

## Unmasking the Supernatural 10

“And (Jesus) said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven!” Luke 10:18

### Your Thoughts; Are they your Own?

In our modern times, few people realize that there is a great battle being fought on this earth between the powers of evil, seeking to deceive and destroy, and Christ and His angels seeking to redeem mankind. Nor do they comprehend that our minds are often the center of that warfare. We think our thoughts are totally and only generated by ourselves. The idea that some of the things that pop up in our minds may not have originated with us, is seldom even considered. Sure, some of us read statements in the Bible regarding these things, but do not take them seriously enough.

And yet, surely in this era we have many reasons to know that these things are true. We know about advertising and how tricky these techniques can be that are used to try and implant some idea, desire or impulse into our minds. We know that messages can be hidden in ads, music and pictures that are picked up by our subconscious minds even without our being aware of it. Ads are designed to get into our minds and stick there like burs; and they do. This writer says; “Myself I am at times ashamed to find myself singing or humming some silly commercial I heard decades back and yet it still is stuck in my memory.”

So if humans can exert such influences over each other, we need not doubt that spirit beings, the angels, both good and evil, can also. Now God’s angels only seek to influence us in the right ways and only as directed by God and with our permission; but the fallen angels are constantly trying to impose thoughts and misleading feelings into our minds. Without God’s protection we are very vulnerable to these things. As Adventists, we are greatly blest in that God has given us, through the writings of His special Messenger to the remnant church, a lot of insight into what goes on in the unseen world about us. Here is one example:

“We carefully secure our houses with bolts and locks to protect our property and our lives from evil men; but we seldom think of the evil angels who are constantly seeking access to us, and against whose attacks we have, in our own strength, no method of defense. If permitted, they can distract our minds, disorder, torment our bodies, destroy our possessions and our lives. Their only delight is in misery and destruction. Fearful is the condition of those who resist the divine claims, and yield to Satan's temptations, until God gives them up to the control of evil spirits. But those who follow Christ are ever safe under his watchcare. Angels that excel in strength are sent from Heaven to protect them. The wicked one cannot break through the guard which God has stationed about his people.” Great Controversy 1888 517.

Here is another quote:

“The magicians of heathen times have their counterpart in the spiritualistic mediums, the clairvoyants, and the fortune-tellers of today. The mystic voices that spoke at Endor and at Ephesus are still by their lying words misleading the children of men. Could the veil be lifted from before our eyes, we should see evil angels employing all their arts to deceive and to destroy. Wherever an influence is exerted to cause men to forget God, there Satan is exercising his bewitching power. When men yield to his influence, ere they are aware the mind is bewildered and the soul polluted. The apostle's admonition to the Ephesian church should be heeded by the people of God today: "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." Ephesians 5:11. Acts of the Apostles 290.

Roger Morneau was a man who had a unique experience of being rescued by God from a society of elite, modern Satan worshippers in 1946. He wrote: "Demon spirits love to play games with the minds of humans," a spiritist priest told me during my days as a spirit worshiper. "They flash thoughts and images in people's minds with such delicate skill that the recipients believe them to be their own reasoning." With a great sense of satisfaction he bragged how the spirits can activate the human imagination, triggering people to like certain

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persons and hate others. They can cause them to experience vibrant happiness, or the direct opposite, great discouragement and depression.

"And when it comes to poor Christians," he declared, "those who are not aware of their supernatural activity and power, the spirits can apply such overwhelming pressure against them that it eventually destroys any faith they might have in the Creator."

Volume 1 of *Testimonies for the Church* contains a short article entitled "Sympathy at Home." Ellen White writes of a couple referred to as Brother and Sister C, who were experiencing many difficulties. She saw in vision that much of their problem had its origin in satanic influence on the man's thoughts.

"You have a diseased imagination and deserve pity," she told him. "Yet no one can help you as well as yourself. If you want faith, talk faith; talk hopefully.... If you suffer Satan to control your thoughts as you have done, you will become a special subject for him to use and will ruin your own soul and the happiness of your family" 1 *Testimonies* p. 699.

Addressing the wife, Mrs. White said, "Brother C deserves pity. He has so long felt unhappy that life has become a burden to him.... His imagination is diseased, and he has so long kept his eyes on the dark picture that if he meets with adversity or disappointment, he imagines that everything is going to ruin ... The more he thinks thus, the more miserable he makes his life and the lives of all around him. He has no reason to feel as he does; it is the work of Satan" p. 703.

When I say that Christians can fall under the influence of satanic suggestions, that does not mean that we are demon-possessed as is too often claimed by those involved in deliverance ministries.

To help those who fall into these states, we need to make a special effort to encourage them. To direct their attention to the fact that "the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds"; "casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" 2 Corinthians 10:4, 5.

Especially stress the importance of praying the Father in the name of Jesus, for the Holy Spirit to fight their spiritual battles for them. Many of those who have turned to prayer with a full understanding of what they were up against now enjoy glorious victory over what had once been crushing problems.

Demonic spirits have one objective in mind; to destroy our confidence in God. We must never allow ourselves to lose trust in the Lord by thinking that perhaps you are somehow deficient in your spiritual life, and therefore unable to draw closer to Him or that He has cast you off. Take courage in promises like this:

"He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust." Psalm 103:10-14.

We can all establish a wonderful relationship with God. But it needs to be one that is solidly founded on the Word of God and not on feelings or emotions excited to some kind of an ecstasy. Its degree of excellence rests strictly on the mighty Sacrifice of Calvary.

Every morning ask the Lord Jesus to apply to you the merits of the blood He shed on Calvary for the remission of sin, and for Him to clothe you with the robe of His righteousness. "And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith; that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection" Philippians 3:9, 10.

When you let Him place you in such a state, our heavenly Father views you in a whole new light. This is the ultimate in closeness with God in this land of the enemy.

Many of God's people struggle with the worry; has the Lord lost interest in them since they do not *feel* His presence as they once did? They *feel* that it is no longer easy for them to go to church, or to even have their

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devotions with the joy they once had. And they fear the future, concerned that they might not make it to the city of God. They *feel* that their lack of goodness makes it hard to live for God. As they look back upon their sinful life and the way they lived before coming to God, they become more disheartened and *feel* like giving up.

Such a condition is a spiritual malaria brought about by the enemies of all righteousness. Satan and his angels are determined to ". . . defeat the work of Christ in man's behalf and to fasten souls in his snares". *The Great Controversy*, p. 518.

No wonder the Bible tells us, "But the just shall live by his faith." Habakkuk 2:4. "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." Romans 1:17. Just *take God at His word and live for Him regardless of how you may feel*.

One way to escape the deadly spiritual malaria destroying the Christian experience of so many people is to memorize verses of Scripture that tell of God's love for sinners, such as John 3:16, "For God so loved the world," or "Who is a God like unto Thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgressions of the remnant of his heritage? He retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy." Micah 7:18.

Write a few such texts on a piece of paper or in a little notebook and carry it with you, when you have opportunity, take it out and read them, thinking carefully about their meaning. Ask the Lord to assist you in laying these up in your memory. After a while you will remember them without the paper and then you can add a few more.

Consider David's life; here is a man who had lived life to its fullest. Most of his years were an honor to God and a glory to his nation, but not all of them. Even though he was a man after God's own heart, he still committed iniquity. He coveted the wife of one of his military officers and lusted to have her as his own. Worse than that, he arranged to have her husband killed and out of the way and rejoiced when he received the news of Uriah's death.

To understand the full extent of this wickedness, we must bear in mind that the word 'iniquity' implies having done great evil *with the full understanding that God was witnessing it all*, and that the individual didn't care a bit that God's commandments forbade such wickedness. What David did was outright rebellion against Someone whom he claimed to love and serve. His sin was deliberate and premeditated.

Humanly speaking, a man like that should not have expected God to forgive his wickedness. But because David became repentant and confessed his great iniquity, the Bible tells us that God forgave him. There is great comfort in the thought that if He could forgive David after what he did, He is well able to forgive us.

We find David's psalm of repentance in Psalm 51; for example, "A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me." verses 1-3. And 10-12; "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. 11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. 12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit." These scriptures can increase our confidence in God's willingness to forgive and, above all, to forget our sins.

When the thought enters the mind that God could never have forgiven us, immediately recognized such doubt as an attempt by an evil angel to dishearten us and have us give up on God. We can block such thoughts by quoting verses of Scripture that tell of God's goodness and love like this one:

"I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38, 39.

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As long as we live in this land of the enemy, Satan and his spirit associates will do everything possible to make us *feel* terrible. They may even torture the minds of some of us as they did to John the Baptist. If he had listened to his feelings while in prison, he would have missed out on eternal life! *The Desire of Ages*, 216 reads: "There were hours when the whisperings of demons tortured his spirit, and the shadow of a terrible fear crept over him."

Here was a man who lived for God, had done everything possible to bring glory to Him, but now he found himself languishing in a cold and foul-smelling dungeon. Humanly speaking, he would have had good reason to give up on God.

But like other great people of the Bible as in Hebrews 11, he had fortified his mind with Scripture, and as he lifted his heart to God in prayer, the Spirit of God encouraged him in right thinking, *not with feelings of ecstasy*, and "he yielded himself to God for life or for death, as should best serve the interests of the cause he loved." *The Desire of Ages*, p. 218.

Although he lost his life for the cause of God, Jesus honored him when He said, "Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist." Matthew 11:11.

We all must learn to walk by faith and not by sight or feelings of ecstasy. The time will soon be here when God's commandment-keeping people will walk by faith only, no matter what.

Facing Reality: "In describing to His disciples the office work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus sought to inspire them with the joy and hope that inspired His own heart. He rejoiced because of the abundant help He had provided for His church. The Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts that He could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people. The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church." *The Desire of Ages*, 671.

It is true again today that the power of evil has been strengthening for centuries and has now reached the point that it overwhelms reason and parental authority as it devastates Christian homes. The widespread notion is that there isn't much one can do about it except ask the Lord to watch over erring loved ones.

But there is much more than that we can do! We can claim the merits of the blood Christ shed at Calvary. And as we learn to understand how that divine power can be enlisted for the salvation of those who have departed from God, we will see mighty miracles of redemption take place in the lives of those we pray for.

Three Evil Elements:

We first need to consider the immensity of the sin problem in our lives. Three powerful evil elements seek control of each one of us, elements that without God's strength and intervention we are defenseless against.

1. The power of sin.
2. The power of death.
3. The power of separation from God.

Jesus has enumerated some of the evils that the *power of sin* can produce in an individual's life: "From within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man" (Mark 7:21-23).

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No wonder the Bible declares that the human heart "is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." Jeremiah 17:9.

Christian men find themselves distressed by the impure thoughts that flooded their minds. Their efforts to re-channel their thoughts to dwell on pure and good things is a constant struggle.

One man said; "I am almost discouraged over the fact that as soon as I wake up in the morning, I find myself thinking about some of the immoralities that I did before becoming a Christian. I try very hard to think on good things, but before long some of those corrupt imaginations are back again. And at times I find myself thinking upon those with greedy interest. Is this just a losing battle? Is there any way of beating this thing?"

The Word of God says; "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart" Psalm 24:3, 4. So will those who struggle with these things just miss out on eternal life?

The fact is, nothing short of the divine power of Christ dispensed daily through the Holy Spirit can bring victory. But this power is there for us for the asking! Always remember is that God does not ask anything of us that He is not willing to empower us to do. All His commands are enablings! Our lives can be transformed by the Holy Spirit.

The *power of death* drives people to smoke, drink alcohol, use drugs, or adopt a lifestyle that will shorten life. They ignore even the scientific evidence of the dangers of such habits and practices, and refuse to listen to reason or common sense. This also applies to those who reject and rebel against the true health reform message God has so graciously given us.

Others struggle with the compulsion to take risks. The greater the danger, the more powerful the high they get from it. I believe this is one of the reasons young people have so many deadly car accidents. During the 1980s car crashes killed more than 74,000 teenagers in the United States. Many survivors relate how an inner force compelled them to drive recklessly. These days, I believe that video and computer games add to this compulsion, especially by distorting one's sense of reality.

There was a story written by a minister writing devotional material for youth, where a very false and dangerous idea was promoted. He told about being in a mission country and observing young native fellows diving from a very high cliff into rather hazardous waters. They approached him with the challenge that he should do this also. Now this would have been an ideal opportunity to have kindly told the young folk that our lives and our bodies are not our own property and it is offensive to God for us to risk doing something hazardous, that was totally needless, only for thrills. However he did not; he allowed himself to be dared by these boys to try it himself. He did do it and survived injury, but in his story he was claiming that God helped him and protected him! Surely this is a case of pure presumption and not at all that he was doing the will of God! What if he had died in this showing off situation? Could we think that his eternal salvation would have been secured when he was presumptuously exposing himself to danger for no reason but to respond to a dare? Basically it would have been suicide.

Pride and arrogant self-esteem are the factors that underlie needless risk-taking and responding to dares. Think of Jesus as a youth as He walked the streets of Nazareth. Often He was ridiculed for His standards and dared to do evil by the dissolute youth of that wicked area. He would not respond in any way to such things. Remember the time when Satan took Him up on the pinnacle of the temple and double-dared Him to cast Himself down to prove His faith in God. Did He do it? No way! He responded with a text we all need to memorize; "Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." Matthew 4:7. What was He quoting? "Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God". Deuteronomy 6:16.

What says the Lord's Messenger? "I warn you to stand firm, and never do a wrong action rather than be called a coward. Allow no taunts, no threats, no sneering remarks, to induce you to violate your conscience in the

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least particular, and thus open a door whereby Satan can come in and control the mind." Fundamentals of Education 93.

The *power of separation from God* consists of two distinct elements: distrust of God and unbelief. It has wrecked untold millions of lives through the centuries. The antediluvians refused to enter Noah's ark, and the Hebrews who left Egypt perished in the wilderness rather than enter the Land of Promise only because of this element.

Besides the self-destructive forces that lurk within each one of us, we must also remember that Satan and his fallen followers are also doing everything they can to distress, perplex, and oppress our minds and lives.

Our hearts would sink in despair were it not for the fact that our mighty Redeemer, Jesus Christ, can save completely from self, from sin, from the world, and from the power of fallen angels. Jesus can do what we cannot, protect us from that which we would be defenseless against, and can transform us into what we would never be otherwise. He is the only hope that we can ever have.

By asking the Father in the name of Jesus for the Holy Spirit, that great Power through whom alone we can resist and overcome sin, we can live victorious and successful Christian lives. Notice the kind of prayer Paul prayed for the church at Ephesus: "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ... that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God." Ephesians 3:14-19.

### Media and Your Thoughts:

We need to look into a bit of recent history for a while to try and understand what we are up against in our modern day. In Sister White's day magazines, books, newspapers and theater were the main threats to the minds of Christians, and faithful warnings were sounded regarding these things.

"Those who would not fall a prey to Satan's devices must guard well the avenues of the soul; they must avoid reading, seeing, or hearing that which will suggest impure thoughts. The mind should not be left to wander at random upon every subject that the adversary of souls may suggest. "Gird up the loins of your mind," says the apostle Peter, "be sober, . . . not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: but as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of living." Says Paul, "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." This will require earnest prayer and unceasing watchfulness. We must be aided by the abiding influence of the Holy Spirit, which will attract the mind upward, and habituate it to dwell on pure and holy things. And we must give diligent study to the word of God. "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Thy word." "Thy word," says the Psalmist, "have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee." Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 460.

Early in the 20th century a new form of entertainment began to appear, the picture show; after a while it was the movies, as the methods for recording action scenes were invented. At first they were silent movies as they had no sound track. Music would be played on a piano in the theater as the pictures played. Titles appeared on the screen to tell you what the actors were saying. Then later, there would be a record that was played along with the movie with the music and dialogue on it, but it was a little tricky to match up the record with the picture. It was not long until we had the 'talkies' and sound tracks were placed on the movies themselves. By the 1930s the movie industry was huge in America. In the 40s we saw the first color films and they just got more refined as time went on. Going to the movies or the 'show' was now an American way of life and it spread to other countries as well.

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Now through all this time, this new industry did not have much influence on the Advent people. Going to see these movies was forbidden and Adventists would not go to theaters, any more than they would go into a bar and drink alcohol. The standards remained high until into the 1950s and then things began to change. For one thing, carefully selected movies began to be shown in Adventist school auditoriums.

But the biggest change that happened was the home TV. Oh, in the 20s and 30s onward there was radio and it had audio dramas of all kinds on it, mostly glorifying sin and evil; but as the TV intruded into the very homes of the people it brought a change in the very structure of society. In the 50s TVs were black and white and not all that great to look at, but they took hold of society and intruded even into Adventist homes. It was like the devil figured out if he could not get Adventists to the movies; he would bring the movies to Adventists. By the 60s most homes had a TV.

The story is told that an Adventist Mission doctor was told by a spiritualist leader that television was the method of choice to lure Adventists away from their Bibles and Spirit of Prophecy and attract them to spiritualism. It does not take any superior insight though, to see this has taken place. In spite of the fact that Adventists know the state of the dead and that all this spiritualistic stuff is just the fallen angels deceiving people into thinking that the dead are alive on some other plain and can be communicated with; in many Adventist homes you would see people watching programs where spiritualism was the center core. It was just in fun though; just innocent entertainment; Really?

Right from the beginning, TV, and even Radio before it, was full of spiritualism and the occult. Walt Disney, whose movies were considered for some unknown reason, to be family entertainment, was full of spiritualism right from the start. We have reason to believe that this concept likely came from an intensive advertising campaign, sponsored by spiritualists. There is something about us humans that we are naturally attracted to these things, to the weird, the evil and the ugly, and it seems no amount of true Bible facts seem to counteract that attraction.

One of the biggest fallacies, is that you can have this entertainment in your home and you will control it and it won't do you any harm. I think this passage from 9 Manuscript releases can be applied just as much to TV, and all the other entertainment we have these days, as it could be applied to books in Sister White's day.

"Just as soon as you begin to think you are big men, and that you are so large that you can comprehend and pick out all that is precious in infidel authors, and leave out all that is vile, then you are wise above that which is written. You cannot do this. The devil is right by your side, and the evil angels are there. The devil is a great deal smarter than you are, and you cannot see what he is driving at. He will so cunningly interweave his sentiments with the thoughts of these writers, so that it will be impossible to distinguish the error which they contain. He regards this circumstance as his opportunity. These very things may insinuate themselves into your mind and character, and God pronounces you a fool." 9MR 68

That is pretty serious to have God call us a fool. But we all know the common name for the TV don't we? Even the worldly people call it the Boob Tube because of its bad effect on the brains and minds of people who watch it; and boob is the same as a fool! When we bring worldly entertainment in any form into our homes, we are inviting the devil and his angels to be our permanent guests, and he never turns down an invitation! In fact he doesn't need one, he will barge in anywhere he gets the least opportunity.

People are deceived as they think that movies and TV and videos are good ways to learn, but actually they are not; and there are many reasons they are not. The flickering light and rapidly changing scenes on TV and movies creates a hypnotic state of the mind which allows impressions and influences to by-pass our higher mental processes, our power of analysis and choice, and just butt into our minds without us being in control or even aware! Whether it is the programs or the advertisements, they are all designed to have an effect on our mind and to influence our choices and behavior.

Learning is better accomplished by reading, or listening to something, rather than through watching things on visual screens; and the best way to learn is through doing things, not watching things. Studies now have shown

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that watching any kind of electronic screen is especially harmful to the developing mind of the child. So much so that some countries are now outlawing programing that is geared to young children.

What about fiction in any form?

“We should keep the mind pure by avoiding the reading of novels. He who allows himself to become infatuated with fiction, will have no genuine interest in the study of the word of God; for the mind becomes diseased by contact with evil imaginations.” YI, February 20, 1896

“Suffer not yourselves to open the lids of a book that is questionable. There is a hellish fascination in the literature of Satan. It is the powerful battery by which he tears down a simple religious faith. Never feel that you are strong enough to read infidel books; for they contain a poison like that of asps. They can do you no good, and will assuredly do you harm. In reading them, you are inhaling the miasmas of hell. They will be to your soul like a corrupt stream of water, defiling the mind, keeping it in the mazes of skepticism, and making it earthly and sensual. These books are written by men whom Satan employs as his agents; and by this means he designs to confuse the mind, withdraw the affections from God, and rob your Creator of the reverence and gratitude which His works demand. The mind needs to be trained, and its desires controlled and brought into subjection to the will of God. Instead of being dwarfed and deformed by feeding on the vile trash which Satan provides, it should have wholesome food, which will give strength and vigor.

“Young Christian, you have everything to learn. You must be an interested student of the Bible; you must search it, comparing scripture with scripture. If you would do your Master good and acceptable service, you must know what He requires. His word is a sure guide; if it is carefully studied, there is no danger of falling under the power of the temptations that surround the youth, and crowd in upon them.” The Youth's Instructor, September 10, 1884.

All these counsels apply with even greater force to all modern media forms. Satan is hunting for us relentlessly; he never goes off duty; never takes a vacation. So in serving the Lord and seeking to make our calling and election sure in God's Great plan of Redemption, there is no 'down time', no time when it is safe to throw caution and scruples to the winds and 'just relax' as some people say when they indulge in worldly entertainment. We must “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” Proverbs 4:23.

“There were many in Christ's day, as there are today, over whom the control of Satan for the time seemed broken; through the grace of God they were set free from the evil spirits that had held dominion over the soul. They rejoiced in the love of God; but, like the stony-ground hearers of the parable, they did not abide in His love. They did not surrender themselves to God daily, that Christ might dwell in the heart; and when the evil spirit returned, with "seven other spirits more wicked than himself," they were wholly dominated by the power of evil

“When the soul surrenders itself to Christ, a new power takes possession of the new heart. A change is wrought which man can never accomplish for himself. It is a supernatural work, bringing a supernatural element into human nature. The soul that is yielded to Christ becomes His own fortress, which He holds in a revolted world, and He intends that no authority shall be known in it but His own. A soul thus kept in possession by the heavenly agencies is impregnable to the assaults of Satan. But unless we do yield ourselves to the control of Christ, we shall be dominated by the wicked one. We must inevitably be under the control of the one or the other of the two great powers that are contending for the supremacy of the world. It is not necessary for us deliberately to choose the service of the kingdom of darkness in order to come under its dominion. We have only to neglect to ally ourselves with the kingdom of light. If we do not co-operate with the heavenly agencies, Satan will take possession of the heart, and will make it his abiding place. The only defense against evil is the indwelling of Christ in the heart through faith in His righteousness.” Desire of Ages 323.