

Once Saved, Always Saved

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Editorial

Clark Floyd



Recently I began reading The Life of Trust by George Muller. This book was written in the 1800s and covers Muller's life from his boyhood up to the latter 1800s. In the Editor's preface we are told that the first American edition of The Life of Trust was published in 1860. The edition I am reading from has a copyright date of 1877.

In the Author's Preface of this book, George Muller states: "It was only after the consideration of many months, and after much self-examination as to my motives, and after much earnest prayer, that I came to the conclusion to write this work. I have not taken one single step in the Lord's service concerning which I have prayed so much. My great dislike to increasing the number of religious books would, in itself have been sufficient to have kept me forever from it, had I not cherished the hope of being instrumental in this way to lead some of my brethren to value the Holy Scriptures more, and to judge by the standard of the Word of God the principles on which they act. But that which weighed more with me than anything was, that I have reason to believe, from want of confidence in the Lord as it regards temporal things, of carrying on their business in an unscriptural way. On account, therefore, of the remarkable way in which the Lord has dealt with me as to temporal things, I feel that I

Did the prayers of faith work for George Muller?

am a debtor to the Church of Christ, and that I might, for the benefit of my poorer brethren especially, to make known the way in which I have been led."

In the Introduction we read, "What is meant by the Prayer of Faith? Is it a question which is beginning to arrest, in an unusual degree, the attention of Christians? What is the significance of passages both in the New Testament and the Old which refer to it? What

is the limit within which they may be safely received as a ground of practical reliance? Were these promises limited to prophetic or apostolic times; or have they been left as a legacy to all believers until the end shall come?

... Do not men believe that God means what he appears plainly to have asserted? Or, if we believe that he means it, do we fear the charge of fanaticism if we openly avow that we take him at his word?"

Later in the introduction Muller mentions some of the Scriptures which follow that refer most directly to this subject:

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find, knock, and it shall be opened unto you; for every one that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" Matt. 7:7-11.

In the Gospel of Luke the same words are repeated, with a single variation at the close. "If ye, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" Luke 11:13.

"I say unto you if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matt. 18:19,20.

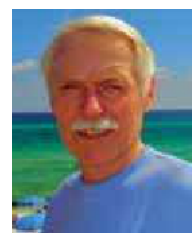
Other promises are mentioned: Matt. 21:21,22; Mark 11:22-24; John 14:12-14; John 16:23,24; James 5:16.

Did the prayers of faith work for George Muller?

"Without the promise of aid from any being but God, he, Muller, commences his work. In answer to prayer, funds are received as they are needed and the attempt succeeds beyond his expectation. After a few years he is led to believe that God has called him to establish a house

for the maintenance and education of orphans. He was impelled to this effort, not only from motives of benevolence, but from a desire to convince men that God was a Living God, as ready now as ever to answer prayer; and that in the discharge of any duty to which he calls us, we may implicitly rely upon his all-sufficient aid in every emergency. Mr. Muller was led to undertake this work in such a manner that aid could not be expected from any being but God. He did not, of course, expect God to create gold and silver and put them into his hands. He knew, however, that God would incline the hearts of men to aid him, and he believed, if the thing that he attempted was of God, that he would so incline men, in answer to prayer, as his necessities should require. Most men in making such an attempt would have spread the case before the public, employed agents to solicit in its behalf, and undertaken nothing until funds adequate to the success of the enterprise had been already secured. But Mr. Muller, true to his principles, would do no such thing. From the first day to the time of his death, he neither directly nor indirectly either of the public or of an individual accepted a single penny. As necessities arose he simply laid his case before God and asked of Him all that he needed, and the supply has always been reasonable and uplifting."

George Muller provided the needs of thousands of orphans as well as himself and his family by through his prayers. I have to ask myself, do I have this kind of faith? How about you, Dear Reader?



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

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A key to the abbreviations for Ellen White's material used in each magazine can be found at www.whiteestate.org

Once Saved, Always Saved

By Dan Olson

This topic has been brought to my attention by a phone call I received a few days ago from a person who is very concerned that this once saved, always saved (or as the proponents call themselves, OSAS) theology is being taught all over the world.

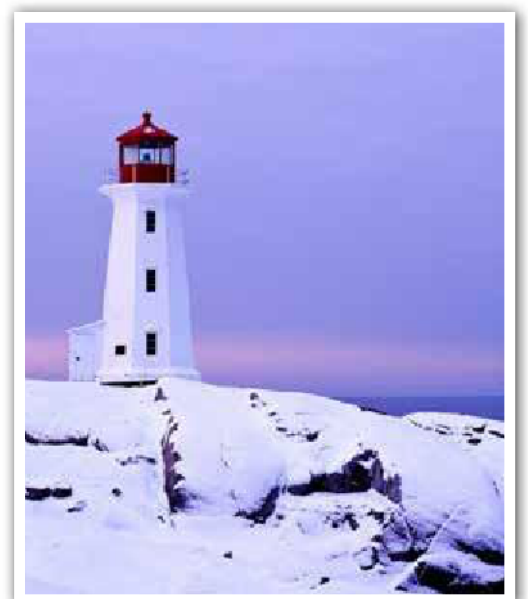
I believe that we are all responsible for what we are taught. It is up to us as individuals to know what the word of God says. It is up to us to check it out and see if it lines up with what the Bible says, don't you agree? We need to go to the word of God to know what it is saying, verse by verse, line upon line.

There are only two entities in this world – God's truth, and the devil's lies

As I contemplated this, I was trying to think of the best way to approach it. So what I thought I would do is to give you as many verses that I could find that would help you decide what is true and what is not. Remember this is not me telling you what something means; this is directly from the Bible. So if we are being taught something that doesn't line up perfectly with the Bible, then we know that it is from another source, right? And the only other source that we have is from the devil. Remember, there are only two entities in this world—God's truth and the devil's lies. And what a perfect lie the devil has come up with—to get people to believe that once they are saved they will always be saved. They can go through life doing whatever they want and don't have to worry about a thing. They can kill, rape, murder, steal, commit adultery, fornicate, and still they believe that it doesn't matter—they believe they are still saved.

Does that make any sense to you at all? Of course not, it's absolutely ridiculous. My Bible says over and over and over again that we are to be like Jesus. To love like He loves, to give like He gives, to give all our heart, mind and soul to the One who gave all for us.

As I go through the verses that I have found, I want you to remember a very important thing. When we are







1 Pet. 3:12. Listen again to the last part of this verse, "...but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." Does that sound to you like that when a person accepts Christ in their heart and is at that moment forgiven, but some time later turns and does evil that they are still righteous? No, it said that the face of the Lord would turn *away* from them that do evil. They are no longer being obedient. At that moment they have severed their connection with Christ.

"If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15. What Jesus says here does not support the attitude, 'I have faith, I am loyal to Christ, but I have no choice; I have to keep sinning because I can't help it.' Jesus would not tell us to keep His commandments IF it were not possible.

"If ye love me, keep my commandments."

"He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 2:4.

"Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him." 1 John 3:6. No one who continues to sin has seen Him or known Him. How blatant is that? And if one does KNOW Him, the next verse says..."In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 Thes.1:8. Then verse 9: "Who shall be punished



... because remember, believe. "They know God; but by [him], being disobedient, and work reprobate."

Titus 1:16. Here in this verse some profess to know God, but by their disobedience they deny Him.

"For the eyes of the Lord [are] over the righteous, and his ears [are open] unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord [is] against them that do evil."







for ourselves what He wants for us individually. Be careful, be very careful who you listen to. Read the Word and study it for yourself. When a message is presented to God's people, they should go to their Bible and check it out for themselves, comparing it with the law and the testimony. And if it does not bear this test, it is not true.

I hope and pray that what was presented here in this message will give some the peace of mind that our God will not fail us. We need to go to His Word every day to make sure that we are not being deceived. Look up every one of these verses I have offered for yourself, spend the time with our Lord and He will help you to see the truth as it is in His word. We have a God who loves us beyond our human comprehension, He will NEVER, EVER let us down. Our God is a God of love. He wants nothing more than to be with ALL of us forever in heaven. We ALL have a choice to make, and I pray that we will make the right decision to follow Jesus wherever He leads us.

relationship with Jesus. If we do not have a relationship with Him, we will be lost. He wants every one of us to be with Him; so He gave His Son to die for you and me. Having a personal relationship with Him is the most important thing we can do, nothing else matters. And it will determine our destiny.

Our God is a God of love

Every one of us is expected to spend some time with our Lord to know



Dan is the Maintenance Director of Hope International. He loves the Lord and uses every opportunity to tell others about His wonderful God. He enjoys the work of ministry in his capacity and plans on working until the Lord comes.

Godliness and Health

By Ellen G. White

The wise man says that wisdom's "ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace." Proverbs 3:17. Many cherish the impression that devotion to God is detrimental to health and to cheerful happiness in the social relations of life. But those who walk in the path of wisdom and holiness find that "godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." 1 Timothy 4:8. They are alive to the enjoyment of life's real pleasures, while they are not troubled with vain regrets over misspent hours, nor with gloom or horror of mind, as the worldling too often is when not diverted by some exciting amusement. . . .

Godliness does not conflict with the laws of health, but is in harmony with them. Had men ever been obedient to the law of Ten Commandments, had they carried out in their lives the principles of these ten precepts, the curse of disease that now floods the world would not be. Men may teach that trifling amusements are necessary to keep the mind above despondency. The mind may indeed be thus diverted for the time being; but after the excitement is over, calm

reflection comes. Conscience arouses and makes her voice heard, saying, "This is not the way to obtain health or true happiness."

Depart from evil and do good

There are many amusements that excite the mind, but depression is sure to follow. Other modes of recreation are innocent and healthful; but useful labor that affords physical exercise will often have a more beneficial influence upon the mind, while at the same time it will strengthen the muscles, improve the circulation, and prove a powerful agent in the recovery of health.

"What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry. The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles." Psalm 34:12-17.



Rightdoing the best medicine

The consciousness of rightdoing is the best medicine for diseased bodies and minds. The special blessing of God resting upon the receiver is health and strength. One whose mind is quiet and satisfied in God is on the highway to health. To have the consciousness that the eye of the Lord is upon us, and that His ear is open to our prayers, is a satisfaction indeed. To know that we have a never-failing Friend to whom we can confide all the secrets of the soul, is a happiness which words can never express. Those whose moral faculties are clouded by disease are not the ones to rightly represent the Christian life or the beauties of holiness. They are too often in the fire of fanaticism or the water of cold indifference or stolid gloom.

Those who do not feel that it is a religious duty to discipline the mind to dwell upon cheerful subjects, will usually be found at one of two extremes: they will be elated by a continual round of exciting amusements, indulging in frivolous conversation, laughing and joking, or they will be depressed, having great trials and mental conflicts, which they think but few have ever experienced or can understand. These persons may profess Christianity, but they deceive their own souls. . . .

Idleness and Despondency

Despondent feelings are frequently the result of too much leisure. The hands and mind should be occupied in useful labor, lightening the burdens of others; and those who are thus employed will benefit themselves also. Idleness gives time to brood over imaginary sorrows; and frequently those who do not have real hardships and trials, will borrow them from the future.

There is much deception carried on under the cover of religion.



Passion controls the minds of many who have become depraved in thought and feeling in consequence of "pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness." Ezekiel 16:49. These deceived souls flatter themselves that they are spiritually minded and especially consecrated, when their religious experience consists in a sickly sentimentalism rather

than in purity, true goodness, and humiliation of self. The mind should be drawn away from self; its powers should be exercised in devising means to make others happier and better. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." James 1:27.

True Religion Ennobles the Mind

True religion ennobles the mind, refines the taste, sanctifies the judgment, and makes its possessor a partaker of the purity and the holiness of heaven. It brings angels near and separates us more and more from the spirit and influence of the world. It enters into all the acts and relations of life and gives us the "spirit of a sound mind," and the result is happiness and peace.

Said the apostle Paul to his Philippian brethren, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be

any praise, think on these things." Adopt this as the rule of life. "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:8, 6, 7.

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Health and Religion

The fear of the Lord will do more for the patrons of the sanitarium than any other means that can be employed for the restoration of health. Religion should in no case be kept in the background, as though detrimental to those who come to be treated. On the contrary, the fact should ever be made prominent that the laws of God, both in nature and revelation, are “life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.”

Pride and fashion hold men and women in the veriest slavery to customs which are fatal to health and even to life itself. The appetites and passions, clamoring for indulgence, trample reason and conscience underfoot. This is the cruel work of Satan, and he is constantly putting forth the most determined efforts to strengthen the chains by which he has bound his victims. Those who have been all their lives indulging wrong habits do not always realize the necessity of a change. And many will persist in gratifying their desire for sinful pleasure at any cost. Let the conscience be aroused and much is gained. Nothing but the grace of God can convict and convert the heart; here alone can the slaves of custom obtain power to break the shackles which bind them. The self-indulgent must be led to see and feel that a great moral renovation is necessary if they would meet the claims of the divine law; the soul-temple has been defiled, and God calls upon them to arouse and strive with all their might to win back the God-given manhood which has been sacrificed through sinful indulgence.

Religion and the laws of health go hand in hand

Divine truth can make little impression upon the intellect while the customs and habits are opposed to its principles. Those who are willing to inform themselves



concerning the effect of sinful indulgence upon the health, and who commence the work of reform, even if it be from selfish motives, in so doing place themselves where the truth of God may find access to their hearts. And, on the other hand, those who are reached by the presentation of Scripture truth are then in a position where their consciences will be aroused upon the subject of health. They see and feel the necessity of breaking away from the tyrannizing habits and appetites which have ruled them so long. There are many who would receive the truths of God’s word, their judgment having been convinced by the clearest evidence; but the carnal desires, clamoring for gratification, control the intellect, and they reject truth as falsehood, because it comes in collision with their lustful affections.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” When men of wrong habits and sinful practices yield to the power of divine truth, the entrance of God’s word gives light and understanding to the simple. There is an application of truth to the heart; and moral power, which seemed to have been paralyzed, revives. The receiver is possessed of stronger, clearer understanding than before. He has riveted his soul to the eternal Rock. Health improves in the very sense of his security in Christ. Thus religion and the laws of health go hand in hand.

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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.



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What Jesus Said About The Holy Spirit

By H.M.S. Richards





know them, because they are fully discerned.’” 1 Cor. 2:12-14. When he laid down the Bible and returned to his bed, from which he never arose. But his words were ringing in my heart: “If you do not understand the Bible and do not read it with power, you must be a foolish man.” Those words of my father were simply another way of saying what Jesus said—that when the Holy Ghost comes into the life, He will teach you all things, and will bring all things to your remembrance, even as I have said unto you.”

He is present by the Holy Spirit, the Comforter

Now, the Holy Spirit testifies of Jesus. He glorifies Jesus. Jesus said, “When the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me.” John 15:26.

When our Saviour returned to heaven, His presence through the Holy Spirit was still with His disciples on earth. Of the coming of the Spirit He said, “He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless:

