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Righteousness by Faith and the Third Angel’s Message — 6

And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle (Revelation 14:14 KJV).

I dare say that Ellen White could get excited about a few topics. But her enthusiasm was never greater than that which she had for the plan of salvation in Christ. Reflecting on the recently completed 1888 General Conference session, she noted that “Elder E. J. Waggoner had the privilege granted him of speaking plainly and presenting his views upon justification by faith and the righteousness of Christ in relation to the law. This was no new light, but it was old light placed in the prominent position in which it was revealed to me from higher authority for the last forty-four years” (MS 24, 1888) [sic].

“Everything about salvation as a result of faith in Christ is a most important matter,” she wrote. “The faith of Jesus has been overlooked and treated as if it were a daily devotional, prepared for the plan of salvation in Christ. This was no new light to me for it had come to me from higher authority for the last forty-four years. . . . It is necessary that this matter should be constantly kept before the sinner as his only hope of salvation.”

“Here is the patience of the saints: here is the faith of Jesus” (Rev 14:14). The faith of Jesus has been overlooked and treated as if it were a daily devotional, prepared for the plan of salvation in Christ. This was no new light to me for it had come to me from higher authority for the last forty-four years. . . . It is necessary that this matter should be constantly kept before the sinner as his only hope of salvation.

Faithful and True

Although raised as a Seventh-day Adventist, as time went along, I stopped practicing my faith. There was no time for God. I was a busy wife and owner of a successful farrier business where I traveled from farm to farm, trimming and shoeing horses. I eventually came to the place where I knew something was missing.

My older brother sensed my restlessness and began witnessing to me of the peace Jesus brings to life. Soon I began Bible studies with Lena Church pastor, Rick Binford, and loved the studies! Suddenly the Bible wasn’t just [a book of] rules, but one which revealed God trying to save me and show me how to be completely happy.

I remember taking a walk with my husband; he was not happy with my new choices, as my beliefs were changing my lifestyle. I was walking along one day thinking, “You could just let this all go and return to your old lifestyle. Your husband would be happy, and life would be easier.” Then I prayed, “God give me the strength to move forward.” By God’s amazing grace, I was rebaptized; for the first time felt my life was complete.

Since my husband and I do not share the same faith, things became an issue. Again, I prayed, and we came to an agreement I would tithe from my income. I was tithing became an issue. Again, I prayed, and we came to an agreement I would tithe from my income. I was grateful, yet felt I wanted to do more for God in offerings. “How was I to do that and stay true to my husband as well?”

Once again, I took this to God in prayer and He provided an answer. As a farrier, I often received tips, so I decided to return any tips I received to Him. At church that week, I had learned that our Pathfinders had advanced to the Bible Experience finals and needed funds to travel to Washington D.C. So, Monday morning before work, I prayed, “Please, Lord, I want to help all my tips are Yours.”

After my second job that morning, my client added $500 to the bill as a tip. I had to call and share the amazing news with my pastor. I then stopped to tell my younger brother and his wife the good news; they promptly pulled out their checkbook and added to the handsome amount.

Yet God’s answers didn’t stop there. I prayed one morning about my desire to help support a church plant our church is sponsoring, and that very morning a client added a $70 tip to his bill. You have to understand; tips are common but certainly not for that amount.

God’s gracious answers to prayer continue. One of my client’s daughters, Sarah, took Bible studies and was baptized. And my younger brother and his wife have chosen to be baptized.

I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvellous works (Psalm 92).

George R. Knight is a retired professor of church history at the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. This article is from his book, Lost the Forget, a daily devotional, published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, page 285.

Jodi Pennings, pictured here with Mike, her husband of 17 years, owns and operates a farrier business called Lucky Horseshoeing. As a hobby, she enjoys rehabbing lost-cause horses and finding good-fit homes for them. She is a member of the Lena Church, leading in Sabbath School and Personal Ministries.