... *before* the

time? Does that sound like those who plan to battle? No, that sounds like someone who tried to fight, and lost instantly and was simply waiting for the punishment.

All of these things I am saying and bringing up are to show us all that when we serve God, we cannot lose. It is not possible. The devil and his minions are defeated foes. And they know it! And they desperately don't want *us* to know it. So, they inspire stories to be written and books to be printed to impress us that there will be a big fight in the future. A huge battle. The battle of Armageddon.

**IS THERE GOING TO BE A GREAT BIG FIGHT AT THE END?**

"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Rev. 16:13,14. These devils, and all the rest of Satan's host, are going to battle. And they are gathering the rest of the world to battle with them. "And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon." Rev. 16:16.



Doesn't that sound like a huge war is about to ensue? Like there will be a great big fight? And whom are they battling? God Almighty. And how will that work out? How did it work out in heaven? Was there a physical fight?

How could there be... God just spoke. He simply cast them out.

**SATAN'S DESIRE HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO BE LIKE THE MOST HIGH**

Remember when the devil tempted Jesus? Jesus let the devil tempt Him for awhile, but when it came to worship... that was it. The devil said in Matthew 4:9 "And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me." That was what the devil wanted. That is what he has always wanted. He has wanted to be like the Most High. "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." Isa. 14:13,14.

How'd that work out for him? He was cast out of heaven. How? By a huge war where he physically fought and was defeated? No... by God's voice. He simply told him to leave... and that's all it took. Just like when Satan tried to get Jesus to worship him... When he asked, or tempted, Jesus to bow down and worship him, what did Jesus do? "Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for



it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.” Matt. 4:10,11. Jesus said to leave... to get away from Him. And the scripture says that the devil “leaveth him”.

And don’t think for a moment that this was a choice of the devil’s. He didn’t leave Jesus because he wanted to or because he gave up. He left because he was commanded to. There was no alternative in the matter. The God of heaven said to leave, and when that happens, there is no choice. When God speaks, it will be done. THIS is the God *we* serve! Praise the Lord!

### **THE DEVIL AND HIS MINIONS KNOW ABOUT “THE TIME”**

So then, why are so many thinking and believing that there is going to be some kind of *physical* fight in the future? That this, Armageddon, is going to be some big battle? Because the devil does not want us to think that the battle has already been won. He knows the truth and his devils know the truth. Remember, they were asking if Jesus was there to torment them “before the time”. They know there is, “the time”. The *devil* knows there is, “the time”. But he is desperately trying to convince us that there is no, “the time”. He wants us to think that there are still options. He wants us to think that there is still a

battle to fight, and that maybe he can win!

Win what? What can he possibly win? He was cast out of heaven. He was cast out of Jesus’ very presence. And both were done by God simply speaking. What can he be fighting for now? What does he think he can still win? Our allegiance. Our worship. Just like he wanted Jesus’ worship... he wants ours. He wants us to fall down and worship him. “...All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.” Matt. 4:9.

### **SATAN WILL PROMISE ANYTHING FOR OUR ALLEGIANCE**

And what are “all these things” that Satan will give us? Whatever it is that we desire. “I will give you all this power...” “All this money...” “All this prestige...” “All this security, land, houses, material things...” “All this fame...” “All this... whatever you want.” “If thou wilt fall down and worship me.”

It was about worship with him from the beginning. Remember, he wanted to be like the Most High. He could not fight God and win. And he’s mad. He’s really, really mad. He’s like... roaring lion mad. “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:” 1 Pet. 5:8. Well, he can’t devour God. He can’t devour God’s angels. So, whom do you suppose he wants to devour then? Us! But think about it. How can he devour us? He can’t actually do anything... not unless God allows it. So, how does he devour us then? He gets us to worship him instead of God. “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” Ex. 20:3.



### **THIS IS “THE TIME” THE DEVILS FEARED**

He wants us to worship him before, or instead of, God. It has always been about worship. If we choose Satan over our Creator, then we will be devoured. He actually isn’t doing the devouring per se, he just puts us in a position to be devoured. Satan is gathering his host... all he can deceive, into fighting against God. Revelation makes it very clear how that battle will turn out. This is what the devil will do... “And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” Rev. 20:8-10. This is what the devils were afraid Jesus had come to do, “before the time. “Are you here to torment us? Before the time?”

### **GOD HAS PREPARED EVERLASTING FIRE FOR SATAN AND HIS FOLLOWERS**

And who is it that does the “devouring?” It isn’t the devil is it? No, the Bible says that fire came down



from God. The devil already knows this is coming. He already knows what is prepared for him and his angels. "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:" Matt. 25: 41.

Notice whom the fire is prepared for... "... the devil and his angels." This devouring, everlasting fire is for the devil and his angels. It is for them because they chose to worship another god. They chose Satan as their god. If you do not choose the Creator and Sustainer of life, then you do not get the benefits of that God. The only way you get life is by choosing the Life-Giver - God Almighty. To choose anything or anyone else but the Creator God, means to forfeit life. As hard as it is to imagine, there are people who will not choose life. Moses set it before the people as plainly as he could...



"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:" Deut. 30:19.

### **THE QUESTION HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT WORSHIP**

The devil and his evil angels chose death a long time ago. As a result, everlasting fire is prepared for them.

That made Satan mad. But since he can't really fight against God, he decided to go after his children. If he can't live, then he doesn't want God's children to live either. If he is going to be cast into the lake of fire, he wants everyone else there too. It all started with worship, and Satan wanting it. It all will end with worship, and Satan still wanting it. That's why in the last days God has sent a message around the world... "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." Rev. 14:6,7.

The devil has tried to obscure what the issues have always and ever been. It is, and always has been, about worship.

Remember Joshua's last declaration to the Israelites before he died? "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the

Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." Josh. 24:15.

### **WHO WILL YOU SERVE?**

For 6,000 years, it has ever been the same question... "Who will you serve?" There have always been just two choices... God... or anyone/ anything else. But only One provides life. The rest... only death.

The rest of the gods cannot create



life or even sustain life. Choosing them means choosing death. Why would anyone do that? Sounds like a ridiculous question, doesn't it? And that is where the "battle" lies. There is no fight... there is a choice. And the devil wants you to choose him.

The battle of Armageddon will be over whom we choose. The battle will not be fought with swords and guns and artillery. It will be fought in the minds of the people. The fight is over worship... over allegiance. From the beginning, all the way to the end, and all along the way... it has always been about choosing whom we will serve. Let's choose the Life-Giver. Let's choose the One who never loses. Let's choose the One who cannot be "fought" with.

The One who speaks, and it is done.



*Joe Olson serves as the executive director and chairman of the board of Hope International. He also travels as an international speaker.*

# CLIMB TO THE HEIGHTS

By Mary E. Inman

*"We have dwelt too long in the lowlands of earth."*—Mrs. E.G. White

Dwell no longer in the lowlands,  
Earthly strife thy spirit mars;  
Leave behind thee gloom and darkness,  
Make thy home above the stars.  
Climbing with a strong endeavor,  
Laying hold upon God's might,  
Thy faint soul, revived and strengthened,  
Will be bathed in glorious light.  
Burst asunder clinging fetters  
That would bind thee to the earth;  
Earthly hopes are false allurements,  
And of no real worth.  
Upward turn thy heart's strong tendrils,  
Cling in faith unto thy God;  
Let thy hold on him ne'er weaken,  
E'en beneath his chastening rod.

Put away sin's black defilement,  
Robe thy soul in garments white;  
Far above thee scenes of glory  
Wait to greet thy raptured sight.  
Unto every generation  
God has been a dwelling-place;  
Dwell no longer in the lowlands,  
Seek the heights of heavenly grace.



# THE TRUE ISRAEL

By James Edson White

To Abraham and his seed were the promises made.  
If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 3:16, 29

Not more than four hundred years after the flood, and before Shem, the son of Noah, was dead, nearly all the descendants of Noah had turned to the worship of idols. Even the family of Shem had gone into idolatry. But Abraham, amid all the super-station and heathenism which surrounded him, remained true to God. The Lord finally left the hardened transgressors, and chose Abraham to represent Him in the earth.

## God separated Abraham from his father's house

In order that Abraham and his family might not be influenced by the idolatry of his father's house, the Lord said to him: "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: and I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great: and thou shalt be a blessing." Genesis 12:1, 2.

Relying on the promises of God, Abraham left his father's house, and dwelt in the land of Canaan. Genesis 12:5. Here the Lord met him, and said to him: "Lift up now thine eyes, and look from this place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward; for all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever." Genesis 13:14, 15.

## The promise to Abraham was only partially fulfilled

Paul says that this promise meant that Abraham "should be heir of the world". Romans 4:13. But although Israel, the nation which sprang from Abraham, dwelt in the earthly Canaan, they never fully subdued it, not extending

their kingdom permanently beyond their own borders. Hence the promise made to Abraham, as explained by Paul, has never been completely fulfilled.

The promise to Abraham was twofold: First, Israel was to dwell in the land of promise on the earth; but this only partially fulfilled the promise. Secondly, the final fulfillment of this promise reaches over to the new earth. There the true Israel will forever enjoy in their fullness all the blessings promised to Abraham.

## Israel confessed to being pilgrims on the earth

Paul, in speaking of ancient Israel, which became "so many as the stars of the sky for multitude, and as the sand which is by the seashore innumerable", says of them: "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." Hebrews 11:12, 13.

This makes it very plain that Israel did not consider that the promise made to their fathers had not yet been fulfilled to them. They declared that they were "strangers and pilgrims on the earth", and Paul says, "They that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country, that is, a heavenly." Verses 13, 14 16.

## Abraham looked forward to a home in the new earth

Of Abraham we read that "by faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he looked for a city which hath

foundations, whose builder and maker is God.” Verses 9, 10.

Abraham looked forward to the time when the earth made new should be his home. Through faith he saw a mansion for himself in the New Jerusalem, which our Saviour is building in heaven for the faithful. See John 14:1-3.

Paul, more than thirty years this side of Christ, speaks of this promise made to Abraham as the hope of the Christian. He compares it to “an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast.” Hebrews 6:19. He says that this hope is the promise made to Abraham.



### Only those who are true to God belong to the true Israel

But how can this promise apply to the literal children of Abraham, and to the Gentile Christians as well? Paul argues that only those who are true to God belong to the true Israel. “For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel; neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children.” See Romans 9:6-8.

Only those of the seed of Abraham who are true to God are counted by him as Israel. The Jews rejected and crucified their Lord. They showed that they had entirely lost the characteristics which made Abraham the father of the faithful. Hence, though of the seed of Abraham, they are not numbered with Israel.

Paul teaches that the true Israel is made up of all who are true to God. “If ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” Galatians 3:29. By faith in Christ we are accepted as the true Israel, and heirs to all that was promised to Abraham.

### Gentiles become part of the true Israel by being grafted into the stock

The prophet says of the Jewish people: “The Lord called thy name, A green olive tree, fair, and of goodly fruit: with the noise of a great tumult he hath kindled fire upon it, and the branches of it are broken.” Jeremiah 11:16. The stock of the true Israel is here called “the green olive tree”; but as the Jewish branches had proved unworthy of the stock, they were broken off. Paul tells how their places were filled: “And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them,... boast not against the branches.” Romans 11:17, 18.

How, then, do we Gentiles become part of the true Israel?—By being

grafted into the stock where the literal branches of Israel were broken off. Paul exhorts as follows: “Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off that I might be grafted in. Well, because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not high-minded, but fear; for if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.” Verses 19-21.

### The 144,000 will be translated without tasting death

Paul further declares that “all Israel shall be saved”. Verse 26. This refers to the true Israel, which becomes so by accepting Christ. See Galatians 3:29. John the Baptist, when reproving the haughty Pharisees and Sadducees, said: “Think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father; for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.” Matthew 3:9.

When Christ comes to earth to gather out of it those who are true to Him, there will be found one hundred and forty-four thousand belonging to the true Israel, who will be translated without tasting death. When their cases are finally decided, or “sealed”, they will be equally divided among the twelve tribes of the children of Israel,—Christian Israel,—twelve thousand to each tribe. See Revelation 7:4.

The twelve gates of the New Jerusalem will bear the names of the twelve tribes of Israel, and it is reasonable to suppose that each tribe will enter through its own gate. Revelation 21:12. None but Israelites will enter the New Jerusalem.



# Hope for Health



Often called “Miracle of the Rainforest”, the Graviola plant is adorned with green, heart-shaped fruit along with the seeds, bark, and leaves which provide the many, many healthy benefits. The fruit is known as soursop or pawpaw and its flavor has been described as “a combination of strawberry and pineapple with an underlying creamy flavor reminiscent of coconut or banana”. While the fruit may be delicious, the leaves are the most potent part of the plant - loaded with valuable nutrients and beneficial substances, which is why our formula contains 100% Graviola leaf powder!

## Graviola

### RECENT GRAVIOLA HISTORY AND DISCOVERED BENEFITS

In the U.S., the scientific studies of Graviola started in the 1940's and they are still underway today. The results of the early studies have proved the plant's antispasmodic properties (meaning that it can help prevent or relieve spasms or convulsions) and it's cardio-tonic properties (meaning it helps balance the functioning of heart). Other studies of Graviola extract have shown it to have excellent germ-killing properties as well!

But in 1976, when a plant screening program, initiated by a very prestigious institute, discovered the powerful action of Graviola leaves and stems in fighting *unwanted cell growth*, science and medicine took notice, and it began receiving much more attention. Additional research followed, and as a result, the scientists were able to isolate the set of chemicals in the plant which showed these effects. They are called annonaceous acetogenins.

Now, this may not sound like anything special to you, but by slowing down certain processes that take place only in *unhealthy* cells, Graviola has the unique ability to be “selectively” toxic! These chemicals, acetogenins, only destroy unwanted/unhealthy cells, but do not harm healthy ones one bit!! This is nearly unheard of in medicine!

You see, oftentimes scientists or chemists can come up with compounds that can kill bad cells (it's easy to kill cells - think of all the various poisons), but the tough part is that generally, these chemicals can't tell the difference between good and bad, and they end up taking many of the good cells with them as collateral damage! Often it is said that a patient died of the *cure* rather than the *condition* itself. Meaning the compound or product that was trying to help them actually killed them in the process because it killed so many healthy cells in the process!

This effect was so notable, that in 1997 the researchers from Purdue University published a statement saying that acetogenins even had the ability to kill unhealthy cells that did not respond to traditional methods! You read that right! Graviola's “annonaceous acetogenins” show positive results for combating unhealthy cell growth, even when their traditional counterparts have failed!

The future has never looked more promising! Research shows that extracts from Graviola leaves truly do appear to work “miraculously”! In a day and age where it seems

our bodies are becoming more and more toxic; our cells are mutating, age rapidly, and die unexpectedly, there is hope! This small plant from the Amazonian rainforest is proving that while there may not be a “fountain of youth”, Graviola just may be the next best thing!

### GRAVIOLA HAS BEEN USED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD FOR CENTURIES!

Graviola is a rainforest plant that has been used in natural and traditional formulas for centuries in Central and South America and the Caribbean! It has an extremely wide range of beneficial properties, which are distributed throughout the different parts of the plant, with the most being found in the leaf.

### HISTORICALLY DOCUMENTED USES OF GRAVIOLA INCLUDE:

- In the Andean mountain ranges of Peru, the leaves are brewed to discharge mucus and soothe inflamed mucous membranes.
- To the east, in the Amazon region, the bark, leaves, and roots are used to help maintain healthy blood sugar levels.
- In Guyana, the leaf is taken as a heart tonic.
- In Brazil, the leaves are used as a liver tonic, cleanser, and rejuvenator.
- In the West Indies it is taken to help clear up lung problems, coughs, and colds.

### THIS PLANT HAS A HOST OF BENEFITS!! IN FACT, GRAVIOLA:

- Has been shown to be beneficial for the heart and the liver.
- Is a powerful natural infection fighter.
- Helps maintain a healthy blood pressure level.
- Helps alleviate muscle and joint pain.
- Assists the immune system in ridding or cleansing the body of abnormal cell/tissue growth.
- Benefits the nervous system by calming the nerves, relieving stress, improving sleep quality, and improving the mood due to its ability to stimulate serotonin receptors.
- Contains antioxidant properties that help fight the oxidative stress that can tax the immune system and weaken the body.

\*These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to prevent, diagnose, treat, or cure any disease.

**Price:**  
100 capsules ..... \$11.99

#### Suggested Adult Dosage:

- 1-2 capsules, 3 times a day on an empty stomach (otherwise with food if not tolerated well).

**WARNING:** Do not take if you are pregnant. Graviola has demonstrated uterine stimulant activity in animal studies and therefore is not recommended for pregnant women. It could potentially cause the uterus to contract, which could harm your unborn baby.

**Fact: Studies have shown Graviola to be up to 10,000 times more effective at killing and removing unhealthy cells than it's commonly used chemical counterpart.**

**To Order Call Today:**

**1-800-468-7884**

**or Visit us on the web at:**

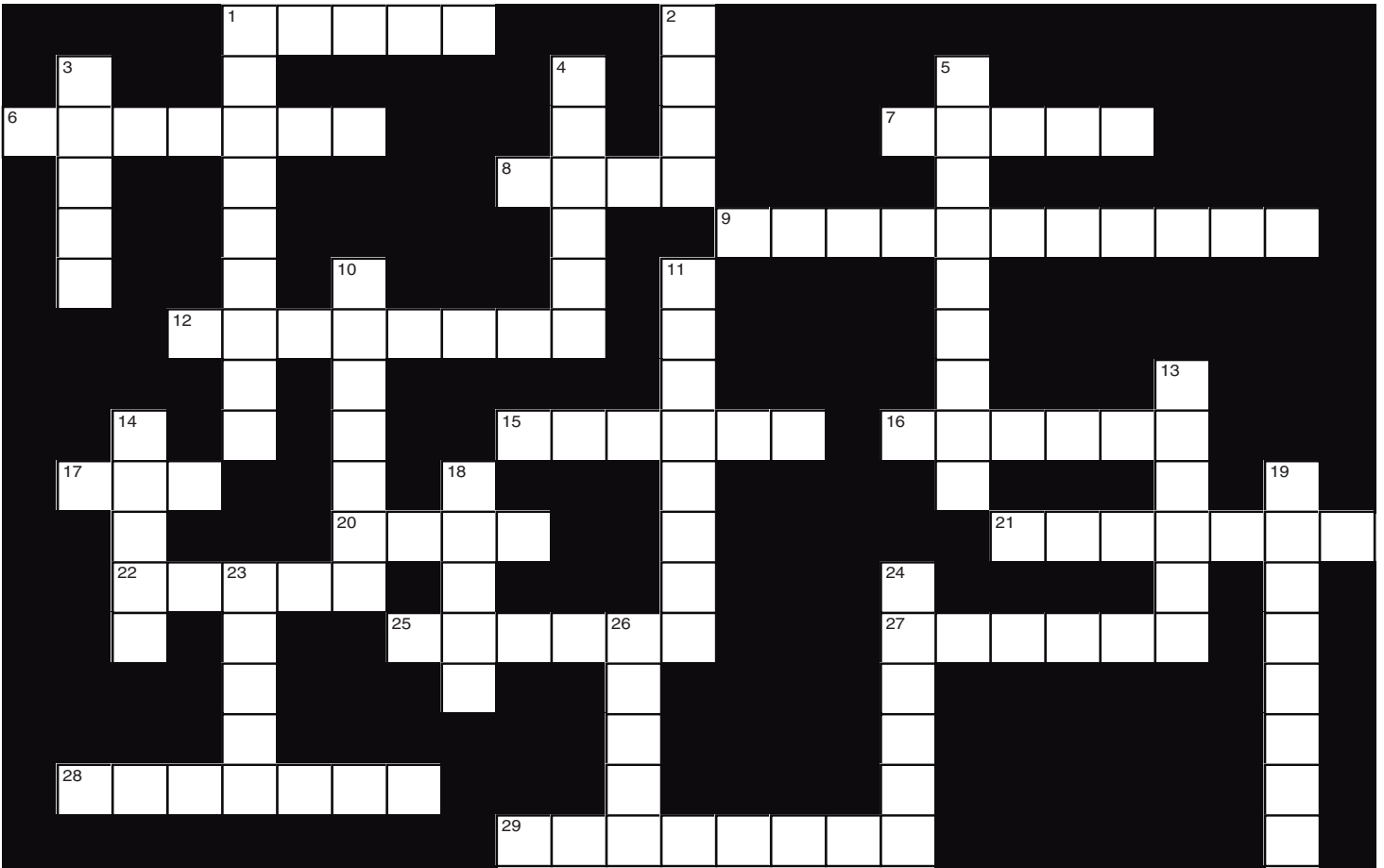
**[www.hopeforhealthusa.com](http://www.hopeforhealthusa.com)**

\*Prices listed above do not include shipping and handling or sales tax



*Combining nature, faith, and love to bring healing to the world.*

# Christian Crossword



## ACROSS

1. In Leviticus asked not to eat \_\_\_\_
6. A champion of the Philistines
7. Ancient Semite fertility god
8. A daughter in law of Naomi
9. King of Salem in Abraham's day
12. Requested of Artaxerxes permission to rebuild Jerusalem
15. A prophet that went by a whirlwind into heaven
16. One of the Egyptian magicians that Pharaoh summoned
17. Jacob's fifth son
20. Described as a "just man and perfect in his generation"
21. The wily woman unwisely loved by Samson
22. The age of Josiah when he begin to reign in Jerusalem
25. The prophet that spoke of David's sin with Bathsheba
27. A king that was a leper "unto the day of his death"
28. Born to Joseph in Egypt
29. A wicked king over Jerusalem that was converted

## DOWN

1. To speak against God
2. The father of Saul
3. Appeared with Elijah at the transfiguration
4. Day on which God divided the light from the darkness
5. Name of the cave Abraham asked to buy from Ephron
10. Moses placed this animal made of brass on a pole

11. The tribe from which Saul came
13. He had a vision in the year King Uzziah died
14. A son of Zebedee
18. Mother of Ishmael
19. One of the Old Testament minor prophets
23. The prostitute wife of Hosea
24. A propheticess during the reign of Josiah
26. He was in love with Tamus, Absalom's sister

## Answers from Christian Crossword published in the June 2013 issue of Our Firm Foundation



# Hope for Health



Hope for Health's Broccoli Sprout Powder contains 100% pure and natural broccoli sprouts in an easy-to-digest powder! They are low in calories, nutritionally dense, fat-free, and offer a wide range of health benefits! Incredibly energizing, this powder supports normal digestion, promotes healthy cholesterol levels, enhances detoxification, and contributes to healthy cell growth!

## Broccoli Sprout Powder

### BROCCOLI SPROUT NUTRITION

- One ounce of broccoli sprouts contains 4% of the recommended daily value of dietary fiber, 15% of the recommended amount of vitamin C, and 2% of the recommended intake of calcium!

### BROCCOLI SPROUTS AND FIBER

- Broccoli sprouts are rich in fiber, a nutritional characteristic that provides a variety of benefits. Fiber helps ensure healthy digestion, promotes feelings of fullness and helps maintain healthy blood sugar levels. You hear all the time how fiber is vital to good health. Get yours today, with Broccoli Sprout Powder!

**Do you know we now have Broccoli in capsules as well?**

**Price:**  
10 oz. powder .....\$25.99

### Suggested Adult Dosage:

- Mix 1 tablespoon with water, juice, or your favorite smoothie once or twice a day with meals.

**To Order Call Today:**

**1-800-468-7884**

**or Visit us on the web at:**

**[www.hopeforhealthusa.com](http://www.hopeforhealthusa.com)**

\*Prices listed above do not include shipping and handling or sales tax



### BROCCOLI SPROUTS AND VITAMIN D

- Are you taking large supplemental doses of vitamin D to correct a deficiency? Did you know that a sufficient supply of vitamin K and vitamin A help keep vitamin D metabolism in balance? Broccoli sprouts have a perfect combination of both vitamin A (in the form of beta-carotene) and vitamin K. For people needing to rebuild vitamin D stores, Broccoli Sprout Powder is a must!

### BROCCOLI SPROUTS AND OXIDATIVE STRESS

- Free radicals are chemical compounds that interact with other molecules within the cells. This can cause oxidative damage to proteins, membranes and genes. Oxidative damage has been linked to various health conditions, however, according to research published in the May

2011 edition of "European Journal of Clinical Nutrition", consumption of 5 to 10 grams of broccoli sprout powder, taken daily, can increase antioxidants in the blood while decreasing oxidative stress.

### BROCCOLI SPROUTS AND CHOLESTEROL

- According to a study published in the February 2011 edition of "Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry", the antioxidant content of broccoli sprouts may help promote healthy cholesterol levels. If you are one of the many people concerned about keeping your cholesterol levels in check, Broccoli Sprout Powder is an invaluable nutritional tool!

### WHAT ARE BROCCOLI SPROUTS?

- Broccoli sprouts are three- to four-day-old baby broccoli plants that look like alfalfa sprouts, but taste like radishes. The radish flavor comes from a phytochemical that may act as protection while the broccoli plant is still young. This phytochemical not only benefits the young plant, but also, when eaten by humans, may act as an antioxidant to stimulate the ability of cells to protect against illness.
- If you are looking for a super health food, you most certainly want to consider broccoli sprouts! You have probably heard of the wonderful health benefits of (mature) broccoli, but you may not have known that there are many other cell-protective compounds found abundantly in the baby sprouts which provide an arsenal of health benefits!

### BROCCOLI SPROUTS AND SULFORAPHANE

- In 1992, scientists at Johns Hopkins University identified sulforaphane, which is a compound that reduces the risk of unhealthy cell growth in the body. They found that it is abundant in broccoli.
- In 1997, the same researchers announced they found the same health-boosting compounds, but in much greater quantities, in broccoli sprouts!
- One researcher, Paul Talalay, M.D., (the J.J. Abel Distinguished Service Professor of Molecular Pharmacology) states "Three-day-old broccoli sprouts consistently contain 20 to 50 times the amount of protective compounds found in mature broccoli heads" while another study in the journal 'Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences' backs this up by stating: "Three-day-old sprouts of certain crucifers including broccoli and cauliflower contain 10–100 times higher levels of (sulforaphane) than do the corresponding mature plants." Did you hear that? Up to 100 times the amount of this cell-protecting compound!

### SULFORAPHANE AND THE LUNGS

- In the March 2009 issue of "Clinical Immunology," researchers reported that sulforaphane may help protect against respiratory inflammation brought on by poor lung health. The researchers prepared a solution ranging from 25 grams to 200 grams of broccoli sprouts, or a placebo. The preparations were administered to 65 men and women for three days. Participants who received the highest dose of broccoli sprouts had a 199 percent improvement in their ability to clean pollutants from their lungs! These enzymes help clean your lungs and keep your airways free of tissue damage!

\*These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to prevent, diagnose, treat, or cure any disease.

*Combining nature, faith, and love to bring healing to the world.*



# News Watch

worldwide  
Shares Worthless  
Stocks tumble assets  
anxiety deepens  
Interest rates  
liquidity  
DEPRESSION FORECAST

## 1. Time Magazine, June 3, 2013—Cover story—16 Minutes, That's how much time you have to save your life. The story of the Oklahoma tornado, By David Von Drehle & Jeffrey Kluger.

“Rick Smith’s job is to save lives, and he knew when he clocked in at 7 a.m. on Monday, May 20, that it was going to be a very dangerous day. More than 40 screens and monitors glowed in the horseshoe-shaped command center, and menace radiated from every one. Data from radar, hovering satellites and surveillance devices covering thousands of square miles all pointed to one conclusion: conditions were perfect for a monster tornado.” And it came—

There were 46 states reporting tornadoes in 2012; there were 939 tornadoes reported; there was \$1.6 billion in property and crop damage.

**END TIME PERSPECTIVE:** The time is at hand when there will be sorrow in the world that no human balm can heal. The Spirit of God is being withdrawn. Disasters by sea and by land follow one another in quick succession. How frequently we hear of earthquakes and tornadoes, of destruction by fire and flood, with great loss of life and property! Apparently these calamities are capricious outbreaks of disorganized, unregulated forces of nature, wholly beyond the control of man; but in them all, God’s purpose may be read. They are among the agencies by which He seeks to arouse men and women to a sense of their danger.—Prophets and Kings, p. 277.

2. An out of the city end time warning—are you listening—“He

wants us to live where we can have elbow room. His people are not to crowd into the cities. He wants them to take their families out of the cities, that they may better prepare for eternal life. In a little while they will have to leave the cities.

“These cities are filled with wickedness of every kind,—with strikes and murders and suicides. Satan is in them, controlling men in their work of destruction. Under his influence they kill for the sake of killing, and

this they will do more and more. . . .

“If we place ourselves under objectionable influences, can we expect God to work a miracle to undo the results of our wrong course? --No, indeed. Get out of the cities as soon as possible, and purchase a little piece of land, where you can have a garden, where your children can watch the flowers growing, and learn from them lessons of simplicity and purity.—General Conference Bulletin, March 30, 1903.



# Health Gem

## Broccoli - King of the Crucifers

By Diane Styles

Broccoli is now widely recognized as a powerful agent in assisting our immune systems. In fact, researchers named this vegetable as the one we most need to buy to assist our bodies' defense systems. Broccoli heads are a rich source of phyto-nutrients that help protect us from prostate problems all the way to circulatory issues...more on that later. It is actually a flower vegetable and known for its notable and unique nutrients that are found to have sickness-prevention and health-promoting properties.

### High in antioxidants

Broccoli is one of the very low calorie vegetables; providing just 34 calories per 100 g., (approximately one cup.) Nevertheless, it is rich in dietary fiber, minerals, vitamins, and anti-oxidants that have proven health benefits. Total antioxidant strength measured in terms of *oxygen radical absorbance capacity* (ORAC) (the ability to absorb and remove from your body, free radicals which are very damaging to your health) of broccoli is 1,632  $\mu\text{mol TE}/100\text{ g.}$

### Fiber and stomach protection

And speaking of broccoli's "fiber" benefits... alongside broccoli's dietary fiber benefits are its glucosinolates. These phytonutrients are converted by our bodies into isothiocyanates, or ITCs. ITCs—and particularly sulforaphane—help protect the health of our stomach lining by helping prevent bacterial overgrowth of *Helicobacter pylori* or too much

clinging by this bacterium to our stomach wall. Broccoli sprouts appear to have especially strong stomach support properties in this regard.

### Lowers levels of harmful estrogens

Broccoli contains two compounds, indole-3-carbinol (or 13C, for short) and sulforaphane, which both help sweep up immune-system destroying substances before they are able to do harm. The compound 13C, found also in cabbage and Brussels sprouts, has been stated to be particularly effective against breast disorders. In laboratory studies it has been found to lower levels of harmful estrogens that can promote unwanted growth in hormone-sensitive cells such as breast cells.

### Loaded with beta carotene and vitamin C

Broccoli is also an excellent source of beta-carotene, providing 7-12% of the recommended daily amount in just one half-cup cooked serving.



High levels of beta-carotene have been linked to lower rates of heart problems, certain immune-suppressing illnesses and eye issues.

Then again, a half-cup of chopped and cooked broccoli contains almost 100% of the daily value for vitamin C, (and there is mounds of evidence about how good vitamin C is for you) and is one of the best vegetable sources for calcium, packing in 72 ml per cooked cup. Calcium is well-documented as the single most important nutrient women needed to keep degenerative bone issues at bay.

### A wide spectrum of vitamins

Besides all of that, this flower vegetable is a rich source of vitamin-K and the B-complex group of vitamins like niacin (vitamin B-3), pantothenic acid (vitamin B-5), pyridoxine (vitamin B-6), and riboflavin. The flower heads also have omega-3 fatty acids! In 100 calories' worth of broccoli (about 2 cups) there are approximately 450 milligrams



of omega-3s (in the form of alpha-linolenic acid, or ALA). That amount of ALA falls into the same general ballpark as the amount provided by one soft gel capsule of flax oil. While we would not want to depend on broccoli as our sole source of dietary omega-3s, we still get important anti-inflammatory benefits from the omega-3s it provides. They are also a good source of minerals like manganese, iron, magnesium, selenium, zinc and phosphorus.

Further, broccoli contains very good amounts of the anti-oxidant vitamin A. 100 g. of fresh head broccoli provides 623 IU or 21 % of recommended daily levels. Together with other pro-vitamins like beta-carotene, alpha-carotene, and zea-xanthin, vitamin A helps maintain integrity of skin and mucus membranes. The older we get, the more important healthy skin becomes. Additionally, vitamin A is essential for healthy eyesight and helps prevent macular problems of the retina in the elderly population. And what is more important than good eyesight as we age?

**Ideal for  
vitamin D  
supplementation**

Tired yet of hearing all the health benefits of just one vegetable? Get ready to be really wiped out! You've heard all the information out there about our need for additional vitamin D? Broccoli may help us solve our vitamin D



deficiency epidemic. When large supplemental doses of vitamin D are needed to offset a deficiency, ample supplies of vitamin K and vitamin A help keep our vitamin D

metabolism in balance. Did you catch that? When we take supplemental vitamin D, we need vitamins K and A to keep the metabolism of vitamin D in balance. Our bodies are fearfully and wonderfully made, and we don't just have a bunch of vitamins and minerals working in our bodies

apart from one another. They work synergistically (meaning all together) to help us obtain and maintain great health! Broccoli has an unusually strong combination of both vitamin A (in the form of beta-carotene) and vitamin K. For people faced with the need to rebuild vitamin D stores through vitamin D supplements, broccoli may be an ideal food to include in the diet.

**Beneficial to  
healthy blood  
sugar levels  
and detox**

It is also rich in folate,



essential for normal tissue growth in which studies have shown may protect against certain health problems, birth anomalies and breast problems. Women who take birth-control pills are often low in this vital nutrient – and, it is rich in essential fiber, which maintains a healthy digestive system, helps promote healthy cholesterol levels, helps promote a healthy heart, and provides protection against hemorrhoids, and over weight problems. It is also excellent for helping to maintain healthy blood sugar levels.

As if that were not enough, broccoli has a strong, positive impact on our body's detoxification system, and researchers have recently identified one of the key reasons for this detox benefit. Glucoraphanin, gluconasturtiin, and glucobrassicin are 3 glucosinolate phytonutrients found in a special combination in broccoli. This dynamic trio is able to support all steps in body's detox process, including activation, neutralization, and elimination of unwanted contaminants. Isothiocyanates (ITCs) are the detox-regulating molecules made from broccoli's glucosinolates, and they help control the detox process at a genetic level. That means, if we have any "contaminates", in our bodies,



lutein than the area in the outer portion of the retina (called the peripheral retina). Similarly, in the macula near the central portion of the retina, zeaxanthin is uniquely concentrated. Risk of problems involving the macula of the eye and problems involving the lens area of the eye have both been shown to lessen with intake of foods that provide significant amounts of the lutein and zeaxanthin carotenoids. If you have any eye issues, or even if you want to avoid eye problems in the future, make sure you get plenty of broccoli in your diet!

**Give broccoli sprouts a try!**

Another form of broccoli you may want to try if you enjoy raw broccoli is broccoli sprouts. Some of the nutrients found in broccoli—like vitamin C—are especially concentrated in broccoli sprouts.

So, as a distillation of what we have said, broccoli is an excellent source of immune-supportive vitamin C,



anti-inflammatory vitamin K, and heart-healthy folate. It is a very good source of free-radical-scavenging vitamin A (through its concentration of carotenoid phytonutrients), enzyme-activating manganese and molybdenum; digestive-health-supporting fiber; heart-healthy potassium and vitamin B6; and energy-producing vitamins B1, B2, B3, B5 and phosphorus. protein and iron; bone-healthy magnesium and calcium; and antioxidant-supportive vitamin E and selenium, and is also concentrated in phytonutrients. In one particular phytonutrient category—glucosinolates—broccoli is simply outstanding.

**Our Broccoli Sprout Powder is convenient for daily use**

So reach for this crunchy crucifer whenever you can, and especially for broccoli sprouts! Studies at John Hopkins University found that 3-day-old broccoli sprouts contain 20-50 times the amount of protective substances found in the mature vegetable. If broccoli sprouts are not readily available in your area, Hope International does provide a concentrated form in its power-packed Broccoli Sprout Powder for convenient daily use. Please see description and price in our online store's Herbal Supplement" section, or call for our new health catalog. 1-800-468-7884. Or visit us online at [www.Hopeforheathusa.com](http://www.Hopeforheathusa.com).

P.S. Broccoli Sprouts Powder has 20-50 times the protective substances that the mature vegetable has, and Broccoli Sprout Powder has 10 times more concentrated than raw, so Broccoli Sprout Powder has 200-500 times the protective substances!!!

(and who doesn't), this is a perfect vegetable to help get rid of those health destroying contaminants and get to feeling better quickly!

**Plenty of broccoli = good eye health**

Broccoli is also a particularly rich source of a flavonoid called kaempferol. Recent research has shown the ability of kaempferol to lessen the impact of coughing and sneezing-related substances on our body. This kaempferol connection helps to explain the unique anti-inflammatory benefits of broccoli as well.

And one last benefit of this underappreciated vegetable and its unique combination of nutrients - eye health. Two carotenoids found in significant concentrations in broccoli—lutein and zeaxanthin—play an especially important role in the health of the eye. In fact, no tissue in the body is more concentrated with

### SOME INTERESTING ADDITIONAL DATA:

Broccoli (Brassica oleracea var. italica), fresh, raw,  
Nutrition value per 100 grams (approximately 1 cup)  
(Source: USDA National Nutrient database)

PRINCIPLE	NUTRIENT VALUE	PERCENTAGE OF RDA
Energy	34 Kcal	1.5%
Carbohydrates	6.64 g	5%
Protein	2.82 g	5%
Total Fat	0.37 g	1%
Cholesterol	0 mg	0%
Dietary Fiber	2.60 g	7%

VITAMINS		
Folates	63 µg	16%
Niacin	0.639 mg	4%
Pantothenic acid	0.573 mg	12%
Pyridoxine	0.175 mg	13%
Riboflavin	0.117 mg	9%
Thiamin	0.071 mg	6%
Vitamin A	623 IU	21%
Vitamin C	89.2 mg	149%
Vitamin E	0.17 mg	1.5%
Vitamin K	101.6 µg	85%

ELECTROLYTES		
Sodium	33 mg	2%
Potassium	316 mg	7%

MINERALS		
Calcium	47 mg	5%
Copper	0.049 mg	5.5%
Iron	0.73 mg	9%
Magnesium	21 mg	5%
Manganese	0.210 mg	9%
Selenium	2.5 µg	5%
Zinc	0.41 mg	4%

PHYTO-NUTRIENTS		
Carotene-β	361 µg	--
Crypto-xanthin-β	1 µg	--
Lutein-zeaxanthin	1403 µg	--



Diane, a(n) SDA since the late 70s, writes from Melbourne. In addition to writing, she enjoys art, literature, nature, and all animals - especially cats.

# Ellen White's *Vision*

## *Prayer and Faith*

By E. G. White

I have frequently seen that the children of the Lord neglect prayer, especially secret prayer, altogether too much; that many do not exercise that faith which it is their privilege and duty to exercise, often waiting for that feeling which faith alone can bring. Feeling is not faith; the two are distinct. Faith is ours to exercise, but joyful feeling and the blessing are God's to give. The grace of God comes to the soul through the channel of living faith, and that faith it is in our power to exercise.

*We are to believe that we receive the blessing and claim it as ours*

True faith lays hold of and claims the promised blessing before it is realized and felt. We must send up our petitions in faith within the second veil and let our faith take hold of the promised blessing and claim it as ours. We are then to believe that we receive the blessing, because our faith has hold of it, and according to the Word it is ours. "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that

ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24. Here is faith, naked faith, to believe that we receive the blessing, even before we realize it. When the promised blessing is realized and enjoyed, faith is swallowed up. But many suppose they have much faith when sharing largely of the Holy Spirit and that they cannot have faith unless they feel the power of the Spirit. Such confound faith with the blessing that comes through faith. The very time to exercise faith is when we feel destitute of the Spirit. When thick clouds of darkness seem to hover over the mind, then is the time to let living faith pierce the darkness and scatter the clouds. True faith rests on the promises contained in the Word of God, and those only who obey that Word can claim its glorious promises. "If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." John 15:7. "Whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight." 1 John 3:22.



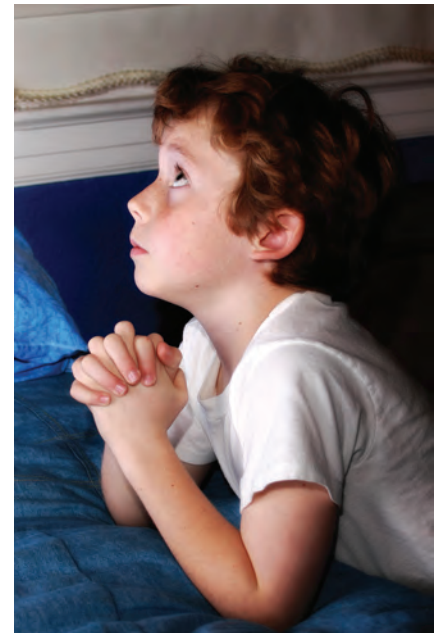
*Press your petitions to the throne  
and hold on by strong faith*

We should be much in secret prayer. Christ is the vine, ye are the branches. And if we would grow and flourish, we must continually draw sap and nourishment from the Living Vine; for separated from the Vine we have no strength.

I asked the angel why there was no more faith and power in Israel. He said, "Ye let go of the arm of the Lord too soon. Press your petitions to the throne, and hold on by strong faith. The promises are sure. Believe ye receive the things ye ask for, and ye shall have them." I was then pointed to Elijah. He was subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly. His faith endured the trial. Seven



times he prayed before the Lord, and at last the cloud was seen. I saw that we had doubted the sure promises, and wounded the Saviour by our lack of faith. Said the angel, "Gird the armor about thee, and above all take the shield of faith; for that will guard the heart, the very life, from the fiery darts of the wicked." If the enemy can lead the desponding to take their eyes off from



Jesus, and look to themselves, and dwell upon their own unworthiness, instead of dwelling upon the worthiness of Jesus, His love, His merits, and His great mercy, he will get away their shield of faith and gain his object; they will be exposed to his fiery temptations. The weak should therefore look to Jesus, and believe in Him; they then exercise faith.

EW 72

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• **To destinations outside the USA:** Actual shipping rate will be charged.

**Sales tax:** North Carolina residents, please add 6.75%.

**All money sent must be in US funds, drawn on US banks.**

*Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. Malachi 3:16.*

*What a hope-inspiring picture is this, where the Lord is represented as bending down and hearkening to the testimonies borne by His witnesses! ...*

*The words to which God and the angels listen with delight are words of appreciation for the great gift that has been made to the world in the only-begotten Son of God. Every word of praise for the blessing of the light of truth ... is written in the heavenly records. Every word that acknowledges the merciful kindness of our heavenly Father in giving Jesus to take away our sins, and to impute to us His righteousness, is recorded in the book of His remembrance. Testimonies of this kind "shew forth the praises of him who hath called us out of darkness into his marvellous light." 1 Peter 2:9....*

*The time and season are very precious. The assembled believers are in the audience chamber of the universe of heaven. They are to witness for God and the Lord Jesus Christ who gave His life for the world.... What deep and grave importance is attached to these little assemblies! Jesus Christ has paid the ransom money of His own blood for their souls, and He is in the midst of them when they meet to worship God. The Majesty of heaven identifies His interests with those of the believers, however humble may be their circumstances. And wherever they are privileged to meet together, it is appropriate that they speak often one to another, giving utterance to the gratitude and love that results from thinking upon the name of the Lord. Thus shall God be glorified as He hearkens and hears, and the testimony meeting will be considered the most precious of all meetings....*

*Let all remember that ... angels are recording in the book of remembrance every word that vindicates the character and mission of Christ. Of those who testify of the love of God, the Lord says, "They shall be mine, ... in that day when I make up my jewels." Malachi 3:17.*

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