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Let Jesus Come In — 1

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, . . . [that you might] know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:14-19, RSV).



▲ George R. Knight

Ellen White's emphasis at Minneapolis was not some new teaching on some aspect of Adventist theology, but rather a call for Adventism to uplift and practice basic Christianity. "My burden during the meeting," she wrote, "was to present Jesus and His love before my brethren, for I saw marked evidences that many had not the spirit of Christ" (*MS 24*, 1888).

"Faith in Christ as the sinner's only hope," she noted, "has been largely left out, not only of the discourses given but of the religious experience of very many who claim to believe the Third Angel's message. At this meeting I bore testimony that the most precious light had been shining forth from the Scriptures in the presentation of the great subject of the righteousness of Christ connected with the law, which should be constantly kept before the sinner as his only hope of salvation . . .

"The standard by which to measure character is the royal law. The law is the sin detector. By the law is the knowledge of sin. But the sinner is constantly being drawn to Jesus by the wonderful manifestation of His love in that He humiliated Himself to die a shameful death upon the cross. What a study is this? Angels have striven, earnestly longed, to look into the wonderful mystery. It is a study that can tax the highest human intelligence, that man, fallen, deceived by Satan, taking Satan's side of the question, can be conformed to the image of the Son of the infinite God. That man shall be like Him, that, because of the righteousness of Christ given to man, God will love man — fallen but redeemed — even as He loves His Son . . .

"This is the mystery of godliness. This picture is of the highest value to be placed in every discourse, to be hung in memory's hall, to be uttered by human lips, to be traced by human beings who have tasted and known that the Lord's good to be meditated upon, to be the groundwork of every discourse" (*ibid*).

Let Jesus come in. If Ellen White could only give us one piece of advice from the 1888 meetings, that would be it.

Let's choose to let Him in right now before we rise from this reading. ■

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Fasting and Prayer

Have you ever been so motivated in prayer and desperate in need that you have chosen to fast?

The Pioneer Memorial Church family spent the 24 hours of Sabbath, April 6-7 in a Day of Prayer and Fasting.

"Almighty God and Father of us all — *Hallowed be Your name. Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven* (Matthew 6:9-10*). For You are the Omnipotent One whose strong hand still guides a billion billion galaxies in their soundless trek (see Psalm 147:4), and yet each morning You eagerly bend low to hear the chirping gratitude of the tiny sparrows (see Luke 12:7). And if You feed the birds of the air, dear Father, how much more will You care for us, who are Your children? (see Matthew 6:26). As the psalmist himself sang, *teach us to sing, I will bless the Lord at all times — Your praise shall continually be in my mouth!* (Psalm 34:1).

"But, dear God, it is because You have *loved us with an everlasting love* (Jeremiah 31:3) that we come humbly to You in advance of our collective Day of Prayer and Fasting. Have mercy on us, O Lord. For like our fathers and mothers, we have sinned against You (see Daniel 9:4-10). We have turned to the gods of this world hoping to satisfy our appetites and slake our many thirsts (see 1 John 2:15-17). Like Israel of old, we have emulated the corrupted culture around us (see Hosea 4:17). We have joined the clamoring rabble, *We have no king but Caesar* (John 19:15). But, dear Savior, we admit and confess Satan has deceived us and Caesar has enslaved us. How can we then cry out for the demolishing of his strongholds out there without first pleading for Your

deliverance from the dark strongholds in here? You have promised, *If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed* (John 8:36). O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, remove our sins, too, we implore You (see John 1:29). Cleanse us, and we will be clean — wash us, and we will be whiter than the snow that fell this springtime week (see Psalm 51:7). We must hear the Gospel's assurance, *Neither do I condemn You — go now and leave your life of sin* (John 8:11).

"Forgiven and freed, we take courage now to boldly come before Your throne of grace with petitions for this Day of Prayer and Fasting (see Hebrews 4:16). *For the weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary they have divine power to demolish strongholds* (2 Corinthians 10:4). And so,

Almighty God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior, we come with the weapon of prayer against the strongholds of our mortal enemy, the fallen Lucifer and his demonic hosts of angels (see Ephesians 6:12). We possess no power of our own, but we come boldly in the might of Him who *made a public spectacle of [Satan and his hosts], triumphing over them by the cross* (Colossians 2:15). ■

Dwight W. Nelson is the senior pastor of the Pioneer Memorial Church on the campus of Andrews University.

Nelson, Dwight. "A Day Before the Day of Prayer and Fasting." The Fourth Watch (Pioneer Memorial Church blog). April 4, 2018. <https://www.pioneer-church.org/blog>. Adapted with permission.

**All references, New King James Version, Thomas Nelson.*



▲ Dwight W. Nelson

