

STRANGE FIRE

Instructor: Narlon Edwards

We need to follow **more** closely **GOD'S PLAN** of **LIFE**. {Ed 267.3}

PLAIN TESTIMONY

Isaiah 30:9-10 | Ezekiel 16:2

Sins exist in the church that God hates, but they are **scarcely touched for fear of making enemies**. Opposition has risen in the church to the **plain testimony**. **Some will not bear it**. They wish **smooth things** spoken unto them. And **if** the wrongs of individuals are touched, they complain of severity, and sympathize with those in the wrong. **When the church depart from God they despise the plain testimony, and complain of severity and harshness**. It is a sad evidence of the **lukewarm** state of the church. {2SG 283.3}

COUNTERFEIT REFORMATION

The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great **reformation** was to take place among **Seventh-day Adventists**, and that this **reformation** would consist in **giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith**, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this **reformation** to take place, what would result?

- The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded.
- Our religion would be changed.
- The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error...
- A new organization would be established.
- Books of a new order would be written.
- A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced.
- The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work.
- The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it.

Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. ... Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure. Who has authority to begin such a movement? **WE HAVE OUR BIBLES**. We have our experience, attested to by the miraculous working of the Holy Spirit. **We have a truth that admits of NO COMPROMISE. Shall we not repudiate everything that is not in harmony with this truth?** {1SM 204-205}

What should we do?

Jude 3 | 2 Chronicles 29:15-16

STRANGE FIRE

| Lev 9:22-10:1-2

God has not changed. He is as particular and exact in his requirements now as he was in the days of Moses. **But in the sanctuaries of worship** in our day, with the songs of praise, the prayers, and the teaching from the pulpit, there is not merely **STRANGE FIRE**, but positive defilement. Instead of **truth's** being preached with holy unction from God, it is sometimes spoken under the influence of tobacco and **brandy**. **Strange**

fire indeed. **Such incense is most acceptable to Satan!** A terrible deception is this! – {RH March 25, 1875 Par. 12}

Lev 10:8-10 | Isaiah 28:7

INTOXICATING WINE

There is to be no **compromise** with those who are worshiping an idol Sabbath. ... I was told that men will employ every policy to make less prominent the **difference** between the faith of **Seventh-day Adventists** and those who observe the **first day** of the week. In this controversy the whole world will be engaged, and the time is short. **This is no time to haul down our colors.** {2SM 385.1}

Revelation 14:8 | Proverbs 20:1 | Proverbs 23:30-33

THE PROBLEM IS WE ARE TRYING TO SIP BOTH CUPS

| 1 Corinthians 10:21

What's in the cup?

What is that wine?--her false doctrines. She has given to the world a false sabbath instead of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, **and has repeated the falsehood that Satan first told to Eve in Eden**--the natural immortality of the soul. {7BC 985.4}

HOW DID THE SERPENT DECEIVE?

2 Corinthians 11:2-3 | Genesis 3:1-6

QUESTION 1 – WHAT THE MISTAKES DID EVE MAKE? [Fill in the blank]

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Colossian 2:8 | 1 Timothy 6:20-21 | 2 Timothy 3:7

Philosophy: Love of wisdom, reasoning, course of **science** read in the schools

Encyclopedia Britannica; Article Socrates states: "Before I ever met you, says Meno in the Dialogue with Plato called by his name, I was told that **you spent your time in doubting**, and **leading others to doubt**; and it is a **fact** that your witcheries and spells have brought me to that condition"

"I respect faith, but **doubt is what get's you an education** {Wilson Mizner}

AVENUES TO THE SOUL

Those who would not fall a prey to Satan's devices, must guard well the avenues of the soul; they must **avoid reading, seeing, or hearing** that which will suggest impure thoughts...Many of the popular publications of the day are filled with sensational stories that are **educating the youth in wickedness** and

leading them in the path to perdition. The seeds of lawlessness are **sown** broadcast. None need marvel that a **harvest** of crime is the result. **The readers of fiction are indulging an evil that destroys spirituality, eclipsing the beauty of the sacred page.** It creates an **unhealthy excitement**, fevers the imagination, **unfits the mind for usefulness, weans the soul from prayer, and disqualifies it for any spiritual exercise.** {FLB 241.4}

QUESTION 2 – WHAT ARE THE AVENUES TO SOUL? [Fill in the blank]

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

SATAN'S PLOT

Satan and his angels are busy creating a **paralyzed condition of the senses** so that **cautions, warnings, and reproofs** shall **not** be **heard**; or **if** heard, that they shall not take effect upon the heart and **reform the life.** {5T 493.1}

God gave men **EYES**, that they might **behold wondrous things out of His law.** He gave them the hearing **EAR, that** they might listen to His message, spoken by the living preacher. He gave men the talent of **SPEECH, that** they might present Christ as the sin-pardoning Saviour. {AH 401.1}

Psalms 101:3 – I will set no wicked thing before mine **eyes**...

Col 2:20,23 – **Touch** not, **taste** not **handle** not...

1 Sam 3:10 – **Speak Lord** thy servant **heareth**...

Isa 50:4 - **Tongue** of the learned...

Psalms 34:8 - O **taste** and see that the **Lord** is good...

INDIFFERENCE

There are many **in** the **church** who at heart belong to the world...The reason we have had so little influence upon unbelieving relatives and associates is that we have manifested little decided **difference** in our practices from those of the world Parents need to awake, and purify their souls by **practicing the truth** in their home life. **When we reach the standard that the Lord would have us reach, worldlings will regard...Adventists as odd, singular, straight-laced extremists.** "We are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men." {RH January 9, 1894 Par. 10}

SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

What is Laodicea's condition?

Revelation 3:17 | 1 Samuel 9:9 | 2 Corinthians 4:3

QUESTION 3 – WHAT IS THE DIVINE ORDER OF HOW GOD REVEALS TRUTH TO THE CHURCHES?

Revelation 1:1-4

Amos 3:7, Hosea 12:13, 2 Chronicles 20:20

It is Satan's plan to (1)weaken the faith of God's people in the Testimonies. (2)Next follows skepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the **pillars of our position**, (3)then doubt as to the Holy Scriptures, (4)and then the downward march to perdition. When the Testimonies, which were **once believed**, are **doubted** and **given up**, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable and ends in destruction. {4T 211}

QUESTION 4 – WHAT IS LAST DECEPTION OF SATAN? [Fill in the blank]

The _____ of Satan will be to make of _____ the testimony of the Spirit of God. "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Prov. 29:18). Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony {1SM 48}

One thing is **certain**: Those Seventh-day Adventists who take their stand under Satan's banner will **FIRST give up** their faith in the warnings and reproofs contained in the Testimonies of God's Spirit." {3SM 84}

Many Pioneers lost their way and abandoned the church as a result of disregarding the Spirit of Prophecy!

Excerpt from the message: ***"The Peril of Worldly Trends"***

Have we allowed worldly contact or policy to subvert the movement? Have we changed the spirit and purpose of this movement?...**DO WE BELIEVE IN THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY?** We say we do. Are we among those to whom Christ said, "Ye say, and do not"? Most of our people know of the standards as taught in the Spirit of prophecy, and when they see us violating them in our practice, they lose faith, not only in the Testimonies, but in our leadership. Let us be consistent leaders. **Let us practice what we preach.**

– James Lamar McElhany – *General Conference President 1936 to 1950*

SOLUTION TO DELUSION

| 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12

SATAN'S ATTACK

Satan and his angels are busy creating a paralyzed condition of the **senses** so that cautions, warnings, and reproofs shall not be heard; or, if heard, that they shall not take effect upon the heart and **reform** the life. {AH 401.4}