What About the Trinity? — 2

George R. Knight
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In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God (John 1:1 KJV).

If the old line leadership of Seventh-day Adventism appears to have been almost unanimously antitrinitarian, what about the reformers at Minneapolis?

Here, interestingly enough, is a theological point on which E. J. Waggoner could agree with Uriah Smith, “There was a time,” Waggoner wrote in his 1890 book entitled Christ and His Righteousness, “when Christ proceeded forth and came from God, . . . but that time was so far back in the days of eternity that to finite minds it is essentially eternity — appeared the Word.”

The years following would see the publication of her most important books on those topics. 1892 — her classic, Steps to Christ! 1896 — Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, which treated the Sermon on the Mount 1898 — The Desire of Ages, her book on the life of Christ 1900 — Christ’s Object Lessons, a volume on the parables 1905 — Ministry of Healing, in which the opening chapters focus on the healing ministry of Jesus

Nowhere in any of those books did Ellen White offer a chapter or even a paragraph on the Trinity or the full divinity of Christ, but they set forth phrases and words that would drive Adventists back to the Bible to restudy the topic. That Bible study would eventually result in a chapter or even a paragraph on the Trinity or the full divinity of Christ. Here is where one of the other 1888 reformers comes in. The 1888 experience literally transformed Ellen White’s writing ministry. It was in the events surrounding that General Conference session that she fully realized the ignorance of the Adventist ministry and laity on the plan of salvation and the centrality of Christ.

The following Sabbath, immediately after the worship service, Kevin Rogers (our pastor), my wife and I rushed over to the house, anointed and prayed for her, and again sought heaven’s interposition. With only days to live, funeral arrangements also were discussed. We left with the expectation of funeral services later that week.

Weeks went by with no call from Lucille’s son. Then one Sabbath, I revisited the house. I knocked on the door, but no one answered. I began thinking that Lucille had died and been buried, but no one had informed us. Suddenly, her son drove up and, in the front seat next to him, was a smiling Lucille. After big hugs, laughter and tears of joy, Lucille informed us that from the moment we had anointed and prayed with her, her organs revived. She threw off her breathing tubes, stopped taking her medicines, discontinued hospice care, sat up and began a new life. God had answered our prayers in a marvelous way.

Today, we continue to give God the praise for His marvelous intervention in the lives of Lucille and her son, and look forward with great anticipation to seeing them in church and becoming members.