

Chapter 1

The Simplicity of the Prayer of Reception

I. Our Lord's Methods were Simple.

1. "The common people heard Him gladly". Mark 12:37.

2. "The truth came from His lips beautiful in its simplicity, yet clothed with dignity and power. What a teacher was our Lord Jesus Christ!" (#3 of Special Testimonies to Ministers and Workers).

3. "The simplicity and earnestness with which He addressed those in need, hallowed every word.... He showed consistency without obstinacy, benevolence without weakness, tenderness and sympathy without sentimentalism. He was highly social, yet He possessed a reserve that discouraged any familiarity. His temperance never led to bigotry or austerity."- Counsels to Teachers, p. 262.

4. "He placed himself between the mercy seat, and the vast number of heartless worshippers who were full of ostentation, pride, and vanity, and by His lessons of truth, which were 'eloquent with simplicity' He impressed the people with the necessity of worship. His lessons were impressive, beautiful and weighty with importance, and yet so simple that a child could understand them. The truth He presented was so deep that the wisest and most accomplished teacher could never exhaust it. Those who work as seeing the Invisible, will always preserve simplicity, charging the simplest words with the power of the grandest truths."-Youth's Instructor, August 4, 1898.

5. "The greatest Teacher the world ever knew was admired for his simplicity; for He presented divine truth in such a way that even children could comprehend his words, and at the same time He drew the attention of the best educated and deepest thinkers of the world. By the use of familiar illustrations He made truth plain to the minds of the common people. In simplicity He sowed the seed of the gospel truth in the minds of His hearers, and it sprang up and yielded a harvest unto everlasting life."-Youth's Instructor, May 4, 1893.

II. We Should Give Up Our Self-Sufficiency

1. "He who in this world exalts self in the work given him to do will never see the kingdom of God, unless he is changed in spirit, unless he becomes meek and lowly, revealing the simplicity of a little child."- Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 140.

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2. “He would have us cultivate purity and simplicity, the quiet graces of the flowers.”-Steps to Christ, p. 85.

3. “The Lord of glory is satisfied with those who are meek and lowly in heart. ‘Thou has also given me,’ said David, ‘the shield of Thy salvation:

and thy gentleness’-as an element in the human character-‘hath made me great.’ Psalms 18:35.”- The Desire of Ages, p. 437.

4. “We need more simplicity, more trust and confidence in our Savior. He whose name is called, ‘The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace;’ He of whom it is written, ‘The government shall be upon his shoulder,’ is the Wonderful Counselor. We are invited to ask wisdom of Him. he ‘giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not’ Isaiah 9:6; James 1:5.” - Id., p. 363.

III. We Must Unlearn

1. “Ye have not so learned Christ.” Ephesians 4:20.

2. “In many cases, God can do little with men of learning, because they feel no need of leaning upon Him who is the source of all wisdom; therefore, after a trial, he sets them aside for men of inferior talent who have learned to rely upon him, whose souls are fortified by goodness, truth, and unwavering fidelity, and who will not stoop to anything that will leave a stain upon the conscience.”— Testimonies, Vol. 4, p. 541.

3. “The one lesson most essential for them to learn is that goodness alone gives true greatness. May God deliver us from the philosophy of worldly-wise men. Their only hope is in becoming fools, that they may be wise indeed.” —Ibid.

4. “The self-sufficient, satisfied with themselves, can well be spared from the work of God.”— Gospel Workers, p. 143.

5. “What we learn of the Great Teacher of truth, will be enduring; it will not savor of self-sufficiency, but will lead to humility and meekness.” Testimonies, Vol. 5, p. 647.

6. “Man’s great danger is in being self-deceived, indulging self-sufficiency, and thus separating from God, the source of his strength.”- Ministry of Healing, p. 455.

7. “Humility and self-distrust should be cultivated,
“- Steps to Christ, p. 121.

8. “The conflict before us calls for
distrust of self and for dependence on God alone;
“— Prophets and Kings, p. 74.

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9. "It was with great anxiety and self-distrust that Joshua had looked forward to the work before him; but his fears were removed by the assurance of God, 'As I was with Moses, so I will be with thee; I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.'" —Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 482.

10. "The divine command given to Moses (to be leader of Israel) found him self-distrustful, slow of speech, and timid. He was overwhelmed with a sense of his incapacity to be a mouth-piece for God to Israel."— Id., p.255.

11. "His intellectual greatness distinguishes him above the great men of all ages. As historian, poet, philosopher, general of armies, and legislator, he stands without a peer.—Id., p. 2l;6.

12. "With simplicity we should state our needs to the Lord, and claim His promise with such faith that those in the congregation will know that we have learned to prevail with God in prayer. They will be encouraged to believe that the Lord's presence is in the meeting, and will open their hearts to receive His blessing."—Gospel Workers, p. 177.

13. "Even the great men are more easily drawn by the simplicity of the gospel than by an effort made in human power. Ellen G. White, Letter 72, 1899.

14. "But never search for words that will give the impression that you are learned. The greater your simplicity, the better will your words be understood.... Pray simply, but clearly and distinctly.... and in tones loud enough to be heard by all, so that the people may unite in saying Amen."—Gospel Workers, pp. 89, 90.

15. "God will bestow upon us every needed blessing, if we ask him in simplicity and faith.... When the suppliant feels that he is in the divine presence, self will be forgotten. He will have no desire to display human talent; he will not seek to please the ear of men, but to obtain the blessing for which the soul craves."—Testimonies, Vol. 5, p. 201.

16. "High-flown language is inappropriate in prayer, whether the petition be offered in the pulpit, in the family circle, or in secret. Especially should the one offering public prayer use simple language, that others may understand what is said and unite with the petition."—Gospel Workers, p. 177.

17. "Those who have a humble, trusting, contrite heart, God accepts, and hears their prayer; and when God helps, all obstacles will be overcome."— Testimonies, Vol. U, p. 539.

18. "When you pray, be brief, come right to the point. Do not preach the Lord a sermon in your long prayers."—Testimonies, Vol. 5, p. 201.

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IV. Christ's Childlike ABC Prayer

A-ASK- Matthew 7:7

1. "But I say unto you, Ask,..." Luke 11:9.
2. "It is a part of God's plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that Tfhich He would not bestow did we not thus ask."-The Great Controversy, p. L25.
3. "God does not say, Ask once, and you shall receive. He bids us ask. Unwearyingly persist in prayer. The persistent asking brings the petitioner into a more earnest attitude, and gives him an increased desire to receive the things for which he asks." - Christ's Object Lessons, p. 144.
4. "Take God's promises as your own, plead them before Him as His own words,..."-The Mount of Blessing, p. 191.
5. "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." John 15:7.
6. "Satan cannot endure to have his powerful rival appealed to, for he fears and trembles before His strength and majesty. At the sound of fervent prayer, Satan's whole host trembles. And when angels, all-powerful, clothed with the armory of heaven, come to the help of the fainting, pursued soul, Satan and his host fall back, well knowing that their battle is lost." -Review and Herald, May 13, 1862 .
7. When Hezekiah asked (2 Kings 19:1-4), God answered by sending one angel who slew 185,000 Assyrians bent on the destruction of God's people. (2 Kings 19:35).
8. When Jacob asked (Genesis 32:9-12), God sent an angel to the side of Esau and gave him a dream (Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 198) in which he saw the sadness and perplexities of his brother and the hosts of God accompanying him. Of Jacob we read: "Helpless and unworthy, he pleaded God's promise of mercy to the repentant sinner. That promise was his assurance that God would pardon and accept him. Sooner might heaven and earth pass than that word could fail; and it was this that sustained him through that fearful conflict."-Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 201.
9. "But all who will lay hold of God's promises as did Jacob, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded. 'Shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily.1 Luke 18:7> 8." -Id., p. 203.

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10. "Every promise in the Word of God furnishes us with subject-matter for prayer, presenting the pledged word of Jehovah as our assurance."- The Mount of Blessing, p. 190.

11. When the church, in prayer, asked God to deliver Peter (Acts 12:5) "behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him" (vs. 7), and brought him out of the prison.

12. When Abraham asked (Genesis 18:23) for the righteous in Sodom, God answered and "remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow,..." (Genesis 19:29).

13. When Daniel prayed (Daniel 6:10) God "sent his angel" and "shut the lions' mouths" (vs. 22).

14. When Moses asked, by lifting up his hands to God, in prayer, "Israel prevailed". (Exodus 17:11)

B-BELIEVE-Mark 11:24

1. "Believe that ye receive." Mark 11:2U.

2. "If you want faith, talk faith;..."-Testimonies, Vol. 1, p. 699.

3. "Say, 'I will believe, I do believe that God is my helper,' and you will find that you are triumphant in God."-Testimonies, Vol. 5, p. 514.

4. "Let us talk faith, and we shall have faith.... never utter a word of doubt."- Ellen G. White, Letter 77, 1895.

5. "Talk faith, talk hope; rest in God... and Jesus will help the helpless, and strengthen and build up those who feel that they are very weakness itself."-Testimonies, Vol. 2, pp. 98, 99.

6. "Talk courage, talk faith, talk hope."- Ellen G. White, Letter, 1894.

7. "Sing faith and talk faith, and you will find that you have sung and talked yourself into the light."- Counsels to Teachers, p. 234.

8. "Talk and act as if your faith was invincible".- Christ's Object Lessons, p. 146.

9. "By your fervent prayers of faith you can move the arm that moves the world." -Review and Herald, April 23, 1889.

10. "Never allow yourself to talk in a hopeless, discouraged way." - Christ's Object Lessons, p. 1U6.

11. "... with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:10.

12. "While words express thoughts, it is also true that thoughts follow words. If we would give more expression to our faith,... we should have more faith...."-Ministry of Healing, pp. 252, 253.

13. "Say, 'I have done as Thou hast said. I present Thy promise.'" - Christ's Object Lessons, p. 146.

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14. "Say, I will give my will to Jesus, and I will do it now,..."- Testimonies, Vol. 5, p. 514.

15. Say, "True, I am a sinner; but "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.""- Testimonies, Vol. 5, p. 629.

16. "Then talk of the promises; talk of Jesus' willingness to bless." - Ministry of Healing, p. 488.

17. "Through faith, every deficiency of character may be supplied, every defilement cleansed, every fault corrected, every excellence developed."~ The Acts of the Apostles, p. 564.

C-CLAIM or Receive - John 11:41

Note: When I go to the airport to claim my baggage I most certainly receive: so we use these two words interchangeably.

1. "Believe that ye receive." Mark 11:2U—

2. "So we may ask for these blessings, and believe that we receive them, and thank God that we have received them."-Steps to Christ, p. 51.

3. "In humble faith you may claim His promises, and feel that although you have nothing in yourself whereby you may claim the favor of God, because of the merits and righteousness of Christ, you may come boldly to the throne of grace, and find help in time of need."-Youth's Instructor. July 7, 1892.

4. "When they plead His unfailing promises, and claim them as their own, when with an importunity that will not be denied they seek for the power of the Holy Spirit, they will be made complete in Him."-The Acts of the Apostles, p. 530.

5. "I entreat you to let your trembling faith again grasp the promises of God* Bear your whole weight upon them with unwavering faith; for they will not, they cannot fail."-Testimonies, Vol. 2, p. 497.

6. "But all who will lay hold of God's promises as did Jacob, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded. 'Shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Luke 18:7,8.'" Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 203.

7. "Pray, believe, rejoice. Sing praises to God because He has answered your prayers. Take Him at His word. 'He is faithful that promised.1 Hebrews 10:23.'"Testimonies, Vol. 7, p. 27U.

8. "True faith lays hold of and claims the promised blessing before it is realized and felt."-Early Writings, p. 72.

9. "We must send up our petitions in faith" and "take hold of the promised blessing and claim it as ours." Ibid.

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10. "Here is faith, naked faith, to believe that we receive the blessing, even before we realize it."- Ibid.

11. "Ye let go of the arm of the Lord too soon. Press your petitions to the throne, and hold on by strong faith. The promises are sure. Believe ye receive the things ye ask for, and ye shall have them." - Id., p. 73.

Winning John Doe With Seven Bible Promises and Seven Bible Laws

Seven Bible Promises:

1. That God will free his will. John 8:36.
2. That God will turn his mind. Proverbs 21:1
3. That the Holy Spirit will give him a different heart. Ezekiel 36:26, 27.
4. That God will give him a hatred for sin. Genesis 3:15.
5. That God will deliver him. Hebrews 2:14,15.
6. That God will give him life. 1 John 5:16.
7. That God will reward our work for him. Jeremiah 31:16, 17.

These Promises to be Claimed:

In the atmosphere of faith. Hebrews 11:1,6.

Seven Bible Laws (7 Secrets):

1. Jesus, the central law. Psalms 16:8.
2. Joy, the law of strength. Nehemiah 8:10.
3. Faith, a law of victory. 1 John 5:4 (last part).
4. Hope, a law of salvation. Romans 8:24.
5. Love, the law of fellowship - a success law. 1 John 4:19; 1 Corinthians 13:8.
6. Choice, the law of the sovereign will. Joshua 24:15.
7. Humility, the law of the 3rd horizontal level down. Philippians 2:3,5-8.

The Laws to Be Obeyed:

In the atmosphere of the golden rule. Matthew 7:12.

Seven Laws Classified:

1. Jesus allures, Hosea 2:14; Joy brings strength, Nehemiah 8:10. The two combined - Laws of strong allurements.
2. Faith, Hope and Love - bring pleasant pressure. Jeremiah 31:3; 1 John 4:19; 1 John 5:4; Romans 8:24. The three combined - laws of divine pressure.

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3. Choice and Humility - bring rest. Matthew 11:28-30; Isaiah 57:15. These two combined — Laws of human ease

Illustration of Choice and Humility in the Atmosphere of the Golden Rule:

The golden rule asks, Would I want anyone to try to push me into the church, or try to make decisions for me? The answer is, No. Then I will not try to push others.

The golden rule asks, Would I like someone to take the “holier-than-thou” attitude toward me, pointing out little mistakes and faults of mine, making me feel belittled, or like a pagan? The answer being No, I will not break the law of humility.

Examples of obeying or disobeying the laws of choice and humility:

John Doe says “Come over to see me, but leave your religion at home.” I know by this that I am breaking all the laws of Choice and Humility, for John Doe feels ill-at-ease in my presence.

I pick up a little child of around 4 years of age. I hold this child tightly in my arms, while I kindly chant, “I love you so”. The child tries to release himself, no matter what my motive is. My breaking the law of Choice makes him struggle for his freedom.

I do the same thing with a little puppy. I get the same results. Even a puppy with dog-sense knows he does not want someone to be “possessive”. The Golden Rule speaks gently to us-do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

A brother asked us about putting literature in a self-addressed envelope sent by some business concern. He had been saving himself postage by so doing. He had not used the envelope for the purpose for which it had been sent to him-that is, to order their merchandise. We answered his question by suggesting another question. If he were selling a product, and enclosed a business reply envelope, would he want some one to send literature to him which he despised? Immediately he caught the point. The Golden Rule speaks to our hearts. Let us listen to its voice.

It will accomplish nothing for me to preach John Doe a sermon until his heart has opened to the working of the Holy Spirit. When once this is done, then I am ready, in deepest simplicity, to drop the seed-the Word of God-which has converting power, (1 Peter 1:23) into his heart.