But, Lord, I don’t see how!

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Righteousness by Faith and the Third Angel’s Message — 5

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us — for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who hangs on a tree” (Gal. 3:13 NIV).

Uplifting faith in Christ as the heart of the Third Angel’s message became central to Ellen White’s message at the 1888 General Conference session and beyond.

Soon after the Minneapolis meeting, she made one of her most powerful statements on Revelation 14:12 and the core meaning of the 1888 message. “The third angel’s message,” she penned, “is the proclamation of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ. The commandments of God have been proclaimed, but the faith of Jesus has not been proclaimed by Seventh-day Adventists as of equal importance, the law and the gospel going hand in hand. I cannot find language to express this subject in its fullness.

“The Faith of Jesus.” It is talked of, but not understood. What constitutes the faith of Jesus that belongs to the third angel’s message? Jesus becoming our sin-bearer that He might become our sin-pardoning Saviour. He was treated as we deserve to be treated. He came to our world and took our sins that we might be justified. That is His righteousness. And faith in the ability of Christ to save us amply and fully and entirely is the faith of Jesus . . .

“There is salvation for the sinner in the blood of Jesus Christ alone, which cleansest us from all sin. The man with a cultivated intellect may have vast stores of knowledge, he may engage in theological speculations, he may be great and honored of men and he considered the repository of knowledge, but unless he has a saving knowledge of Christ crucified for him, and by faith lays hold on the righteousness of Christ crucified for him, and by faith lays hold on the righteousness of Christ, he is lost. Christ was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:5 KJV). ‘Saved by the blood of Jesus Christ’ will be our only hope for time and our song throughout eternity” (MS 24, 1888; italics supplied).

Are you getting the message? We need to. It is the most crucial thing that we can ever hear — that Christ died for us, and that we can be saved only through having a vital faith in His sacrifice. That is at the core of the faith of Jesus and Revelation 14:12. It is the core of what it means to be a Seventh-day Adventist. And it is the core of what it means to be Christian. With only the commandments of God, we might be “Adventists” [i.e. church members], but not Christians.

But, Lord, I don’t see how!

Some call it a whisper. Some call it a nudge. You may have sensed it as a prompt. Whatever the definition, I’m sure you have felt it, too. It’s not an audible sound, but it’s as real as though it were. A familiar Scripture term is a still, small voice.

There’s no predictable pattern; it may go like this: You’re rushing around the house getting ready for the day, when a name comes to mind. It’s a friend you haven’t talked to for a while. Nothing to suggest there is any trouble, it’s just the name — or the face — you can’t shake. Is that God’s whisper, saying, “Why don’t you go and see Sally this week?”

But, the Lord, I don’t see how.

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