

3. The Highest Science

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"This is the highest science that we can learn,--the science of salvation. The cross of Calvary, rightly regarded, is true philosophy, pure and undefiled religion. It is eternal life to all who believe." YI, July 7, 1898

"Well may we count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. This knowledge is the highest science that man can study. It is the sum of all true science. "This is life eternal," Christ declared, "that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." ST, June 28, 1905

Charles Fitch

Ellen Harmon's first vision:

"We all went under the tree and sat down to look at the glory of the place, when Brethren Fitch and Stockman, who had preached the gospel of the kingdom, and whom God had laid in the grave to save them, came up to us and asked us what we had passed through while they were sleeping." EW 17

Levi F. Stockman was a Youthful Methodist minister of the State of Maine who in 1842, with about thirty other Methodist Ministers, embraces and began to preach the Second Advent of Christ. He was Laboring in Portland, Maine, when in 1843 his health failed. He died of tuberculosis on June 25, 1844.

We want to look at Charles Fitch and the place he filled in the Millerite movement.

Notice the Name Fitch—a Bible word that means spelt; a type of Bread corn.

Fitch found the Prophecy message around 1838 and after carefully studying it through, accepted it and preached it.

He purchased prophecy tracts to hand out and went before the Protestant Ministerial Association—March 5, 1838, where he met with such ridicule and contempt that he gave up the Prophecy message for a short while from discouragement

Around the same time through his personal studies he found the secret of the Sanctified Life—which was referred to as the 'holiness' message. We know it today as Righteousness by Faith. He published on the Holiness message in 1839.

In 1840 Josiah Litch put forth the Time prophecy message. This brought great impetus to the message.

Fitch took a stand for the Holiness Message in 1840 and was thrown out of his church and ministerial position.

In 1841, J. Litch encouraged Fitch to preach the Prophecy Message with the holiness message and this resulted in great power! "What you need is the doctrine of the second advent to put with the doctrine of holiness." Josiah Litch.

He would preach the Prophecy Message and then in the following meeting he would present the holiness message—In this way the Prophecy message brought awakening and conviction and the holiness message showed the people what to do about getting ready. This, as well as the 1840 prophetic fulfillment and the 1842 chart which we know was triggered by Fitch, accounted for the power of the

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Millerite preachers—Fitch after this spoke to large crowds had so many calls to speak he could not keep up with them.

So not only did the fulfillment of the time prophecy bring power to the movement in 1840-41, so also did the holiness message. AND it was also partly due to the holiness message, as well as the chart after 1842, that the doors began to be shut by the Protestants.

In spring of 1843 Fitch preached the first “Babylon is fallen, Come out of her”, 2nd angel’s message sermon.

Fitch died as a faithful representative of a truly surrendered, sanctified and unselfish life. Oct. 14, 1844. We know he is among the redeemed; and that says a lot.

Josiah Litch we know fell away, and actually influenced Miller in the wrong direction after the Disappointment. He rejected the 3rd angel, and ended up fighting the true message and continuing to try and figure out new dates etc. for the Prophecy. It seems that Litch also later repudiated even the 1840 time prophecy—but I am not certain on that. Some modern theologians claim it.

When we fail to progress with the advancing light, we lose even that which we once had.

Why did Fitch’s holiness message cause such a reaction among his Presbyterian brethren that they cast him out as evil? What was he telling them?

We do not have time here to go into detail but will try to put it into a nutshell: Basically the holiness, R by F message, shows from God’s Eternal Word, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that there is NO excuse for sin to continue in the life of a born again Christian. Fitch was preaching the ‘1888 message’ in 1840! And Fitch got clued into it from John Fletcher, a contemporary of Wesley in the 1700s, and his book “On Christian Perfection”.

So why did such power come into the movement when the Prophecy message was preached along with the ‘holiness ‘message?

Law and Prophecy

God’s Law and God’s Prophecies go together and are the foundation of His Covenant and Testament.

Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Prophecy acts as an amplification of the Law, showing how the keeping or breaking of its precepts reacts upon the history of individuals and nations. And this history is given before it takes place.

Neither the Law nor the Prophecies can in themselves provide us with Salvation. Neither, alone, can save us. But their role is essential.

God provides us with 2 evidences in the Word that He is the Living God and the only true authority worthy of our obedience:

1: His role as Creator

Isaiah 40:25, 26. To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.

Isa 48:13 Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together.

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2: His ability to foretell coming events in Prophecy

Isa 41:21 Produce your cause, saith the LORD; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob.

22 Let them bring them forth, and shew us what shall happen: let them shew the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come.

23 Shew the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods: yea, do good, or do evil, that we may be dismayed, and behold it together.

2 Peter 1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed. . .

Prophecy connects with the law and says; Because this is the Law, and it has been broken, this is going to happen. The 2520, therefore is the kingpin of the prophecies as it ties in so closely with the precepts of the Decalogue.

When the Law and the prophecies are presented together, they create a moral awakening in a person that causes him to cry out, "Woe is me! What shall I do to be saved?" Repentance is initiated and the soul reaches out for a Saviour from sin.

He can then be pointed to the Promises through Christ that provide:

1. Forgiveness of past sin and reinstatement with God = Justification.

2: Power to cleanse the life and live free from sin and rebellion = Sanctification.

Only the Creator can Re-Create fallen man, giving him a new heart and mind and writing His Law within.

All Down through history since the fall, it seems that mankind has been eager to welcome forgiveness of sin and a Saviour from wrath and destruction; but when it comes to power to be set free from sin and sinning—there is a different reaction found among most. Justification is welcomed, but Sanctification is not. Why? Because the truth about Sanctification shows that man really has no excuse to continue in sin and selfishness and rebellion cannot be excused in the light that shines from the Life of Christ.

The 1888 message was nothing new—it is the same message God has placed before His professed people all through history—also its rejection is nothing new either.

People want the assurance of being able to go on their merry way indulging in sin freely, especially the 'respectable sins' such as pride, covetousness, greed, self-indulgence and so on, and just as long as they rattle off a prayer now and then "Jesus forgive my sins" they have no worries. BUT this is a delusion—there is no such thing as Justification without Sanctification—or to put it in plain language, no sin that is not confessed, repented of, and forsaken, is forgiven.

So the Law and the Prophecies are inseparable and each is vital to the proper understanding of the Gospel. Prophecy is the historic voice of the Law. We must teach the Law and we must teach Prophecy but we must also teach Justification and Sanctification as well.

The Law and Prophecy alone makes us like the Jews of Jesus day—arguing on the street corners over the fine points of the Law while plotting to kill the very author of the Law Who was among them.

But if we teach only the watered-down gospel of Justification, our message becomes a sentimental soothing syrup, that has no real saving virtue but merely tickles the ears. That is the spoiled milk.

Unless a person sees the reason for the remedy, he has no real interest in it—thus the churches are having to resort to feasting and entertainment to draw people in, because they are no longer putting forth the very truths that would show the people their need, and thus cause them to hunger and thirst for the remedy!

The Four Alls:

Luke 10:27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with **all** thy heart, and with **all** thy soul, and with **all** thy strength, and with **all** thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

NOTICE the four ALLS – Now–if I give you ALL that I have–how much does that leave me for myself? Nothing; and how much to give to someone else??? NOTHING!

There is something very deep here–IF I obey and do give all to God–THEN HE works THROUGH me to will and to do of His good pleasure–the good works happen, but only under His power and control. Even Jesus’ work was directed by His Father. If GOD is the ALL, we will not go astray in our good works. God LOVES unconditionally, it is true–BUT He does not HELP unconditionally, or He would be aiding and abetting sin!

If we get in the busy-busy, do-do mode, we will soon lose sight of God, and when He is not our all–people become our all. Then we start compromising with truth and the will of God, so as to better please people. We think that, after all we are doing a good work. God’s TRUTH must come FIRST–He must be the ALL or the HUMAN takes over.

Peter’s Ladder:

Turn with me to 2 Peter 1:5-7. We will see how the passage reads, and let the Bible interpret for us. “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.”

First we see that diligence is needed–we have to be serious–all humans including this speaker, are naturally LAZY and indolent esp. when it comes to taking action to bring our lives in harmony with God’s revealed will. “What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.” Deuteronomy 12:32

Many times we hear professed Christians make statements such as; “I don’t think God is so particular about such a small thing.” “God wants us to be happy therefore there is nothing wrong with my seeking after fun and frolic and entertainment.” “God isn’t going to keep me out of heaven for wearing, doing, watching, such and such.” “After all I have to relax sometimes–I can’t be religious all the time.”

SO we have to ask God and get this diligence without which we will fail of perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Now it tells us to add to our FAITH. Where does this faith come from?

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as **God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**

So that is a given–but how does it grow? (have you forgotten the diligence?)

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Faith grows as we diligently get in deep with the WORD.

So what happens as we diligently get in deep with the word? We see all kinds of things that it shows us need changing in our lives–the inspired Word (Bible AND SOP) is full of fingers all pointing at me when I read it. So we see all these things and cry to God (Don’t forget the diligence!) that these graces be given us and this is where we attain VIRTUE.

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As VIRTUE grows in us through the GRACE of God as we plead for His righteousness, then our minds become clearer and the Holy Spirit moves closer and we begin to attain to heavenly KNOWLEDGE. That which was foolishness to the Greeks and a stumbling block to the Pharisees, becomes life and breath and glory to us and it continues to grow. Remember that ALL the steps continue to grow together always and for-ever.

THEN as the KNOWLEDGE increases we see the desperate need for temperance in all things—and again we storm the battlements of Heaven for more GRACE to put away every harmful indulgence and cast off every weight that impedes our heavenly climb.

ONLY as TEMPERANCE takes her place on her pure throne, can PATIENCE be developed, again by God's Grace—and Oh how we need it, because by this time, we are beset by trials on the right hand and the left, before and behind, as the devil sees he is losing ground with us, and sets loose the dogs of hell to hound the day-lights out of all of God's faithful ladder climbers. Remember Christ is the LADDER we are climbing, and the dogs can't follow us there, unless we jump down and try to fight them ourselves.

It is as the patience develops, triggered by the trials and tribulations, that we start to reflect the true Character of God—GODLINESS—PLEASE notice that ALL these things that are covered so far, are to do with the 'ALL' that GOD demands. THEN, and only then, do we see our brother, our neighbor—WHY ?? Because if we start with the Brotherly Kindness and charity FIRST before all the rest is solidly in place—we will do our own thing for our own glory, and we will sin against God to please man—and feel that the 'end justifies the means', AND we will be lost!

When we give God the four ALLS—God does the rest.

In the last days the faithful remnant are going to stand out like a sore thumb against an almost overwhelming tide of 'do-gooders' that will be pushing the Mark of the Beast – to 'save the world'. The Elect will be seen as grinchers who don't care about other people, and who just want to selfishly follow their own ideas and so spoil the 'wonderful plan for unity' the devil is going to be serving up—why? Because they will have given God the ALL—and they thus will not compromise on truth. And foremost among our attackers will be our former brethren, who will decry against us the most, and bring our deepest trials. But cling to that ladder—they can't shake us down unless we first drop the ALL TO GOD choice.

Is all this something we do in our human strength? Not at all! Just glance at 2 Peter 5, in verse 4, right before the ladder, and you will find the secret of the ladder. 4 "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

So it is by the Precious Promises that we climb the Ladder. And we will now learn how to claim those promises with the ABCs of the Prayer of Reception.

There is an interesting verse in the Bible: "And this is life eternal, that they might **know** Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." John 17:3.

Jesus knows that when people come to really KNOW what the loving Heavenly Father is like, and they see Jesus living out that love in His life on earth, that people will fall in love with God and give their heart to Him and follow His truths by obeying Him.

Satan KNOWS this, and so starting in Heaven, he has always told lies about God and tried to get people to think that God was a monster, a tyrant, and totally selfish and unfair. The things he tells people about God, is what he, himself, is really like!

Think of God as eager to help

Many times as we pray we seem to feel that we have to beg and plead and maybe say some magic words to get God talked into helping us—but the truth is that God is eager to help us!

"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him." 2 Chronicles 16:9.

He is searching the world, eager to find someone who will receive His help!

"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" Romans 8:32.

He is eager also to guide us: "I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known; ... and not forsake them." Isaiah 42:16.

God never says to His believing child, "No, period." He may sometimes say, "No, I will give you something much better."

"Now unto him that is able to do *exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think*, according to the power that worketh in us," Ephesians 3:20. Here we see a picture of God as being eager to do so much more for us than we ask, that our asking appears pitifully short of what He wants to give us.

Think of God as truthful.

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" Numbers 23:19.

The scriptures contain thousands of promises, and God means what He says—always!

A minister was approached by a woman who said she had a problem. It was forgiveness. The minister pointed her to the promise of 1 John 1:9. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

The minister pointed out that the condition to this promise is that she confess her sins. She explained to the minister that she had confessed her sins hundreds of times for forty years. He then suggested that they fall on their knees and claim the promise. This they did. The minister arose with strong assurance in his face that the lady was forgiven completely. But her response was still one of grave doubts. The minister said, assuringly, "You are now forgiven, aren't you?"

"That is what I'm afraid to say," the lady replied, her countenance clouded with doubt. The minister asked her if she believed the Bible. Her reply was a positive "Yes." He asked her if she believed the Bible promises. The answer again was a firm "Yes." Then he asked her if she believed this particular promise (1 John 1:9). She still gave a firm "Yes." The minister, just to be sure, asked her once more if she had confessed all her sins. She replied she had confessed all she was aware of. The Holy Spirit then seemed to impress him to ask a searching question: "If the Holy Spirit should point out one sin you have not confessed, would you be willing to confess that sin also?"

The lady unhesitatingly replied with a fervent, "Yes, I surely would!"

"What about the sin brought to view in 1 John 5:10 in the middle of the verse?" the minister asked. It says, "He that believeth not God hath made him a liar." "What about confessing this sin you have committed for 40 years?" The minister spoke so kindly and his face registered such Christ-like tenderness that the reproof went like a dart straight to her heart. She saw that she had been committing a very great sin in not believing God. She had been making God a liar.

"Let us get down on our knees!" she cried. And there she confessed her sin of making God out a liar for 40 years. Then she asked the minister to claim God's promise for her. She sobbed out her joyful confidence that she was now forgiven. As they rose to their feet she exclaimed, "Just think of it, Pastor, I could have had complete forgiveness and cleansing 40 years ago had I but believed God."

Hebrews 6:18 declares that it is "impossible for God to lie."

Think of God as powerful enough to bring solutions.

"By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. . . For he spake, and it was." Psalm 33:6,9.

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God. ..." Hebrews 11:3.

Notice these two texts:

(1) Romans 4:17, "God, . . . calleth those things which be not as though they were."

(2) Psalm 33:9, "He spake, and it was." Putting these two texts together, it says, that anything that does not exist, does exist the moment God's creative word names it. This is our creator God.

That is why there is such power in the Inspired Word and also why the very gift—the answer to our prayer, is actually in the promise just as the oak is in the acorn.

"How to exercise faith should be made very plain. To every promise of God there are conditions. If we are willing to do His will, all His strength is ours. Whatever gift He promises, is in the promise itself. "The seed is the word of God." Luke 8:11. As surely as the oak is in the acorn, so surely is the gift of God in His promise. If we receive the promise, we have the gift.

"Faith that enables us to receive God's gifts is itself a gift, of which some measure is imparted to every human being. It grows as exercised in appropriating the word of God. In order to strengthen faith, we must often bring it in contact with the word." {Ed 253.}

God requires of us childlike faith.

"Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3.

How does childlike faith express itself? There were two little girls discussing a point on which they disagreed. One said, "It is so."

The other replied, "It tain't so."

The first girl in order to give weight to her statement replied, "Yes, it is so, because Mother said it is so."

But the other little girl did not know her friend's mother, so she spoke with a shrug of the shoulder, "It still tain't so."

This fully aroused the first girl, who replied with great earnestness and conviction, "It is so, too, because what Mother says is so, EVEN IF IT TAIN'T SO." This is childlike faith.

We are to reach out and receive the solution.

Jesus taught us to offer a prayer that asks, believes, and then actually receives, or claims, the solution without doubting, because what God says is so; even though our own minds cannot comprehend it all.

Jesus commands us to:

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ASK-Matthew 7:7, "Ask, and it shall be given you."

BELIEVE-Mark 11:24, "Believe that ye receive ... and ye shall have."

RECEIVE, or CLAIM-Matthew 21:22, "All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." (We use the words receive and claim interchangeably because when we go to the airport for instance, we claim our baggage when we receive it.)

"Prayer and faith are closely allied, and they need to be studied together. In the prayer of faith there is a divine science; it is a science that everyone who would make his lifework a success must understand. Christ says, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24. He makes it plain that our asking must be according to God's will; we must ask for the things that He has promised, and whatever we receive must be used in doing His will. The conditions met, the promise is unequivocal.

"For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift He has promised, we may ask; then we are to believe that we receive, and return thanks to God that we have received.

"We need look for no outward evidence of the blessing. The gift is in the promise, and we may go about our work assured that what God has promised He is able to perform, and that the gift, which we already possess, will be realized when we need it most." Ed 257, 258.

Friends; through those thousands of Precious Promises our every need is provided for—but it is only for those who have given the 4 ALLS to God; only those who fulfill the conditions laid down—but none of that need discourage any honest soul as the conditions themselves and all God's commands are also promises—they contain the answer within them by the creative power of God. Thou shalt not—is a promise if we choose to receive it. The victorious life is within the reach of all.

"None but those who have fortified **the mind with the truths of the Bible** will stand through the last great conflict." GC 593.

The eleven men failed miserably because: "**The words which they needed to remember were banished from their minds**; and when the time of trial came, it found them unprepared." GC 594.

So with us. "**Temptations often appear irresistible because through neglect of prayer and the study of the Bible, the tempted one cannot readily remember God's promises** and meet Satan with the Scripture weapons." GC 600.

I have heard it said by some that in order to overcome we need to make a list of our sins and check it every day to see if we are making progress—No brethren, no way! What we focus on we become, and all this does is make us more like ourselves. Instead make a list of the most precious promises that contain the answers to our weaknesses and failings; and go over them until they shine as jewels in our minds—and sin will have no power over the one who is truly hid 'In Christ—the WORD'.

1. I saw a blood washed pilgrim, a sinner saved by grace,
Upon the King's great highway, with peaceful, shining face;
Temptations sore beset him, but nothing could affright;
He said, "The yoke is easy, the burden, it is light."

2. His helmet was salvation, a simple faith his shield,
And righteousness his breastplate, the spirit's sword he'd wield.
All fiery darts arrested, And quenched their blazing flight;
He cried "The yoke is easy, the burden, it is light."

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3. I saw him in the furnace; He doubted not, nor feared,
And in the flames beside him, The Son of God appeared;
Though seven times 'twas heated, With all the tempter's might,
He cried, "The yoke is easy, The burden, it is light."

4. 'Mid storms, and clouds, and trials, in prison, at the stake,
He leaped for joy, rejoicing, 'twas all for Jesus' sake;
That God should count him worthy, was such supreme delight,
He cried, "The yoke is easy, the burden, is so light."

5. I saw him overcoming, Through all the swelling strife,
Until he crossed the threshold, Of God's Eternal Life;
The crown, the throne, the scepter, The name, the stone so white,
Were his, who found in Jesus, The yoke and burden light.

Benediction

Jude 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, 25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.