

“Calling Upon Jesus in Our Urgent Need!”

Week 4 - 100 Days of Prayer

April 17 - 23, 2020

“Come, Rest Awhile”

By Nina Atcheson

One beautiful morning, I realized the house was too quiet, and my three-year old daughter was missing. Her brothers were playing together, but she was nowhere to be found. I called out for her, wondering where she could be. “Tahlia, where are you?” My voice echoed through the house, but silence responded. I walked through different rooms, finding no trace of her.

Finally, I heard a tiny voice. “Mummy...” Her little head poked out from behind my red chair. “Look,” she held up our worship book, the page open to a picture of Jesus and His angels descending to earth. “He comes today, Mummy?” she asked, pointing to the window beside her.

My heart melted as I realized that she was sitting there, waiting for Jesus to come back *today*. In my morning rush, I was making breakfast, hanging out washing, and answering the phone instead. The immediacy of these ‘urgent’ chores had completely distracted me from giving any time to Jesus that morning. God couldn’t have spoken more clearly than through Tahlia at that moment. It was like He was saying, *Just slow down and notice Me this morning. I’m here. And I’m coming soon! Spend some time with Me...*

Today, many years later, I still hear God’s words to me. “Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while” (Mark 6:31). He invites us to stop, in the maddening rush around us, to be with Him. Not just momentarily or out of obligation, but for a season, because we want to spend time with the Restorer of Our Souls.

Right now, many of us find ourselves in a place where we are isolated in our homes due to a global pandemic. In a sense, we have been forced to pause in our usual rush of life. Our lives have changed for this season. Are we resting in Him in this “deserted place”? Are we listening to His still small voice (1 Kings 19:12), calling us into a closer walk with Him (John 15:9)? Are we coming aside to know Him more, or are we filling up the quiet space with the noise of other distractions?

As a child, I remember singing a song that included these words: “Time with Him is time well spent. He will be your Comfort and your Guide. Time with Him is time well spent. He will always be right by your side.” Building our relationship with God by spending time with our Comforter and Guide, is of utmost importance in the times we find ourselves in right now. Quality time (instead of quantity or length of time) is what counts most. What might you do to improve the quality of your time with God this week? Consider the following ideas:

- Ask God to give you a greater desire to spend time with Him.
- The Bible is not meant to be difficult to study. It's God's living Word to you, and He is waiting to speak to you through it.
- Come in humility and pray before you read your Bible, asking God for a specific message that you need to hear.
- You may want to take just one verse or one small bite-size portion of Scripture each day. Consider: What is God telling me through this passage? How can I encourage someone today with this message?

God waits patiently for us to spend time with Him every day (Rev. 3:20). Will you wait expectantly, like Tahlia, longing for His return? Will you come and rest awhile with Him as you wait?

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HEART QUESTIONS: What is the greatest barrier that stops you from spending quality time with God? Are there blocks you could ask God to help you remove to clear away certain distractions? How might this change your prayer and Bible study habits?

ACTIVE HEART CHALLENGE: Perhaps God is wanting to work through the difficult circumstances around us to help us realize our great need for Him before He returns. He is providing a unique opportunity for us to rest awhile in Him. Will you respond to His invitation? Let's claim the promises of John 15:4, 5; Isa. 26:2, 3 and Mark 6:33 while we seek rest and assurance in Him.

"Those who take Christ at His word, and surrender their souls to His keeping, their lives to His ordering, will find peace and quietude... Our lives may seem a tangle; but as we commit ourselves to the wise Master Worker, He will bring out the pattern of life and character that will be to His own glory." (Desire of Ages, p. 331)

Going Deeper: Additional reading suggestions for this week

- Ellen White, *Education*, chapter 20, "Bible Teaching and Study" – See attachment
- Nina Atcheson, *As Light Lingers: Basking in the Word of God*
- Audiobook: *As Light Lingers: Basking in the Word of God* (To stream a weekly free chapter go to: www.aslightlingers.com)



Day 22 – Prayer Focus – Friday, April 17, 2020

PRAISE REPORT! In spite of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, the Seventh-day Adventist Church continues to move forward in mission. And many creative and new methods of sharing the gospel are being developed with a much broader reach than we've yet experienced. Praise the Lord!

Prayer Requests shared by Ted N.C. Wilson

- Pray for our church members and those who are grieving the recent loss of loved ones due to COVID-19. Pray for peace and comfort for their hearts. Pray for physical healing for those who are currently battling the Coronavirus.
- Pray that church members will actively embrace the healthy lifestyle principles of NEWSTART (which stand for Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunshine, Temperance, Air, Rest, and Trust in God) as a balanced approach to healthy living.
- Pray that we as a church will continue to will find ways to effectively share God's health message, along with the Three Angels' messages, which is our last-day mission to the world including our need to plead for the latter rain of the Holy Spirit, as we prepare for Christ's soon second coming.
- Pray that in our eagerness to find creative ways to witness to others, we don't lose our strong emphasis on Christ, His Word, His righteousness, His sanctuary service, and His saving power in the great controversy.
- Pray for the *It Is Written* online evangelistic campaign "Hope Awakens" that is launching today nationwide. (To learn more visit: <https://www.discoverhopeawakens.com>). Pray that even more people will be able to watch and gain interest in this series than they would have with the LIVE evangelistic event that was cancelled in Indianapolis.



Day 23 – Prayer Focus - Sabbath, April 18, 2020

Sustained by the Word

“Cast your burden on the LORD, and He shall sustain you;
He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.” Ps. 55:22

“My fellow-laborers, let not your courage fail. God is proving your faith. The Christian always has a strong helper in the Lord. When you come to a pause in your earnest efforts because you are unable to obtain the needed help, cast your burden upon the Lord. Be content to leave it there, certain that He is faithful who has promised. The What and How of the Lord's helping we know not; but this we do know, the Lord will never fail those who put their trust in Him. When He has fully proved His workers, He will bring them forth refined as gold tried in the fire.” Ellen White, Letter 66, June 26, 1901, par. 29

Heart Questions:

What ways do you feel God growing and proving your faith? What are some of your favorite Bible promises you like to claim when you are struggling? As a heart challenge this week, why don't you find a new Bible verse that gives you courage and memorize it. Then share it with someone who is in need of courage.

PRAISE REPORT: We praise the Lord that the early projections for massive death rate in the United States as a result of COVID-19 are being lowered quite

dramatically. The pandemic is also continuing to slow down throughout Europe, and there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel.

- Pray for the health professionals on the front lines who are continuing to battle this epidemic. Pray for their health safety from COVID-19, and their physical safety from irrational people on the streets who think medical personnel are contaminated.
- Pray that there would be a balance between locking down the whole world at home and opening up the economy and activities at the right time—as soon as safe so that the economy and businesses are not completely destroyed.
- Pray for the many organizations, and small businesses who are suffering financially as a result of the lockdown. Pray that people would find ways to help support small businesses so they don't go under.
- Pray for women and children who are in dangerous situations and need protection. Pray for ways to reach out to the vulnerable and weak in your own community.
- Pray for those who work in banks, grocery stores, gas stations, and other essential businesses. Pray that they would be protected from getting the Coronavirus as they deal with many people coming for services.



Day 24 – Prayer Focus - Sunday, April 19, 2020

In Awe of His Word

“Princes persecute me without a cause, But my heart stands in awe of Your word. I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure.” Ps. 119:161-162

“The Bible is God’s voice speaking to us, just as surely as if we could hear it with our ears. If we realized this, with what awe we would open God’s Word and with what earnestness we would search its precepts. The reading and contemplation of the Scriptures would be regarded as an audience with the Infinite One.” *A Call to Stand Apart*, p. 69

Heart Questions:

Have you ever read a verse in the Bible and thought to yourself, “That was just for me! How did God know what I needed today?” As you go about your day today, think of all the reasons why you can rejoice because of God’s Word. In fact, why don’t you write down a list of reasons you are thankful for God’s Word. Start it with, “I love God’s Word because it... (and fill in the blank).” If you struggle thinking of things, read Psalm 119.

PRAISE REPORT: We praise the Lord that the Adventist church in Guatemala has found a way to distribute food baskets with rice, beans, cornmeal, oil, salt, and sugar to thousands of its church members who are being affected by this quarantine. This is evidence of church members seeking to share each other’s burdens.

- Pray for Africa as they are fighting the Coronavirus pandemic. Pray for our church members who are struggling because of lack of adequate health care. Pray that the rates of infection and death will not be as projected.
- Pray for the thousands of ethnic groups around the world, that make up 69% of earth's population, that have not yet had a clear presentation of Jesus. Pray for new innovative ways to reach them during this crisis.
- Pray for a spirit of repentance and humility for all of us regarding the times we have not been personally faithful to God in our life and witness.
- Pray for a mighty increase in church members who will serve God by loving others and actively sharing Bible truth with others, including those from other religious backgrounds.
- Pray for farmers who are struggling to plant or harvest crops without the usual support workers, who have been banned from traveling.



Day 25 – Prayer Focus - Monday, April 20, 2020

Rejoicing in the Word

“Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.” Jer. 15:16

“There is nothing more calculated to strengthen the intellect than the study of the Scriptures. No other book is so potent to elevate the thoughts, to give vigor to the faculties, as the broad, ennobling truths of the Bible. If God's word were studied as it should be, men would have a breadth of mind, a nobility of character, and a stability of purpose that is rarely seen in these times.” *Christian Education*, p. 58

Heart Questions:

What is something that has been especially meaningful or brought joy to you in your study of the Word recently? Why don't you take some time to share that joy with someone today.

PRAISE REPORT: New York City was expected to be way overcrowded in hospitals with no beds and not enough ventilators. But, while they have been very full, they still have some space left in hospitals, and we praise the Lord that they have not run out of ventilators. This is an answer to prayer.

- Pray for those who work security positions, like police officers, and others. As civil unrest grows due to the lockdown in certain parts of the world, pray for protection for these men and woman.
- Pray for the former Soviet Union Euro-Asia Division territories, which include countries like Russia and Siberia. Pray that despite the difficulty in witnessing, that new effective methods of reaching the people will be developed.

- Pray for the hurting countries throughout the 10/40 window. Pray that God would provide people to share His love. Pray also that governments would allow the people to get food or work in their fields to grow food. Millions across India have been in lockdown and not allowed out of their houses, which means many are starving.
- Pray for wisdom for church leaders as they need to make significant decisions for the future as a result of the economic crisis we are currently facing.
- Pray for wisdom in how to cut expenses while not hurting people and still keeping the essential work and mission of the church moving forward.



Day 26 – Prayer Focus - Tuesday, April 21, 2020

Guided by the Word

“He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you
But to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?” Mic. 6:8

“We are living in the most solemn period of this world’s history. The destiny of earth’s teeming multitudes is about to be decided. Our own future well-being and also the salvation of other souls depend upon the course which we now pursue. We need to be guided by the Spirit of truth. Every follower of Christ should earnestly inquire: “Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?” We need to humble ourselves before the Lord, with fasting and prayer, and to meditate much upon His Word, especially upon the scenes of the judgment. We should now seek a deep and living experience in the things of God. We have not a moment to lose. Events of vital importance are taking place around us; we are on Satan’s enchanted ground. Sleep not, sentinels of God; the foe is lurking near, ready at any moment, should you become lax and drowsy, to spring upon you and make you his prey.” *The Call to Stand Apart*, p. 69

Heart Questions:

When you are facing a challenging decision, where do you turn for wisdom and counsel? Of course, we are told that in a multitude of counselors there is safety (see Prov. 11:14). But beyond the wisdom of our loved ones or those we respect, what principles do we find in God’s Word for how to make decisions?

(See Prov. 3:5,6, Prov. 14:12, Matt. 6:33, Jer. 33:3)

PRAISE REPORT: The South American Division presented, as it has for the past 50 years, a special “Holy Week” evangelism outreach program across the division this past week. Usually, small groups meet in homes and churches, but due to the Coronavirus, the division offered the full program online with many more in attendance. The theme was “Love Written with Blood,” and featured special programming for children, teens, and adults. We praise the Lord for the creative ways that church leaders are helping share the love of God.

- Pray that those who discovered Jesus' love for the first time, in these South American Division programs, would be able to develop a lasting relationship with Jesus that will only grow more beautiful with time.
- Pray that we all would use the extra time we have at home to study deeply in God's Word and teach our children how to study and love God's Word.
- Pray that God's people would continue to be faithful with their tithes and offerings even in the midst of current economic challenges.
- Pray for those who are struggling to pay bills and keep food on the table due to the economic challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought. Pray that God would continue to provide for His children and that there would be many testimonies of God's faithfulness to share in the coming days.
- Pray for the church work in Lebanon that God would provide for their financial needs and help the mission of the church go forward.



Day 27 – Prayer Focus - Wednesday, April 22, 2020

Filled by the Word

“One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.” Ps. 27:4

“I have a risen Saviour. In Him I trust, and He will never suffer me to be confounded. In His name I triumph. He is my righteousness and my crown of rejoicing. Let no one here feel that his case is hopeless, for it is not. You may see that you are sinful and undone, but it is just on this account that you need a Saviour. If you have sins to confess, lose no time. These moments are golden. ‘If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.’ 1 John 1:9. Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness will be filled, for Jesus has promised it. Precious Saviour! His arms are open to receive us, and His great heart of love is waiting to bless us.”

Counsels for the Church, p. 48

Heart Questions:

What do you long for most? What is your deepest heart cry? Perhaps you haven't thought about this recently. Perhaps you are just trying to survive. Or perhaps you think about it all the time. Take a few moments today to think about where you find your greatest joy and your greatest fulfillment. As you do, reflect on Psalm 27:4, and ask the Lord to give you a heart that truly hungers to be in His presence.

PRAISE REPORT: A Coronavirus video for the deaf has been produced by the West Africa Division in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, providing important information on COVID-

19 through signing and subtitles. We are thankful for these new resources being developed to reach all demographic groups.

- Pray that God would take care of His children in North Korea, South Korea, Japan and China. Pray for all eyes, even those of government officials, to turn heavenward as they recognize the signs of the times, and that Jesus is coming back soon.
- Pray for those that are part of the Possibilities Ministries. Pray for those that work among the deaf, the handicapped, and other special need ministries. Pray for those in the leprosy colonies, that they would not be ignored or forgotten during this time.
- Pray that as we recognize the nearness of Jesus coming we would all take time to seek Him with all our hearts and dig deeply in His Word. Pray that we would grasp the beautiful deep truths of Bible books like Daniel and Revelation.
- Pray for the missionaries that are huddling down at their posts of duty in various places around the world. Pray for provision for their physical needs and protection.
- Pray for continued strength and rehabilitation for those who have recovered from the Coronavirus. Pray for ability to regain strength and return to normal life.



Day 28 – Prayer Focus - Thursday, April 23, 2020

Strengthened Thru the Word

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Heb. 4:12

“Oh, that men would fear the Lord! Oh, that they would love the Lord! Oh, that the messengers of God would feel the burden of perishing souls! Then they would not merely speechify; but they would have the power of God vitalizing their souls, and their hearts would glow with the fire of God’s love. Out of weakness they would become strong; for they would be doers of the word. They would hear the voice of Jesus: “Lo, I am with you always.” Jesus would be their teacher; and the word they minister would be quick and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 143

Heart Questions:

As you reflect on Hebrews 4:12, how do you see the Word of God piercing your own heart? Have you been convicted by something you’ve read in God’s Word recently? Have you acted on your conviction, or have you pushed the promptings of the Holy Spirit aside? Share your thoughts with someone. Then pray that we as a people would not only hear the Word and love the Word, but that we would also seek to live according to the Word.

PRAISE REPORT: We praise the Lord in faith for the rich harvest of souls that He's going to bring in response to the "Hope Awakens" evangelistic event. We praise the Lord for the decisions that have already been made for Christ.

- Pray for those that are in the middle of the COVID-19 crisis, who are either struggling themselves, or have loved ones struggling with the illness.
- Pray for peace for church members around the world who fearful and afraid, or who are feeling alone.
- Pray for the millions struggling throughout the Middle East, in countries like Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Pray that in the midst of this crisis, God would open many hearts to the truth.
- Pray for the new plans being organized for the rescheduled General Conference Session which will now take place May 20-25, 2021, in Indianapolis. Pray that the session will be filled with spiritual, mission-focused plans and that the Holy Spirit will be in full control.
- Pray for the Latter Rain outpouring on the church, that the work can be finished so we can go home.

Additional Reading about the Beauty of the Word

From the book *Education* by Ellen White, chapter 20, "Bible Teaching and Study"

"Incline thine ear unto wisdom;"
"search for her as for hid treasures."

In childhood, youth, and manhood, Jesus studied the Scriptures. As a little child He was daily at His mother's knee taught from the scrolls of the prophets. In His youth the early morning and the evening twilight often found Him alone on the mountainside or among the trees of the forest, spending a quiet hour in prayer and the study of God's word. During His ministry His intimate acquaintance with the Scriptures testifies to His diligence in their study. And since He gained knowledge as we may gain it, His wonderful power, both mental and spiritual, is a testimony to the value of the Bible as a means of education. {Ed 185.1}

Our heavenly Father, in giving His word, did not overlook the children. In all that men have written, where can be found anything that has such a hold upon the heart, anything so well adapted to awaken the interest of the little ones, as the stories of the Bible? {Ed 185.2}

In these simple stories may be made plain the great principles of the law of God. Thus by illustrations best suited to the child's comprehension, parents and teachers may begin very early to fulfill the Lord's injunction concerning His precepts: "Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." Deuteronomy 6:7. {Ed 185.3}

The use of object lessons, blackboards, maps, and pictures, will be an aid in explaining these lessons, and fixing them in the memory. Parents and teachers should constantly seek for improved methods. The teaching of the Bible should have our freshest thought, our best methods, and our most earnest effort. {Ed 186.1}

In arousing and strengthening a love for Bible study, much depends on the use of the hour of worship. The hours of morning and evening worship should be the sweetest and most helpful of the day. Let it be understood that into these hours no troubled, unkind thoughts are to intrude; that parents and children assemble to meet with Jesus, and to invite into the home the presence of holy angels. Let the services be brief and full of life, adapted to the occasion, and varied from time to time. Let all join in the Bible reading and learn and often repeat God's law. It will add to the interest of the children if they are sometimes permitted to select the reading. Question them upon it, and let them ask questions. Mention anything that will serve to illustrate its meaning. When the service is not thus made too lengthy, let the little ones take part in prayer, and let them join in song, if it be but a single verse. {Ed 186.2}

To make such a service what it should be, thought should be given to preparation. And parents should take time daily for Bible study with their children. No doubt it will require effort and planning and some sacrifice to accomplish this; but the effort will be richly repaid. {Ed 186.3}

As a preparation for teaching His precepts, God commands that they be hidden in the hearts of the parents. "These words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart," He says; "and thou shalt teach them diligently." Deuteronomy 6:6, 7. In order to interest our children in the Bible, we ourselves must be interested in it. To awaken in them a love for its study, we must love it. Our instruction to them will have only the weight of influence given it by our own example and spirit. {Ed 187.1}

God called Abraham to be a teacher of His word, He chose him to be the father of a great nation, because He saw that Abraham would instruct his children and his household in the principles of God's law. And that which gave power to Abraham's teaching was the influence of his own life. His great household consisted of more than a thousand souls, many of them heads of families, and not a few but newly converted from heathenism. Such a household required a firm hand at the helm. No weak, vacillating methods would suffice. Of Abraham God said, "I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him." Genesis 18:19. Yet his authority was exercised with such wisdom and tenderness that hearts were won. The testimony of the divine Watcher is, "They shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment." Genesis 18:19. And Abraham's influence extended beyond his own household. Wherever he pitched his tent, he set up beside it the altar for sacrifice and worship. When the tent was removed, the altar remained; and many a roving Canaanite, whose knowledge of God had been gained from the life of Abraham His servant, tarried at that altar to offer sacrifice to Jehovah. {Ed 187.2}

No less effective today will be the teaching of God's word when it finds as faithful a reflection in the teacher's life. {Ed 187.3}

It is not enough to know what others have thought or learned about the Bible. Everyone must in the judgment give account of himself to God, and each should now learn for

himself what is truth. But in order to do effective study, the interest of the pupil must be enlisted. Especially by the one who has to deal with children and youth differing widely in disposition, training, and habits of thought, this is a matter not to be lost sight of. In teaching children the Bible, we may gain much by observing the bent of their minds, the things in which they are interested, and arousing their interest to see what the Bible says about these things. He who created us, with our various aptitudes, has in His word given something for everyone. As the pupils see that the lessons of the Bible apply to their own lives, teach them to look to it as a counselor. {Ed 188.1}

Help them also to appreciate its wonderful beauty. Many books of no real value, books that are exciting and unhealthful are recommended, or at least permitted to be used, because of their supposed literary value. Why should we direct our children to drink of these polluted streams when they may have free access to the pure fountains of the word of God? The Bible has a fullness, a strength, a depth of meaning, that is inexhaustible. Encourage the children and youth to seek out its treasures both of thought and of expression. {Ed 188.2}

As the beauty of these precious things attracts their minds, a softening, subduing power will touch their hearts. They will be drawn to Him who has thus revealed Himself to them. And there are few who will not desire to know more of His works and ways. {Ed 188.3}

The student of the Bible should be taught to approach it in the spirit of a learner. We are to search its pages, not for proof to sustain our opinions, but in order to know what God says. {Ed 189.1}

A true knowledge of the Bible can be gained only through the aid of that Spirit by whom the word was given. And in order to gain this knowledge we must live by it. All that God's word commands, we are to obey. All that it promises, we may claim. The life which it enjoins is the life that, through its power, we are to live. Only as the Bible is thus held can it be studied effectively. {Ed 189.2}

The study of the Bible demands our most diligent effort and persevering thought. As the miner digs for the golden treasure in the earth, so earnestly, persistently, must we seek for the treasure of God's word. {Ed 189.3}

In daily study the verse-by-verse method is often most helpful. Let the student take one verse, and concentrate the mind on ascertaining the thought that God has put into that verse for him, and then dwell upon the thought until it becomes his own. One passage thus studied until its significance is clear is of more value than the perusal of many chapters with no definite purpose in view and no positive instruction gained. {Ed 189.4}

One of the chief causes of mental inefficiency and moral weakness is the lack of concentration for worthy ends. We pride ourselves on the wide distribution of literature; but the multiplication of books, even books that in themselves are not harmful, may be a positive evil. With the immense tide of printed matter constantly pouring from the press, old and young form the habit of reading hastily and superficially, and the mind loses its power of connected and vigorous thought. Furthermore, a large share of the periodicals and books that, like the frogs of Egypt, are overspreading the land, are not merely commonplace, idle, and enervating, but unclean and degrading. Their effect is not merely to intoxicate and ruin the mind, but to corrupt and destroy the soul. The mind, the heart, that is indolent, aimless, falls an easy prey to evil. It is on diseased, lifeless organisms that

fungus roots. It is the idle mind that is Satan's workshop. Let the mind be directed to high and holy ideals, let the life have a noble aim, an absorbing purpose, and evil finds little foothold. {Ed 189.5}

Let the youth, then, be taught to give close study to the word of God. Received into the soul, it will prove a mighty barricade against temptation. "Thy word," the psalmist declares, "have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee." "By the word of Thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer." Psalm 119:11; 17:4. {Ed 190.1}

The Bible is its own expositor. Scripture is to be compared with scripture. The student should learn to view the word as a whole, and to see the relation of its parts. He should gain a knowledge of its grand central theme, of God's original purpose for the world, of the rise of the great controversy, and of the work of redemption. He should understand the nature of the two principles that are contending for supremacy, and should learn to trace their working through the records of history and prophecy, to the great consummation. He should see how this controversy enters into every phase of human experience; how in every act of life he himself reveals the one or the other of the two antagonistic motives; and how, whether he will or not, he is even now deciding upon which side of the controversy he will be found. {Ed 190.2}

Every part of the Bible is given by inspiration of God and is profitable. The Old Testament no less than the New should receive attention. As we study the Old Testament we shall find living springs bubbling up where the careless reader discerns only a desert. {Ed 191.1}

The book of Revelation, in connection with the book of Daniel, especially demands study. Let every God-fearing teacher consider how most clearly to comprehend and to present the gospel that our Saviour came in person to make known to His servant John—"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass." Revelation 1:1. None should become discouraged in the study of the Revelation because of its apparently mystical symbols. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not." James 1:5. {Ed 191.2}

"Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." Revelation 1:3. {Ed 191.3}

When a real love for the Bible is awakened, and the student begins to realize how vast is the field and how precious its treasure, he will desire to seize upon every opportunity for acquainting himself with God's word. Its study will be restricted to no special time or place. And this continuous study is one of the best means of cultivating a love for the Scriptures. Let the student keep his Bible always with him. As you have opportunity, read a text and meditate upon it. While walking the streets, waiting at a railway station, waiting to meet an engagement, improve the opportunity to gain some precious thought from the treasure house of truth. {Ed 191.4}

The great motive powers of the soul are faith, hope, and love; and it is to these that Bible study, rightly pursued, appeals. The outward beauty of the Bible, the beauty of imagery and expression, is but the setting, as it were, for its real treasure—the beauty of holiness. In its record of the men who walked with God, we may catch glimpses of His glory. In the

One “altogether lovely” we behold Him, of whom all beauty of earth and heaven is but a dim reflection. “I, if I be lifted up,” He said, “will draw all men unto Me.” John 12:32. As the student of the Bible beholds the Redeemer, there is awakened in the soul the mysterious power of faith, adoration, and love. Upon the vision of Christ the gaze is fixed, and the beholder grows into the likeness of that which he adores. The words of the apostle Paul become the language of the soul: “I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: ... that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings.” Philippians 3:8-10. {Ed 192.1}

The springs of heavenly peace and joy unsealed in the soul by the words of Inspiration will become a mighty river of influence to bless all who come within its reach. Let the youth of today, the youth who are growing up with the Bible in their hands, become the recipients and the channels of its life-giving energy, and what streams of blessing would flow forth to the world!—influences of whose power to heal and comfort we can scarcely conceive—rivers of living water, fountains “springing up unto everlasting life.” {Ed 192.2}