

*M. C. Wilcox*

SABBATH-SCHOOL

# LESSON QUARTERLY

Published by the  
PACIFIC PRESS PUBLISHING CO.  
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA

[Entered as second-class matter October 13, 1904, at the Post-office at Mountain View, Cal., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.]

FOR SENIOR CLASSES

SECOND QUARTER, 1907

No. 48 Mountain View, California, April, 1907

Price 5c each  
20c per year

## The Sabbath - School Worker

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## Sabbath - School Worker

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# Sabbath-School Lessons

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## Studies on Bible Election

FOR SENIOR CLASSES.

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SECOND QUARTER, 1907.

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*LESSON I.—The Calling.*

APRIL 6, 1907.

### Questions.

1. What earnest admonition has God given us? 2 Peter 1:10. Note 1.
2. Of whom is the calling? Acts 2:39; 1 Peter 5:10.
3. Who are the called? Matt. 9:13.
4. How many are called? Rom. 3:23; John 3:16.
5. How is the breadth of this call emphasized? Isa. 45:22; Rev. 22:17.
6. From what are we called? 2 Cor. 6:14-17; Rev. 18:4. Note 2.
7. To what conditions are we called? 1 Peter 2:9; Gal. 5:13; Col. 3:15.
8. To what character are we called? 1 Thess. 4:7; 1 Peter 1:15.
9. What, therefore, are we called to be? Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2. Note 3.

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*We expend sixty per cent. of our efforts upon four per cent. of our field.*

10. To what relationship are we called? 1 John 3:1; 2 Cor. 6:17, 18.

11. To what fellowship are we called? 1 Cor. 1:9; 1 John 1:3.

12. By what are we called? 2 Thess. 2:14; 2 Peter 1:3.

13. According to what are we called? Rom. 8:28:

14. To what life are we called? 1 Tim. 6:12.

15. What are we called to do? 1 Peter 2:19-21; 3:9.

16. What is the climax of our calling? 1 Peter 5:10.

17. What is the character of Him in whom we are called? Rev. 19:11.

18. What is the character of those who respond to His call? Rev. 17:14.

19. What, therefore, is this calling? Phil. 3:14; Heb. 3:1.

### Notes.

1. **Calling and Election.**—It is not the purpose of these lessons to answer objections to a teaching of which the Bible knows nothing, but to aid in the study of a most encouraging and helpful doctrine. The Bible teaches election, foreordination, predestination, but always for our comfort and edification. The "calling," the "inviting," and "appointing" precede and throw light on the "election."

2. **"Called From."**—We are called from all that is unlike Him who calls us, from things natural to us. We are not by nature good, or pure, or righteous. We by nature walk according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the powers of the air, according to the spirit working in the sons of disobedience, according to the lusts of the flesh; we are children of wrath. Be not deceived into placing humanity on a higher plane than God places them, and so lead them to minimize the Saviour. Let us take comfort in the thought that God calls us from all this evil to the better things.

3. **Saints.**—The word "saint" means a holy one. But while

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*Nine-tenths of the women of India never heard of a Saviour.*

God calls us to be saints, and by His Spirit calls His children saints, we never find the devoted servants of God calling themselves saints. Their choicest title seems to be "servant." "Paul, a servant of God." God calls us to be saints, makes us children, calls us friends, but we are His *servants*.

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LESSON II.—*The Election.*

APRIL 13, 1907.

Questions.

1. What earnest admonition is given us in 2 Peter 1:10?

2. What is the meaning of election?—"Selection," "choosing after trying," "calling out of."

3. Of whom is the choosing? John 15:16.

4. To what does God sometimes choose men temporarily? *Ans.*—To a special work which does not of itself insure salvation.

5. What did He choose Abraham to be? *Ans.*—The father of the promised Seed. Gen. 17:1-8.

6. To perpetuate His promise, which of Abraham's two sons was chosen? Gen. 21:11, 12.

7. Of Isaac's two sons, which was chosen? Gen. 25:23, 31-34.

8. Of Jacob's twelve sons, which one was chosen as progenitor of the promised Seed? Gen. 49:8-10.

9. Did the choice of any of these insure his eternal salvation? Did it deprive the unchosen of life?

10. What ancient king did God choose to glorify His name? Rom. 9:17. Note 1.

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*"Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."*

11. Was there salvation in this for him? Did he obtain it?

12. What other great ruler did God choose for a special work? Jer. 27:5-8. Did he recognize the call as from God? Dan. 4:34-37. Note 2.

13. Name another ruler whom the Lord chose for a special work. Isa. 44:28 to 45:5. Did he honor God's call? 2 Chron. 36:23.

14. Who of David's sons was chosen as an ancestor of Christ? Matt. 1:6.

15. Who of all the maidens of Israel was honored as the mother of Jesus? Luke 1:26, 27. Did this insure her salvation? Did it preclude others? Matt. 12:49, 50.

16. Although God has used, or is using, us in His work, what is necessary that we may obtain eternal salvation? Heb. 3:14; 1 Cor. 9:27.

17. What must we choose that God's choice may be effected in us? Deut. 30:19; Isa. 56:4.

#### Notes.

1. "Show in Thee My Power."—God is no respecter of persons. He sent Abraham to Egypt to save Egypt. He sent Joseph there for the same purpose. And when Moses presented God's reasonable message, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me," Pharaoh might have received that message, and it would have brought him life and blessing, and would have made of Egypt, in its knowledge of the true God, a light center. Not until God had exhausted every effort upon Pharaoh's heart, did He withdraw His Spirit, and so leave Pharaoh to his fate.

2. "My Servant."—God had a work for Nebuchadnezzar to do; but it took Nebuchadnezzar long to learn the lesson. Daniel 2, Daniel 3, and Daniel 4 are records of his education and advancement, until he came to the knowledge of God.

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*We expend sixty per cent. of our efforts upon four per cent. of our field.*

*LESSON III.—The Purpose.*

APRIL 20, 1907.

**Questions.****In Character.**

1. According to whose purpose are we called? 2 Tim. 1:9.
2. What is His purpose regarding our character as shown in the creation of man? Gen. 1:27, 31. Note 1.
3. How does the wise man say man was made? Eccl. 7:29. Note 2.
4. How early was God's purpose for man formed? Eph. 1:4.
5. In whom was all this purpose in creation wrought? Col. 1:16, 17.
6. Man having sinned, in whom is God's purpose still sure? Col. 1:18-20.
7. By what means will Christ still develop the purposed character? Col. 1:20-22.
8. What is necessary on our part? Acts 20:21; Col. 1:23.

**As to the Earth.**

9. What did God say of the earth as it came from His hand? Gen. 1:31.
10. For whom was it created? Gen. 1:27, 28; Ps. 115:16.
11. What came upon the earth in consequence of sin? Gen. 3:17, 18. Note 3.
12. When man, its prince, yielded to Satan, who became the ruler of the earth? John 12:31; 2 Cor. 4:4.

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*“This Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”*

13. Does God's purpose still hold good? Isa. 45:18.  
 14. Through whom is it to be restored? Luke 19:10.  
 15. To whom will the first dominion then return?  
 Micah 4:8; Rev. 11:15.  
 16. Who will share it with Him? Matt. 25:34.  
 17. How broad will be His dominion? Dan. 7:27;  
 Rev. 21:1.  
 18. What will be the condition of the earth? Rev.  
 22:3.  
 19. What will be the character of the people? 2 Peter  
 3:13; Isa. 60:21.

#### Notes.

1. "In the Image of God."—Not merely a physical image, but a moral image—a being capable of being developed in character like unto his Maker. God had wrought everything in creation that He could do. All that was lacking was a developed character; but as this could be formed only by choice, man alone became responsible. He could refuse God's ways and die; he could choose God's ways and live.

2. The original word translated "upright" is "Israel." God created man to be Israel. Connect this thought with the gates of the New Jerusalem, into which all the redeemed enter. These gates are named after the twelve tribes of Israel.

3. The curse rested most heavily upon him who brought it; but as the prince of the earth, under God, yielded to sin, he brought the curse upon everything in his dominion. "For the creation was subjected to vanity [uselessness, transientness, death], not of its own will, but by reason of him who subjected it." Rom. 8:20.

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### LESSON IV.—*The Fulness of the Purpose.*

APRIL 27, 1907.

#### Questions.

1. What kind of a people did God design should inherit the earth? 2 Peter 3:13.

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*The needs of the cause of God are world-wide.*

2. How many of this righteous character would there be? Gen. 1:28. Note 1.

3. When Satan thought to frustrate God's purpose through seducing at least a part of the human family, what provision did the Lord make? Gen. 3:16, first part. Note 2.

4. When were these righteous characters chosen? Eph. 1:4. Note 3.

5. Where were the names of these characters written? Heb. 12:23; Rev. 17:8. Note 4.

6. To what, then, is each one called of God?

7. When are our individual names placed in the book of life? John 3:3; Luke 10:20. Note 5.

8. What is necessary that we may win the new name and character? Rev. 2:17.

9. What must the overcomer endure? Rev. 3:10, last part; James 1:12.

10. What terms show the character of the crown? 2 Tim. 4:8; 1 Peter 5:4.

11. How many will know the name of the character of each one? Rev. 2:17, last part.

12. Whose will be the great family name of the universe? Eph. 3:14, 15, R.V. Note 6.

13. What other name will we bear? Rev. 3:12.

14. What else falls within God's purpose for His children? Dan. 12:13. Note 7.

15. What is God's purpose to those who yield to His purpose? Rom. 8:28.

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*The offerings for this quarter go to the most needy fields.*



## Notes.

1. **"Replenish."**—That is, not necessarily to fill again, as our English implies, but to completely fill. God's infinitely wise purpose must have included a certain number to inhabit this earth, not one too many, not one too few. His perfect plan demanded the exact number, and as in redemption this plan is to be completely fulfilled, we may well believe that the number of the saved will be the exact number He at the beginning planned should inherit the earth.

2. **"Greatly Multiply . . . Thy Conception."**—God saw that many would listen to Satan, and yield to sin and death; and therefore a greater number must be born into the world in order that there might be gathered out of them the elect number.

3. **Characters Chosen.**—In the sight of God that which is most precious is character. It is character that God chose in the beginning, a complete number of complete, harmonious characters to people that perfect world. These characters comprehended in names, were written, before sin entered, in the Book of Life.

4. **Names,** not one, but different names, implying different characters, one as to righteousness, but differing as to individuality. To one of these characters, one of these names with the trial and testing necessary, every soul is called. If he conquer, he will have bestowed upon him absolutely that new name, wrought in him and known only to him.

5. **"In the Book of Life."**—When we yield up the world, when we receive Christ, then we are accepted as sons and daughters of God, and our names are written among the candidates for eternal life.

6. **The family name** is of the Father, not the Son. "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named."

7. **"His Lot."**—Anciently, the land of Israel was divided by lot. Does not this text clearly indicate that that glorious, eternal land will be divided among the children? Name, crown, inheritance, are all held out before the soul called of God.

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*"This Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."*

*LESSON V.—The Extent of His Purpose.*

MAY 4, 1907.

**Questions.****His Purpose in Eternity.**

1. When did God choose the characters of His people? Eph. 1:4.
2. What did He then do for us? Eph. 1:15, first part. Note 1.
3. According to what did He foreordain us? Eph. 1:5.
4. To whose praise were we foreordained? Eph. 1:6, first part.
5. In whom is the grace bestowed? Eph. 1:6, last part.

**As Revealed in Christ Jesus.**

6. When we sinned, in whom did our hope still center? How much does this redemption cover? According to what is the redemption given? Verse 7. Note 2.
7. How has He made it to abound toward us? Verse 8.
8. What has He made known to us? According to what has He made it known? Verse 9.
9. What is the fulness of His purpose? Verse 10.
10. What are we given in Him? According to what purpose? After what counsel? Verse 11.
11. What is the ultimate object of all this for us? Verse 12.
12. How is this trust begotten? Verse 13, first part.

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*“Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth laborers into His harvest.”*

### Wrought in Us by the Spirit.

13. What assurance is given us who yield to that purpose? Verse 13, last part.
14. What does this bestowal of the Spirit constitute? Verse 14. Note 3.
15. What will God give us in this? Verse 17.
16. How much may we know of His purpose? Verse 18.
17. How much may we know of His power? Verses 19-23.

#### Notes.

1. "Predestinated," "foreordained," "marked out." God marked us out in that character to which He called us. That is His plan for us. That is our worth to Him. That is what He will work out in us if we will yield all to Him.

2. "According to the riches of His grace," not our poor conception, not just enough to meet our needs, but grace superabounding over all sin.

3. "The earnest," the pledge, the assurance of God. When one party buys a piece of property of another, he often pays a part down "to bind the bargain." This is "earnest" money, a pledge that all will be paid in due time. Thus God pledges the fulfilment of all His promises, and places in us the life pledge, the earnest of all the glorious, eternal things promised, the Holy Spirit.

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### LESSON VI.—*God's Eternal Purpose.*

MAY 11, 1907.

#### Questions.

1. When was God's choice of characters determined? Eph. 1: 4, 5.
2. According to what purpose? Eph. 1:11.
3. What is this purpose called? Eph. 3: 11. Note 1.

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*"Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."*

4. In whom does this purpose stand and center? Eph. 1: 10.

5. What kind of an earth only comes into that purpose? Isa. 65: 17.

6. What kind of characters shall inherit it forever? Gen. 1: 31; 2 Peter 3: 13.

7. What is it God's will to do concerning sinful man? Rom. 9: 15, 18.

8. On what class is He sure to have mercy? Ex. 20: 5, 6; Ps. 18: 25-27.

9. Is it of God's purpose, or man's perversion of God's will, that iniquity is visited upon children? Eze. 18: 1-4, 20.

10. How far in God's purpose does His mercy extend? Isa. 55: 6, 7.

11. Is it of the good pleasure of God's purpose that the wicked shall die? Eze. 18: 31, 32.

12. What appeal does He make to the sinful? Isa. 1: 18.

13. What does He promise to His backslidden people? Micah 7: 18, 19.

14. In whom only is God pleased? Ps. 147: 11; Heb. 10: 38.

15. When only does God turn from the transgressor? 2 Chron. 36: 13-16.

16. How does the heart become hardened? Heb. 3: 12, 13.

17. How do the wicked determine their own destruction? Prov. 1: 31, 32.

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*Nine-tenths of the women of India never heard of a Saviour.  
Prayerfully consider the unentered fields.*

18. Wherein, then, lies our greatest danger? Prov. 29:1. Note 2.

19. In so rejecting God's will and mercy, where do men place themselves as regards His purpose? Prov. 1:29, 30. Note 3.

#### Notes.

1. "Eternal Purpose."—Literally, "the purpose of the ages," the purpose of God before the world was, the purpose in the creation of man, the purpose in the patriarchal age, in the Levitical age; in the Christian age; it is the same eternal purpose of the unchangeable God through all the ages.

2. Our danger lies, not in the failure of God's grace or purpose or plan or mercy. His mercy and grace are inexhaustible. Our danger lies in rejecting His mercy till we can no longer discern His voice, no longer see His message, no longer feel His presence. We may harden our hearts till God is compelled to leave us alone to reap the fruit of our own sowing.

3. God's purpose is only and ever to do good. That, however, can be worked out only in harmony with righteous principle. All outside of that purpose is outside of the great channels of life, and must perish. When, therefore, we reject or refuse God's plan to save us, we put ourselves outside of God's purpose and plan, and must perish.

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### LESSON VII.—*The Tried and Triumphant.*

MAY 18, 1907.

#### Questions.

1. What is said of God's Word? 2 Sam. 22:31; Ps. 12:6.

2. What is said of Him on whom rests all our hope? Isa. 28:16.

3. What kind of a people will the Lord have? Zech. 13:9.

4. When we yield to God's call, what do we become,

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*We expend sixty per cent. of our efforts upon four per cent. of our field.*

and what is done with our names? 2 Cor. 6:17, 18; Phil. 4:3.

5. Have we yet received the new name of God's writing? What must we first do? Rev. 2:17.

6. What is necessary in order that we obtain the crown of righteousness and life? 2 Tim. 4:7, 8.

7. When our names are placed in the book of life, where does God put us? Ps. 66:9, margin; 1 John 5:10-13.

8. Previous to this, what was our relation to God? Eph. 2:12; 4:18.

9. Having His life, what may we expect? 1 Peter 4:12.

10. What is the purpose of the trial or proving? 1 Peter 1:7; Job 23:10.

11. How did God prove His people anciently? Ex. 16:4; 20:20.

12. What was ever His purpose in the proving? Deut. 8:2, 3, 16.

13. He proves us that we may prove what? Rom. 12:1, 2; Eph. 5:8-10.

14. In the proving, or trial, what may we expect? Ps. 66:10-12.

15. Who faithfully cares for us in the trial? Mal. 3:2, 3.

16. How only are we made partakers of Christ? Heb. 3:14.

17. What assurance does God give to those who yield to His purpose? Rom. 8:28. Note.

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*“Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth laborers into His harvest.”*

18. What pledge has He given us? Rom. 8:32.
19. What two mighty helpers are there? Verses 33, 34.
20. What are we in all the trials? Verses 37-39.

**Note.**

What a precious thought it is that in all our conflicts, all our trials, all the dark, uncomprehended pathways, God has His eye upon us, upon the new name, the shining crown, the eternal inheritance, for which He has called us, and the everlasting new song of joy. Read Rom. 8:28, as in the margin of the Revised Version: "And we know that to them that love God, **God worketh all things with them for good.**"

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## Effectual Service

### The Spirit: Its Gifts

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*LESSON VIII.—The Threefold Manifestation of God.*

MAY 25, 1907.

**Questions.**

1. What commission was given the disciples of Christ? Matt. 28:19, first part.
2. Into whose name were the disciples to be baptized? Matt. 28:19, last part. Note 1.
3. What is the significance of the term "name" as often used in the Bible?—Character. Note 2.
4. For what does the name of the Father stand? Ex. 33:18, 19; 34:6, 7. Note 3.
5. What does baptism in the Father's name imply? Rom. 3:21, 22.

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*"Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."*

6. For what does the name of the Son stand? Phil. 2:5-7; Heb. 5:7, 8. Note 4.

7. What does baptized into the name of the Son imply? Phil. 2:5; Matt. 16:24.

8. For what does the name of the Spirit stand?—Power. Luke 2:35, first part. Note 5.

9. What was implied in Jesus' being baptized into the name of the Spirit? Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38.

10. What should this baptism mean to disciples? Rom. 7:4; Acts 1:8.

11. What is the Spirit to him who believes? Rom. 8:10.

12. What will that Spirit do for us? Rom. 5:5.

13. How willing is God to give it? Luke 11:13.

14. How may we obtain it? Luke 11:9, 10; Zech. 10:1. "The Spirit awaits our demand and reception."

#### Notes.

1. "Into," not "in," as in the Common Version. Not the mere mention of a name, but into the name, swallowed up in the name, whelmed by, immersed in, all that it stands for..

2. "Name," character. God's name reveals His goodness. Ex. 33:18, 19; 34:6, 7. When Jacob gained the victory, God changed his name to Israel to correspond with his change of character. Gen. 32:24-28. Name as used in Matt. 28:19 stands for character. See also Matt. 1:21.

3. The name of the Father stands for goodness and righteousness, which He in mercy freely bestows upon us in Christ Jesus. Rom. 3:20-22. Baptized into His name is to give up all our sins, all our righteousnesses, and receive His alone. Phil. 3:8-10.

4. The name of the Son stands for emptiness of self, self-denial, self-abnegation, and fulness of God's righteous character. The Son of God came not to reveal Himself. He did not reveal Himself when He came to earth. That was not His purpose. John 1:18; 5:19, 30; 14:10. His character, His mind, was to

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empty Himself, that the Father might fill Him with all the fulness of the Godhead. Phil. 2:5-9; Col. 1:19.

5. **Power.**—The active divine agency in effecting all God's will is the Spirit. Over the chaos in the beginning, the Spirit brooded and brought the cosmos of life and beauty. Gen. 1:2. "By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth." By the Spirit His word is given. 2 Sam. 23:2. "By His Spirit He hath garnished the heavens." Job 26:13. By the Spirit the dead are re-created and the earth renewed. Ps. 104:30. By the Spirit Jesus was begotten (Luke 2:35); by the Spirit His children are begotten (John 3:5); by the Spirit Jesus was filled for service (Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38); and by the Spirit we are given power for service (Acts 1:8); by the Spirit we are given life, and our mortal bodies quickened (Rom. 8:8-10).

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*LESSON IX.—Man's Need—God's Fulness.*

JUNE 1, 1907.

**Questions.**

1. What is man's condition by nature? Rom. 3:23; Titus 3:3. Note 1.

2. What is said of the natural heart? Jer. 17:9; Mark 7:21-23.

3. In what condition is man said to be, and what are the inevitable fruits of this condition? Rom. 8:8; Gal. 5:19-21.

4. What is the inevitable end? Rom. 8:5, 6, 13, first part of each verse.

5. In this condition, whose slave is man? Rom. 6:16; John 8:34.

6. What is his relationship with God? Eph. 2:12; 4:18.

7. Has man power to free himself from this slavery? Rom. 7:14, 15, 19, 24.

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*The needs of the cause of God are world-wide.*

8. Who only can deliver him from his bondage? Verse 25.

9. By virtue of what are all our sins forgiven? Rom. 3: 24, 25; Rev. 1: 5.

10. What is necessary on our part? Deut 30:19; Rom. 1: 16, 17.

11. What is necessary that we may produce different fruit in our lives? John 3:3.

12. By what power is this accomplished? John 3:5; Eze. 36:26, 27. Note 2.

13. How may we obtain the Spirit? Luke 11:9, 10.

14. How willing is God to give His Spirit? Verses 11-13.

15. What will the Spirit bestow upon us? Rom. 8: 9-11. Note 3.

16. What will it produce in us? Rom. 5:5.

17. What, then, is our duty? Rom. 8:12, 13.

18. To what will this Spirit bear witness? Rom. 8:14-16.

19. What does it make us? Rom. 8:17; 2 Cor. 6:17, 18.

20. What will this life-power in us produce? Gal. 5:22-24.

#### Notes.

1. Man is "without strength," he has no power to help himself. Let him strive as he will, he still comes short of God's glory. He has physical life, fed by food and water and air; but he is "separate from Christ," "alienated from the life of God," "having no hope, and without God in the world." Eph. 4:18; 2:12. No philosophy can change the great fact so clearly stated in the Bible, and everywhere demonstrated in the history of the race.

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*"The Advent message to the world in this generation"—our watchword.*

2. **A power** must take possession of man that he has not known, to lift him above sin. He must be "born from above." The Spirit of God puts new life into the heart opened by faith, and creates new affections.

3. **The Spirit is life** to the believer, the life which comes by faith in Christ. 1 John 5:11-13. "When the sinner has repented of his sins, and is united with Christ, as the branch is engrafted in the vine, the nature of the man is changed, and he is a partaker of the divine nature. . . . The life-giving principle of the Saviour is communicated to the Christian."—*Spirit of Prophecy, Vol. 3, page 90.* "All professions of Christianity are but lifeless expressions of faith until Jesus imbues the believer with His spiritual life, which is the Holy Ghost."—*Id., page 242.* The Holy Spirit is the breath of spiritual life in the soul. The impartation of the Spirit is the impartation of the life of Christ. It imbues the receiver with the attributes of Christ."—*Desire of Ages, page 805, large edition.*

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### LESSON X.—*Spiritual Gifts.*

JUNE 8, 1907.

#### Questions.

1. To what did Jesus liken His going away and coming again? Luke 19:12.

2. As the nobleman went away, what did he give? To whom did he give? For what purpose did he give? For how long? Luke 19:13.

3. To whom did Jesus, in another place, liken His going away? Matt. 25:14, 15.

4. What was the man in the parable about to do? Whom did he call? What did he deliver to them? To how many did he give? According to what did he give?

5. Whom does the nobleman represent? Eph. 4:8; first part.

6. What did the talents and pounds represent? Eph. 4:8, last part. Note 1.

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"There shall be delay no longer"—our confidence.

7. To whom did Christ give gifts? For what purpose? 1 Cor. 12:7.

8. For how long are they given? Eph. 4:13.

9. What are some of the talents and pounds named in this scripture? Eph. 4:11.

10. What list is elsewhere given? 1 Cor. 12:8-10, 28.

11. What other enumeration is given? Rom. 12:6-8. Note 2.

12. Are the gifts and the work the same to all? 1 Cor. 12:4-6.

13. To what are these various gifts likened? 1 Cor. 12:12; Rom. 12:4, 5. Note 3.

#### Notes.

1. **When we have** the same person, at the same time, making certain gifts, to the same ones, for the same purpose, the gifts must be identical, though called by different names. The pounds, the talents, the spiritual gifts, are identical. God likens them to the highest denominations of money to show how highly they should be regarded. The pound was the highest division in Roman money, the talent the highest in Hebrew money.

2. **All the spiritual gifts** may not be named in these Scriptures. God gives as we need. Note that sometimes the gift is connected with the persons, as in apostles, and prophets, and evangelists, and sometimes referred to in the gift alone, as prophecy, the word of wisdom, etc.

3. **The church** is likened to the body; the various gifts to the different members. As in the perfect, healthy, normal body, no part is lacking, and each and every part has its proper functions to perform, so God's church, when complete, will have within it every gift; all its members will be fitted for service.

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### LESSON XI.—*To Every One for Service.*

JUNE 15, 1907.

#### Questions.

1. Upon how many of God's children are the gifts of

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*"There shall be delay no longer"—our confidence.*

the Spirit bestowed? Matt. 25:14; 1 Cor. 12:11, 12. Note 1.

2. For what purpose are the gifts bestowed? 1 Cor. 12:7.

3. What threefold division is made of the purpose of the gifts? Eph. 4:12. Note 2.

4. What has God ever connected with the bestowal of the gift?—Work, service. Mark 13:34.

5. What is each man's duty as to his gift? 1 Peter 4:10. Note 3.

6. What instruction did Jesus give in the parable of the pounds? Luke 19:13.

7. What is the result to him who uses his gift? Luke 19:17.

8. For what does the apostle Paul say spiritual gifts are bestowed? 1 Cor. 12:7.

9. What will be done to the man who does not use his gift? Luke 19:24.

10. What will come to him who uses his gift? Luke 19:26. Note 4.

11. Who makes the choice of the gift to each one? 1 Cor. 12:11. Note 5.

12. For how long are these gifts thus bestowed? Eph. 4:13.

13. Out of what condition will the proper use of the gifts guide us? Eph. 4:14.

14. How and into whom will they enable us to grow? Eph. 4:15.

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*“This Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”*

15. Thus abiding in Christ, what will be the effect on the church? Eph. 4:16.

### Notes.

1. **"Every one," "each one."** Both expressions are used. There is not one soldier in Christ's army, not one child in His family, not one member in His body, who is to be an idler. Each and every one has a work to do for the Master which will use every power of his being. He needs that work for the formation of character; he owes that work to Him who released him from bondage; he must share in it as a privilege if he is to be a partaker in the eternal joy. The great need of the world demands the consecration to God's service now.

2. (a) **"For the perfecting of the saints,"** the development of character. The gifts are God's tools by which His people are brought to a state of perfection. (b) **"For the work of the ministry,"** not necessarily preaching, but including it. Preaching is only one form of ministry. Every child of God ought to be a minister, a servant of His, and every work done for God is a work of ministry or service. The measure of our loving service is the measure of our greatness before God. (c) **"The edifying of the body of Christ."** No true gift in its exercise tears down, but builds up. That is the purpose of God through His children, to build each other up. But this can be done only in God's way, by God's means, His word, His Spirit, His service.

3. **A gift,** not "the gift," as in our Common Version. Every soul has received at least a gift, one gift, and as he has so received, let him use it in blessing others.

4. **"To him that hath shall be given."** That is, to him who holds his gift for God, who uses it for God, shall be given other gifts. The use of the one gift makes that gift more effective. To the faithful steward of one gift, if he has ability, God will add other gifts.

5. **It is not for man** to choose his gift or gifts. God divides these gifts of the Spirit, not as we will, but as **He wills**. He tells us to covet earnestly the best gifts, but that ought ever to be the best gifts **for us**, which He chooses—those which we can use the best. An inordinate desire for some gift greatly esteemed throws man on Satan's ground, and leaves him open to the deceptions of the enemy.

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*"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth laborers into His harvest."*

*LESSON XII.—Important Gifts.*

JUNE 22, 1907.

## Questions.

1. Name some of the more important gifts. Eph. 4: 11.
2. What gift does God place first? 1 Cor. 12: 28.
3. What is an apostle? Note 1.
4. How many apostles were there in the early church? Note 2.
5. What is the second gift named? Eph. 4: 11; 1 Cor. 12: 28.
6. What is the third gift set in the church? 1 Cor. 12: 28.
7. What is the gift of teaching? Note 3.
8. What other gifts are named? Eph. 4: 11; 1 Cor. 12: 8-10, 28; Rom. 12: 3-6. Note 4.
9. What is the gift of evangelist? of pastor? of wisdom? of knowledge? of faith? of miracles? of healing? of tongues? of helps? of governments? of exhortation? of giving?
10. What gift must be possessed by all? *Ans.*—The gift of service.
11. According to what are all these gifts bestowed? Matt. 25: 15; Rom. 12: 6.
12. Are they all equally gifts of the Spirit? 1 Cor. 12: 4.
13. Is it possible by education to acquire one of these gifts? 1 Cor. 12: 11.

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*“Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”*

14. Can any of these gifts be purchased with money? Acts 8:18-22.

15. What is the one necessary thing to him who renders service for Christ? Rom. 8:9.

16. What will the Spirit be in such a one? Rom. 8:10.

17. What only can education do for the Christian? 1 Tim. 4:12-15. Note 5.

18. What will the Spirit bestow upon him who has it? Rom. 5:5.

19. What will all his ability prove if he have not this love? 1 Cor. 13:1.

#### Notes.

1. "Apostle."—It is the Greek word transferred and anglicized. It means a delegate, a messenger, an ambassador, a commissioner, "one sent forth."

2. Jesus expressly called the twelve apostles. Luke 6:13. But these were not all the apostles. See Matthias (Acts 1:26); Paul and Barnabas (Acts 14:14); James, the Lord's brother (Gal. 1:19); Epaphroditus, "messenger," literally apostle (Phil. 2:25), and others perhaps, messengers, apostles (2 Cor. 8:23), besides the great Apostle, our Lord Jesus Christ (Heb. 3:1). Here are eighteen or more persons designated as apostles, those sent forth of God to lead out and build up His work in the earth.

3. "Teachers."—There is ability to teach. There is the art of teaching that may be acquired. All this is effective in the world. But these alone are sounding brass and tinkling cymbals in God's cause. The spiritual truth of God can be taught only by men who are spiritually endowed teachers. Preaching and teaching are great professions now, and the greatest preparations are made in the schools; but often spiritual results are lacking. So it will ever be if we slight the Spirit of God, the only power which can regenerate, endow, and fit us for our work.

4. Among the other gifts are evangelists, pastors, working of miracles, healing, helps, governments, tongues, interpretation of tongues, word of knowledge, word of wisdom, discerning of spirits, ministry, exhortation, giving. Nearly all of these are

*Prayerfully consider the unentered fields.*



self-explanatory. An evangelist is preeminently one who preaches the Gospel, winning souls to Christ, gathering them into the flock. A pastor is one qualified of God to care for those gathered in, a shepherd of the flock. An evangelist may be a poor shepherd. A good pastor may be a poor evangelist. How often we find men that know above others just how to help, succor, relieve, at the opportune moment. They have a gift. Some are adapted to govern. Some have great knowledge and little wisdom, and others vice versa. Both are useful; let the church recognize them both. There are some who have discernment. They see the wrong motives, the false hearts, the subterfuges, of the deceiver. Neither are they "judges" in this. But, O, what need of humility is there in its use. The blessed gift of service—common to all—all may use. Let the church plan to use all these gifts of God.

5. No gift of the Spirit of God, without which we can do no acceptable work for Him, can be acquired. No labor can secure it; no committee can bestow it; no money can purchase it; it can not come to us by any inheritance of the flesh. It is the gift of God. Education may help to develop, discipline, and make more effective the exercise of the gift; but it can do no more.

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### LESSON XIII.—*The Gift of Prophecy.*

JUNE 29, 1907.

#### Questions.

1. What is the second gift mentioned among those set in the church? 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11.

2. What is the gift of prophecy? 1 Cor. 14:3, 22. Note 1.

3. For what purpose is it given in the church? Eph. 4:12; Amos 3:7; 2 Peter 1:19.

4. With what is it ever connected? Prov. 29:18; John 14:15, 16.

5. By what is every prophet and messenger to be tested? Isa. 8:20; John 10:4; 1 John 4:1. See also Matt. 7:20-23. Note 2.

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*The offerings for this quarter go to the most needy fields.*

6. Taking the illustration of the human body to represent the gifts, what are the offices of the prophet?—That of seeing, and speaking the things revealed. See 1 Sam. 9:9; Eze. 40:4; Rev. 1:2; Ex. 4:10-16.

7. What would be the result if a church should be without eyes? Luke 6:39.

8. How long will the people of God need this gift? Prov. 29:18, first part; 1 Cor. 13:8-10. Note 3.

9. What are we told to earnestly desire? 1 Cor. 12:31, first part; 14:1. Note 4.

10. What is the only true way to seek these gifts? 1 Cor. 12:31, last part; 13; 1 Cor. 12:11. Note 5.

11. What predictions has God given of the renewal of this gift in the last days? Acts 2:17-20; Rev. 12:17.

12. What, therefore, should we not do? 1 Thess 5:20.

13. What is our duty? 1 Thess 5:21; Isa. 8:20.

14. What experience is the church to have? 1 Cor. 1:5, 6. Note 6.

15. What is this testimony of Christ? Rev. 19:10.

16. What will follow its confirmation in us? 1 Cor. 1:7. Note 7.

17. In that confirmation, what will Christ do for us? Verse 8.

18. How, then, will the church stand? Eph. 5:26, 27.

#### Notes.

1. "Prophecy" means to foretell; and a prophet is literally one who foretells. But the word hardly covers the office of the prophet, as all the prophecies which have come down to us demonstrate. The prophet spoke for God as Aaron spoke for Moses. Ex. 7:1, 2. He was God's messenger to speak God's message. He reproved, rebuked, warned of present and coming danger, instructed in righteousness and present duty. Foretelling was fre-

*"There shall be delay no longer"—our confidence.*

quently a small part of his work. It was frequently only practical instruction in righteousness.

2. **There is a profound reason** why, when God's law ceased to be recognized, or was lost sight of, prophecy ceased, even though good men lived. If the Lord had allowed prophecy to flourish, there could have been no standard of testing. The spirit of prophecy is restored to the church synchronous with the restoration of His law. False prophets also abound, but we have the standard infallible by which to test them, God's law, God's voice.

3. **Till "that which is perfect"** is come, the church of God will need prophetic guidance. 2 Peter 1:19; 1 Cor. 13:8-10. Even when she becomes Spirit-filled, and without spot or wrinkle, she will not say, We do not need the prophetic word, for then she will prize it most; it will be a part of her very being.

4. **"Desire earnestly the greater gifts,"** "spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy." American Revised Version. The **greatness** is measured by the service rendered. Matt. 20:26, 27. By prophesying here we understand is meant speaking God's word unto edification. 1 Cor. 14:3.

5. **The better way,** and the only safe way, to seek any of God's gifts is the way of love, set forth in 1 Corinthians 13. Then, indeed, will the Spirit of God divide to us the gifts we can best use. God bestows His gifts with wisdom and prudence. Eph. 1:8.

6. **"Confirmed."**—It is good to have good news and good things confirmed unto us. See Heb. 2:3. We have the assurance they are true; but they benefit us not if the work goes no farther. The spirit of prophecy has been confirmed unto many. But what God desires, and what we must have, is the testimony of Christ "confirmed in us."

7. The gift of prophecy, if received, becomes the door, the entrance, to all gifts. If we will not accept the gift which warns, reproves, instructs, God can not entrust us with other gifts. Until we prize pure, true character more than display of supernatural power, God can not bestow the power. Power displayed without the fruits of the Spirit must come from some other source. As we accept the testimony of Jesus, other gifts will follow, and the church will stand complete, coming "behind in no gift."

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