

Open The Light

*For God, who commanded the light
to shine out of darkness,
hath shined in our hearts,
to give the light of the knowledge
of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.
2 Corinthians 4:6*

*Character Building
In A Relationship with God*

*He that believeth on me, **as the scripture hath said**, out
of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. [John 7:38](#)*

Study 15

Please, pace your way through the study, do as much as you can, with the time you have, each day, with prayer. Enjoy your time in Bible study getting to know God and His love for you.

Walking in God's Law

The 8th Commandment

Before opening God's word, say prayer, asking God for the Holy Spirit to guide you and to bless you with understanding, asking in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Do what you can each day and pick up where you ended up the day before. Pray for the blessing of remembrance of His Word in a time of need and that you may meditate upon them throughout your days in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Thou shalt not steal. Exodus 20:15

"Thou shalt not steal."

Both public and private sins are included in this prohibition. The eighth commandment condemns manstealing and slave dealing, and forbids wars of conquest. It condemns theft and robbery. It demands strict integrity in the minutest details of the affairs of life. It forbids overreaching in trade, and requires the payment of just debts or wages. It declares that every attempt to advantage oneself by the ignorance, weakness, or misfortune of another is registered as fraud in the books of heaven. {PP 309.1} EGW {PP 308.8} (Page 309)

Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. Matthew 22:37-40. Since loving God with all thy heart, soul and mind is the first and great commandment, we will look at "Thou shalt not steal" from God first.

It is quite easy to understand "Thou shalt not steal" from others, but we may not realize how easy it is to steal from God. Especially when we choose our way over what God has put in place for us.

Read Malachi 3:6-12

Don't you think the start of this reading is quite a statement and that we **ought to take heed** to it?

What are the first 8 words of verse 6 of Malachi 3?

I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. Ecclesiastes 3:14.

Voluntary offerings and the tithe constitute the revenue of the gospel. Of the means which is entrusted to man, God claims a certain portion—a tithe. 500 {CCh 274.1}

All should remember that God's claims upon us underlie every other claim. He gives to us bountifully, and the contract which He has made with man is that a tenth of his possessions shall be returned to God. The Lord graciously entrusts to His stewards His treasures, but of the tenth He says: This is Mine. Just in proportion as God has given His property to man, so man is to return to God a faithful tithe of all his substance. This distinct arrangement was made by Jesus Christ Himself. 501 {CCh 274.2}

The sacrificial offerings and tithing were set in place from the beginning of Sin.

Read Genesis 4:1-5 and 8:20-21.

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A firstling is the firstling of man or beast; abstractly primogeniture: - birthright, **firstborn** (-ling). (References from the Strong's Concordance) And it is also known to be a tithe. Thou mayest not eat within thy gates **the tithe** of thy corn, or of thy wine, or of thy oil, **or the firstlings** of thy herds or of thy flock, nor any of thy vows which thou vowest, nor thy freewill offerings, or heave offering of thine hand. **Deuteronomy 12:17**. Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year. And thou shalt eat before the LORD thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, **the tithe of thy** corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the **firstlings** of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always. **Deuteronomy 14:22-23**.

Every word of God is pure: **he is a shield** unto them that **put their trust in him**. Add thou not unto his words, **lest** he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar. **Proverbs 30:5-6**.

Verse 7 of Malachi 3 is telling us where we have gone away from God's Law by not keeping the ordinances of God. Then there is a call for us to "return unto" God, and then a promise that God "will return unto" us, if we return unto Him.

At the end of verse 7 of Malachi 3, we have a question "Wherein shall we return?"

Read the following verses given to help with other ways we need to return to God. Then we'll continue studying Malachi 3.

I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, **which** walketh in a way that was not good, **after their own thoughts**; **Isaiah 65:2**.

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean **not** unto thine own understanding. **In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths**. Be **not** wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. **Proverbs 3:5-7**.

The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD. All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits. **Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established**. **Proverbs 16:1-3**.

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall **not** be your ruin. Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye. **Ezekiel 18:30-32**.

Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. **Zechariah 1:3**.

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. **James 4:8**.

Verse 8 of Malachi 3 has the answer, but not before more questions. The first question is part of God's answer. "Will a man rob God?" "Yet ye have robbed me." Then another question is asked in return "Wherein have we robbed thee?" What is God's answer?

In

And

Verse 9 of Malachi 3 tells us how we are cursed and why. "Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me," There are no blessings in doing things our own way, after our own thoughts. In fact we remove the blessings and "Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me,"

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REMEMBER whenever you finish your study time, pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you through the day and remember to pray for others and then your needs, asking these things in the Name of Jesus.

REMEMBER before opening God's word, say prayer asking God for the Holy Spirit to guide you in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Jesus said... "It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves." [Matthew 21:13](#). Yet another way we rob God. On the SABBATH and in CHURCH we should REMEMBER that the LORD said, "Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD." [Leviticus 19:30](#). "He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever." [Psalms 111:9-10](#). "Be still, and know that I am God:" [Psalms 46:10](#). When we forget that the place of worship is a place to reverence God, we rob God of the reverence He so deserves. This thought of robbing God of His reverence not only applies to church, we also should reverence Him within our homes, the things we do in life and within our heart and mind. When we reverence God in our heart and mind, reverence will then flow in all other areas as well. If there is anything we are doing in life that does not reverence God, walk away from it. We are the temple of God. Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? [1 Corinthians 3:16](#). For the Scriptures say in [1 Corinthians 3:17](#), If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. Remember, we are called to be holy, for God is Holy. But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. [1 Peter 1:15, 16](#). Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire. [Hebrews 12:28, 29](#).

He who has declared that His words are spirit and life, should have their faith in strong exercise that the Lord Jesus is an honored guest in their

assemblies. "Where two or three are met together in My name, there am I in their midst." If He is there, it is to enlighten and bless. Therefore as we assemble together, we all have a solemn sense of the presence of God, and know that the angels of God are in the assembly. The messengers of the gospel know by experience its truth, power and excellence. It is the hours of the Sabbath that are sacred and sanctified and holy, and every true worshiper who keeps holy the Sabbath, should claim the promise, "That ye may know I am the Lord that doth sanctify you." -348- {4MR 347.2}

Verse 10 of Malachi 3 tells us where the tithes and offerings should go and a wonderful promise is attached to it when we follow His ways.

Who chose the place where the tithes and offerings should go?

But **unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose** out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come: And thither ye shall bring your burnt **offerings**, and your sacrifices, and **your tithes**, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, and your freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks: [Deuteronomy 12:5-6](#).

Where is the storehouse?

Verse 10 answers this.

God said "that there may be meat **in mine house**". What is this verse meaning? What is the house of God and what are the tithes and offerings used for?

Read the following.

And the LORD spake unto Aaron, Thou shalt have no inheritance in their land, neither shalt thou have any part among them: I am thy part and thine

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inheritance among the children of Israel. And, behold, I have given the children of Levi **all the tenth** in Israel for an inheritance, **for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.** Numbers 18:20-21.

Read the following scriptures and then answer the Questions.

God said “that there may be meat **in mine house**”. What is this verse meaning? What is the house of God and what are the tithes and offerings used for?

2 Chronicles 31:4-12

Nehemiah 10:37-39

Leviticus 27:30-34

And of the Levites, Ahijah was over the treasures of the house of God, and over the treasures of the dedicated things. 1 Chronicles 26:20.

And the priest the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites, when the Levites take tithes: and the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes unto the house of our God, to the chambers, into the treasure house. Nehemiah 10:38.

And he had prepared for him a great chamber, where aforetime they laid the meat offerings, the frankincense, and the vessels, and the tithes of the corn, the new wine, and the oil, which was commanded to be given to the Levites, and the singers, and the porters; and the offerings of the priests. Nehemiah 13:5.

Continue by reading.

Exodus 25:1-9; 35:4-29

Acts 4:32-37; 5:29-32; 6:1-7 note verses 4 and 7 Hebrews 7:1-10

What is the house of God and what are the tithes and offerings used for?

“that there may be meat **in mine house**” Malachi 3:10.

Possessions as Well as Income to Be Tithed

As did Abraham, they are to pay tithe of all they possess and all they receive. A faithful tithe is the (Page 67) Lord's portion. To withhold it is to rob God. Every man should freely and willingly and gladly bring tithes and offerings into the storehouse of the Lord, because in so doing there is a blessing. There is no safety in withholding from God His own portion.-- MS 159, 1899. {CS 66.4}

Verse 11 of Malachi 3 continues with the promises from verse 10.

Duty is duty, and should be performed for its own sake. But the Lord has compassion upon us in our fallen condition, and accompanies His commands with promises. **He calls upon His people to prove Him, declaring that He will reward obedience with the richest blessings.** "Prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts." He encourages us to give to Him, declaring that the returns He makes to us will be proportionate to our gifts to Him. "He which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." God is not unrighteous to forget your work and your labor of love. {RH, December 3, 1901 par. 3} How tender, how true God is

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with us! He has given us in Christ the richest blessings. Through Him He has put His signature upon the contract He has made with us. **Are we trifling with God, selfishly robbing Him of the returns He has declared we should make to Him?** {RH, December 3, 1901 par. 4}

The Lord speaks, saying, "Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation." "Even from the days of your fathers ye have gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them." **Souls are perishing in sin because church-members are robbing God, lavishing indulgences upon themselves, while the treasury of God is poorly supplied with funds.** Thus God is dis-honored, and His cause is impoverished. There is not means enough in the treasury to supply God's laborers in the field of service. Christ looks upon a vineyard unworked, a world un-warned, with wickedness increasing on every hand. Men and women are spending the Lord's goods in selfish gratification, preparing for the fearful punishment that must come upon them unless they repent. {RH, December 3, 1901 par. 5}

The treasury must be supplied with funds, that Christian missions may be set in operation and supported. Schools must be established, that the youth may be prepared to stand at the last day. The multitudes going to ruin must be labored for. For the accomplishment of this good work the tithes and offerings of the people of God are needed. Let church-members do their very best in this matter. Withhold not your offering because it is small. If it is given with a willing mind and an understanding heart, the Lord will accept it, and in His hands it will be many times increased. Written by Ellen G. White (E, G, W.)

Remember what Jesus said in Luke 6:38 "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

Humility, self-denial, benevolence, and the payment of a faithful tithe, these show that the grace of God is working in the heart. The greatest Teacher, the greatest Physician the world has ever known, gave many lessons on the need of humility. These lessons His followers are to bring into the practical life. They are to live lives of self-denial and self-sacrifice.

To many this will be a new experience, but on it their salvation depends. "Whosoever will come after Me," Christ said, "let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." Mark 8:34. Following Christ produces the virtues of Christ's character. Humility is a precious grace, peculiarly pleasing to God. Christ says, "Learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:29. Those who follow Christ will overcome temptation and will receive the glorious reward of eternal life. And to Christ they will render all the praise and glory. {CH 590.1}

REMEMBER whenever you finish your study time, pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you through the day and remember to pray for others and then your needs, asking these things in the Name of Jesus.

REMEMBER before opening God's word, say prayer asking God for the Holy Spirit to guide you in the Name of our Blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

God has made the proclamation of the gospel dependent upon the labors and the gifts of His people. Voluntary offerings and the tithe constitute the revenue of the Lord's work. Of the means entrusted to man, God claims a certain portion,—the tenth. He leaves all free to say whether or not they will give more than this. But when the heart is stirred by the influence of the Holy Spirit, and a vow is made to give a certain amount, the one who vows has no longer any right to the consecrated portion. Promises of this kind made to men would be looked upon as binding; are those not more binding that are made to God? Are promises tried in the court of conscience less binding than written agreements of men? {AA 74.2}

God lays His hand upon the tithe, as well as upon gifts and offerings, and says, "That is Mine. When I entrusted you with My goods, I specified that a portion should be your own, to supply your necessities, and a portion should be returned to Me." {CS 46.3}

As you gathered in your harvest, storing barns and granary for your own comfort, did you return to God a faithful tithe? Have you presented to Him your gifts and offerings, that His cause may not suffer? Have you looked

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after the fatherless and the widow? This is a branch of home missionary work that should by no means be neglected. {CS 46.4}

And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: **and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.** [Genesis 28:20-22.](#)

And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, **the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.** [Leviticus 27:32.](#)

[How much tithe are we to return unto the Lord?](#)

[Even the Priest had to return offerings and tithe of a tenth after the people had paid tithe into the storehouse.](#)

For Every Dispensation

Such [referring to the experience of Abraham and Jacob in paying tithe] was the practice of patriarchs and prophets before the establishment of the Jews as a nation. But when Israel became a distinct people, the Lord gave them definite instruction upon this point: "All the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord." **This law was not to pass away with the ordinances and sacrificial offerings that typified Christ.** As long as God has a people upon the earth, His claims upon them will be the same. {CS 67.1}

A tithe of all our increase is the Lord's. He has reserved it to Himself, to be employed for religious purposes. It is holy. Nothing less than this has He accepted in any dispensation. A neglect or postponement of this duty, will provoke the divine displeasure. If all professed Christians would faithfully bring their tithes to God, His treasury would be full.--R. & H., May 16, 1882. {CS 67.2}

And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham. [Hebrews 7:9.](#)

And the priest the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites, when the Levites take tithes: and the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes unto the house of our God, to the chambers, into the treasure house. [Nehemiah 10:38.](#)

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the LORD, **even a tenth part of the tithe.** And this your heave offering shall be reckoned unto you, as though it were the corn of the threshingfloor, and as the fulness of the winepress. Thus **ye also shall offer an heave offering unto the LORD of all your tithes, which ye receive of the children of Israel;** and ye shall give thereof the LORD'S heave offering to Aaron the priest. [Numbers 18:25-28.](#)

The apostle here referred to the Lord's plan for the maintenance of the priests who ministered in the temple. Those who were set apart to this holy office were supported by their brethren, to whom they ministered spiritual blessings. "Verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law." [Hebrews 7:5.](#) The tribe of Levi was chosen by the Lord for the sacred offices pertaining to the temple and the priesthood. Of the priest it was said, "The Lord thy God hath chosen him . . . to stand to minister in the name of the Lord." ([Deuteronomy 18:5.](#)) One tenth of all the increase was claimed by the Lord as His own, and to withhold the tithe was regarded by Him as robbery. {AA 336.1}

It was to this plan for the support of the ministry that Paul referred when he said, "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel." And later, in writing to Timothy, the apostle said, "The laborer is worthy of his reward." [1 Timothy 5:18.](#) {AA 336.2}

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One tenth of your increase is a tithe commanded of God and is holy unto the LORD. See Leviticus 27:32. And Offerings given, are to be from the willingness of heart from the giver. See Exodus 35:5.

Regularity and System in Giving

This matter of giving is not left to impulse. God has given us definite instruction in regard to it. He has specified tithes and offerings as the measure of our obligation. And He desires us to give regularly and systematically. Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, "Concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one (130) of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him." Let each regularly examine his income, which is all a blessing from God, and set apart the tithe as a separate fund, to be sacredly the Lord's. This fund should not in any case be devoted to any other use; it is to be devoted solely to support the ministry of the gospel. After the tithe is set apart, let gifts and offering be apportioned, "as God hath prospered" you.-- Review and Herald, May 9, 1893. {CSW 129.2}

Now some people may suppose in their hearts that the tithes given are not being used for the correct purpose or that they may not like where the Church is going in the later days and decide to put tithe into something else. This may be like an independent ministries or charitable organisation. However, we cannot choose for ourselves where tithe, God's money, should go, it is the Lords and we should obey Him.

God's Reserves of Time and Means

The very same language is used concerning the Sabbath **as in the law of the tithe**: "The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God." **Man has no right nor power to substitute** the first day for the seventh. He may pretend to do this; "nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure." The customs and teachings of men will not lessen the claims of the divine law. God has sanctified the seventh day. That specified portion of time, set apart by God Himself for religious worship, continues as sacred today as when first hallowed by our Creator. {CS 66.2}

In like manner a tithe of our income is "holy unto the Lord." The New Testament does not re-enact the law of the tithe, as it does not that of the Sabbath; for the validity of both is assumed, and their deep spiritual import explained. . . . While we as a people are seeking faithfully to give to God the time which He has reserved as His own, shall we not also render to Him that portion of our means which He claims?-- R. & H., May 16, 1882. {CS 66.3}

Those who withhold from God his own, make these complaints: The Lord asks them to prove him by bringing their tithe into his store-house, and to see whether he will not pour them out a blessing. But they cherish rebellion in their hearts, and complain of God, and at the same time they rob him, and embezzle his goods. When their sin is presented to them, they say, "I have had adversity; my crops have been poor; but the wicked are prospered. It does not pay to keep the ordinance of the Lord." But God does not want any to walk mournfully before him. Those who thus complain of God have brought their adversity on themselves. They have robbed God, and his cause has been hindered because the money which should have flowed into his treasury, was used for selfish purposes. {Banner, March 1, 1905 par. 6}

And thither ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, **and your tithes**, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, **and your freewill offerings**, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks: And there ye shall eat before the LORD your God, and ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein the LORD thy God hath blessed thee. **Ye shall not do after all the things that we do here this day, every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes.** [Deuteronomy 12:6-8.](#)

Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. [Deuteronomy 13:4.](#)

And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed: And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not

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learned. Wherefore the Lord said, **Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:** Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid. **Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us? Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: ... Isaiah 29:11-16.**

Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. **Jeremiah 17:5.**

For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man. **Mark 7:21-23.**

Those that know the truth and receive tithes that should be placed in the store house of God, loose the promised blessings and are accountable to God. I saw on the satellite TV recently, at the time writing this study, that some independent ministries have seen to error of their ways and are now asking for non-tithe donations. Pray God that this may continue to all those that knowingly receive that which is not for them.

I believe in paying the tithe God has requested of us. Once I pay tithe into the Store House, it is returned in faith, and then left in God's Hands. What happens to the tithe after that, it's not up to me. If there are any concerns, Pray, and leave it in God's Hands. Follow the Word of God is all we are asked to do. "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." **Matthew 4:4.** Giving to any other place outside of the Store House shows that you have more faith and wisdom in yourself than you do in the Word of God in His will be done.

Joseph is the best example; He followed the Word of God. Because Joseph obeyed, all the people were fed because he put all the require amounts given by God into the Store House. He did this under God's instructions. Believe in the instructions of God and His promises. The work to be done will flow out of the Store House so the people can be fed.

Read this story of Joseph in Genesis Chapter 41.

God said "Bring ye all the tithes into **the storehouse**, that there may be meat in mine house," **Malachi 3:10.** Who are we to choose? If we do our faithful part and return our tithe in loving fear for our Heavenly Father, we receive the promise. We should pray for those that are in office, which receive of the tithe from The Storehouse, for they are accountable to God. This is why prayer for all those in office is so important. Pray that they are or will become God fearing, trusting, workers that are set to do the will of God.

Note, in the next two verses given below, what importance has God given regarding the Tithe.

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: **it is holy unto the LORD.** **Leviticus 27:30.**

And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, **the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.** **Leviticus 27:32.**

If the Tithe is Holy unto the Lord, how important is it to put, what is Holy unto the Lord, where He has told us to return it to?

Read Malachi 3:6.

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Who does not change and who is speaking?

Did you noticed that this verse is just before the verses regarding returning and robbing God of tithe and offerings and where to return the tithe?

We keep the Sabbath Holy because God tells us to “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.” Exodus 20:8. And we fully believe we are not to change the Sabbath day. So why should anyone think they know better than God, and place tithe, what He has asked us to return, somewhere else? God said “For I am the LORD, I change not; ...” Malachi 3:6

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. Proverbs 14:12 also see 16:25.

Is it important to know the Word of God?

But **unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose** out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come: And thither ye shall bring your burnt **offerings**, and your sacrifices, and **your tithes**, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, and your freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks: Deuteronomy 12:5-6.

We should always glean from the Word for our necessary Spiritual Food. When we do, we find greater understanding of the Word of God. “precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: ...” Read Isaiah 28:9-13, 16, 23, 26.

The Word of God, The Holy Bible, is our Foundation; for they testify of Jesus, which is the Word. “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.” ... “For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: **for he wrote of me**. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?” John 5:39 and 46-47.

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. 2 Timothy 2:19.

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. **Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.** My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: **For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth;** even as a father the son in whom he delighteth. Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her. **The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens. By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.** My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: **keep sound wisdom and discretion:** So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck. Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble. Proverbs 3:6-23.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my

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ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. [Isaiah 55:8-9](#).

Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, **beware lest** ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. [2 Peter 3:17](#)

Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and **a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.** And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and **I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.** Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, **between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.** [Malachi 3:16-18](#).

I will show thee, hear me; and that which I have seen I will declare; [Job 15:17](#).

[Read Genesis chapter 41 verse 16.](#)

Joseph tells Pharaoh that “God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace”, But this can only be if Pharaoh follows the Divine instructions of God. Outside this true peace cannot be present in his life.

We all long for peace. Follow the Word of God, laying all before the Lord and even in the darkest trials in life ye shall have peace. “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” [Philippians 4:6-7](#).

In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke we have John the Baptist Preaching in the wilderness (Wilderness spiritually equals this sinful world). Read Matthew 3:1-4, Mark 1:1-4, Luke 3:2-4, and Isaiah 40:3. John makes a call to the people. What did he cry out to the people?

This message is for us today. We should “Prepare the way of the LORD” within our hearts, mind, and soul. We live in a sin ridden world. We need to open our hearts for “a highway for our God” [Isaiah 40:3](#), for God to repair our lives, that we can have peace. When we walk in our own ways over God’s ways, we close off this highway on God and it will eventually stop the work He wants to do within us.

[Read Mark 1:14-20.](#)

What was Jesus calling for the People to do and why?

When we are called by God, He always calls us to repent. Simon and Andrew, his brother, were casting their nets into the sea. (Here, “nets” spiritually represent the things we allow in our lives that traps and bonds us in the deep sea of sin.) Jesus makes the call “Come after Me”, this is also a call of repentance, for us to follow Him, we must have the Spirit of Repentance.

What did Simon and Andrew do when “the Word” came to them?

They left their net to follow Jesus. As they went a little farther, alone on the seashore of Galilee, they see James and John his brother mending their nets.

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(Here spiritually mending their nets represents us trying to mend our damaged hearts from the sins we have done. If the net - our hearts, is not repaired we fall deeper into the sea of sin). Only God, through His Son Jesus, with the Holy Spirit working in us can our hearts be repaired.

What did James and John do when “the Word” came to them?

Sometimes the decision to follow Jesus comes with leaving all behind. James and John left all behind to follow Him. Here when Jesus makes the call, we are to leave all our sinful ways behind, even the sinful ways of our family. We are now to follow the way of Jesus and that way is the way of His Father, our God. Jesus did not do His own thing; He did the will of His Father, as He said, “I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek **not** mine own will, **but** the will of the Father which hath sent me.” [John 5:30](#). We to, should walk in the Will of our Father, our God.

But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. [John 5:36](#).

As the living Father hath sent me, and **I live by the Father**: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. [John 6:57](#).

For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother. [Matthew 12:50](#).

Read [Luke 3:3-6](#).

What are the promises made here when we repent and prepare the way of the LORD? See verses 5 and 6.

All that God has set before us in His Word is for our good, in order for us to have a better life. This life is not just for this world, but also for the world to come. The Word is for our eternal salvation; so why would we do our own will instead of God's; follow His Word.

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. [Matthew 16:24](#).

God's Claim Upon Us

God has a claim on us and all that we have. His claim is paramount to every other. And in acknowledgment of this claim, He bids us render to Him a fixed proportion of all that He gives us. The tithe is this specified portion. **By the Lord's direction it was consecrated to Him in the earliest times.** . . . {CS 71.1}

When God delivered Israel from Egypt to be a special treasure unto Himself, He taught them to devote a tithe of their possessions to the service of the tabernacle. This was a special offering, for a special work. All that remained of their property was God's, and was to be used to His glory. But the tithe was set apart for the support of those who ministered in the sanctuary. It was to be given from the first fruits of all the increase, and, with gifts and offerings, it provided ample means for supporting the ministry of the gospel for that time. {CS 71.2}

God requires no less of us than He required of His people anciently. His gifts to us are not less, but greater, than they were to Israel of old. His service requires, and ever will require, means. The great missionary work for the salvation of souls is to be carried forward. In the tithe, with gifts and offerings, God has made ample provision for this work. He intends that the ministry of the gospel shall be fully sustained. He claims the tithe as His

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own, and it should ever be regarded as a sacred reserve, to be placed in His treasury for the benefit of His cause, for the advancement of His work, for sending His messengers into "regions beyond," even to the uttermost parts of the earth. (72) {CS 71.3}

God has laid His hand upon all things, both man and his possessions; for all belong to Him. He says, I am the owner of the world; the universe is Mine, and I require you to consecrate to My service the first fruits of all that I, through My blessing, have caused to come into your hands. God's word declares, "Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruits." "Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase." This tribute He demands as a token of our loyalty to Him. {CS 72.1}

For Rich and Poor

In the Bible system of tithes and offerings the amounts paid by different persons will of course vary greatly, since they are proportioned to the income. With the poor man, the tithe will be a comparatively small sum, and his gifts will be according to his ability. But it is not the greatness of the gift that makes the (74) offering acceptable to God; it is the purpose of the heart, the spirit of gratitude and love that it expresses. Let not the poor feel that their gifts are so small as to be unworthy of notice. Let them give according to their ability, feeling that they are servants of God, and that He will accept their offering. {CS 73.3}

The one to whom God has entrusted a large capital will not, if he loves and fears God, find it a burden to meet the demands of an enlightened conscience according to the claims of God. The rich will be tempted to indulge in selfishness and avarice, and to withhold from the Lord His own. But he who is true to God will, when tempted, answer to Satan, "It is written," "Will a man rob God?" "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"-- R. & H., May 16, 1893. {CS 74.1}

And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which

have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living. [Mark 12:41-44](#).

"... but the LORD looketh on the heart." [1 Samuel 16:7](#).

Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart. [Job 22:22](#).

"The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge:" [Proverbs 15:14](#).

The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD. All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits. Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established. [Proverbs 16:1-3](#).

But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. [Romans 6:17](#).

"... but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart". [2 Timothy 2:22](#).

And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good? [Deuteronomy 10:12-13](#).

The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways. [Deuteronomy 28:9](#).

Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the LORD are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein. [Hosea 14:9](#).

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Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by. [Zechariah 3:7](#).

[Jesus Said](#), “As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. **These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.**” [John 15:9-11](#).

REMEMBER whenever you finish your study time, pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you through the day and remember to pray for others and then your needs, asking these things in the Name of Jesus.

REMEMBER before opening God's word, say prayer asking God for the Holy Spirit to guide you in the Name of our Blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

[Continuing with the 8th Commandment](#)

Thou shalt not steal. [Exodus 20:15](#).

[Jesus said](#), “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. [Matthew 22:37-40](#).

Now we will look at “Thou shalt not steal” [from thy neighbour](#).

[Look at each of the following scriptures given, what are these verses covering regarding the character of a person, regarding stealing and what kind of sealing is covered?](#)

Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: ... [Proverbs 29:24](#).

If a man be found stealing any of his brethren of the children of Israel, and maketh merchandise of him, or selleth him; then that thief shall die; and thou shalt put evil away from among you. [Deuteronomy 24:7](#).

A false balance is abomination to the LORD: **but** a just weight is his delight. [Proverbs 11:1](#).

Thou shalt not have in thy bag divers weights, a great and a small. Thou shalt not have in thine house divers measures, a great and a small. **But** thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have: that thy days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. For all that do such things, and all that do unrighteously, are an abomination unto the LORD thy God. [Deuteronomy 25:13-16](#).

[Read](#)
[Amos 8:4-7](#).

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Zechariah 5:1-4.

Honesty is covered here regarding a person's character. If you are dishonest in any form, you are stealing from God and others in many ways. Any kind of dishonesty takes away from others, not just money or material things, it takes away trust, truth, Godly witnessing and adding a stumbling block towards those the offence has been done and the ones that see it or hear of it.

Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another... Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning... [Leviticus 19:11, 13.](#)

Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure. Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt. Therefore shall ye observe all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them: I am the LORD. [Leviticus 19:35-37.](#)

That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. [1 Thessalonians 4:6.](#)

We need to pray God to help and keeps us honest with Him and ourselves. This way we will be honest with others.

Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, **and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.** [Proverbs 30:8-9.](#)

REMEMBER whenever you finish your study time, pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you through the day and remember to pray for others and then your needs, asking these things in the Name of Jesus.

REMEMBER before opening God's word, say prayer asking God for the Holy Spirit to guide you in the Name of our Blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

For out of the heart ...

For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man. [Matthew 15:19-20.](#)

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, **Nor thieves**, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. [1 Corinthians 6:9-10.](#)

But ye have not so learned Christ; **If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus**: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let

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not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil. **Let him that stole steal no more:** but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, **but** that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And **grieve not the holy Spirit of God**, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. [Ephesians 4:20-32.](#)

He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy. Happy is the man that feareth alway: **but** he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief. [Proverbs 28:13-14.](#)

Read Luke 19 the story of **Zacchaeus, his true confession and repentance.**

Judas confesses and repents, yet not with a true heart felt repentance.

Read

[John 12:2-6.](#)

[Matthew 26:17-25.](#)

[Mark 14:18-21, 43-49.](#)

[Matthew 26:14-16, 46-50; 27:1-8.](#)

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. [Matthew 6:24.](#)

Judas Love mammon more than his Saviour

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who

shall give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. [Luke 16:10-13.](#)

(Page 620) Had not Jacob previously repented of **his sin in obtaining the birthright by fraud**, God would not have heard his prayer and mercifully preserved his life. So, in the time of trouble, if the people of God had unconfessed sins to appear before them while tortured with fear and anguish, they would be overwhelmed; despair would cut off their faith, and they could not have confidence to plead with God for deliverance. But while they have a deep sense of their unworthiness, they have no concealed wrongs to reveal. Their sins have gone beforehand to judgment and have been blotted out, and they cannot bring them to remembrance. {GC 620.1} Satan leads many to believe that God will overlook their unfaithfulness in the minor affairs of life; but the Lord shows in His dealings with Jacob that He will in no wise sanction or tolerate evil. All who endeavor to excuse or conceal their sins, and permit them to remain upon the books of heaven, unconfessed and unforgiven, will be overcome by Satan. The more exalted their profession and the more honorable the position which they hold, the more grievous is their course in the sight of God and the more sure the triumph of their great adversary. Those who delay a preparation for the day of God cannot obtain it in the time of trouble or at any subsequent time. The case of all such is hopeless. {GC 620.2}

Those professed Christians who come up to that last fearful conflict unprepared will, in their despair, confess their sins in words of burning anguish, while the wicked exult over their distress. These confessions are of the same character as was that of Esau or of Judas. Those who make them, lament the result of transgression, but not its guilt. They feel (Page 621) no true contrition, no abhorrence of evil. They acknowledge their sin, through fear of punishment; but, like Pharaoh of old, they would return to their defiance of Heaven should the judgments be removed. {GC 620.3} Jacob's history is also an assurance that God will not cast off those who have been deceived and tempted and betrayed into sin, but who have returned unto Him with true repentance. While Satan seeks to destroy this class, God will send His angels to comfort and protect them in the time of

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peril. The assaults of Satan are fierce and determined, his delusions are terrible; but the Lord's eye is upon His people, and His ear listens to their cries. Their affliction is great, the flames of the furnace seem about to consume them; but the Refiner will bring them forth as gold tried in the fire. God's love for His children during the period of their severest trial is as strong and tender as in the days of their sunniest prosperity; but it is needful for them to be placed in the furnace of fire; their earthliness must be consumed, that **the image of Christ may be perfectly reflected.** {GC 621.1} GC - The Great Controversy (1911) Chap. 39 - The Time of Trouble, Written by Ellen G. White (E,G,W.)

(Page 23) How shall a man be just with God? How shall the sinner be made righteous? **It is only through Christ that we can be brought into harmony with God, with holiness;** but how are we to come to Christ? Many are asking the same question as did the multitude on the Day of Pentecost, when, convicted of sin, they cried out, "What shall we do?" The first word of Peter's answer was, "Repent." Acts 2:37, 38. At another time, shortly after, he said, "Repent, . . . and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." Acts 3:19. {SC 23.1}

Repentance includes sorrow for sin and a turning away from it. We shall not renounce sin unless we see its sinfulness; until we turn away from it in heart, there will be no real change in the life. {SC 23.2}

There are many who fail to understand the true nature of repentance. Multitudes sorrow that they have sinned and even make an outward reformation because they fear that their wrongdoing will bring suffering upon themselves. **But this is not repentance in the Bible sense.** They lament the suffering rather than the sin. Such was the grief of Esau when he saw that the birthright was lost to him forever. Balaam, terrified by the angel standing in his pathway with drawn sword, acknowledged his guilt lest he should lose his life; **but there was no genuine repentance for sin, no conversion of purpose, no abhorrence of evil.** Judas Iscariot, after betraying his (Page 24) Lord, exclaimed, "I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood." Matthew 27:4. {SC 23.3}

The confession was forced from his guilty soul by an awful sense of condemnation and a fearful looking for of judgment. **The consequences that were to result to him filled him with terror, but there was no deep,**

heartbreaking grief in his soul, that he had betrayed the spotless Son of God and denied the Holy One of Israel. Pharaoh, when suffering under the judgments of God, acknowledged his sin in order to escape further punishment, but returned to his defiance of Heaven as soon as the plagues were stayed. These all lamented the results of sin, but did not sorrow for the sin itself. {SC 24.1}

But when the heart yields to the influence of the Spirit of God, the conscience will be quickened, and the sinner will discern something of the depth and sacredness of God's holy law, the foundation of His government in heaven and on earth. The "Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world," illumines the secret chambers of the soul, and the hidden things of darkness are made manifest. John 1:9. **Conviction takes hold upon the mind and heart. The sinner has a sense of the righteousness of Jehovah and feels the terror of appearing, in his own guilt and uncleanness, before the Searcher of hearts. He sees the love of God, the beauty of holiness, the joy of purity; he longs to be cleansed and to be restored to communion with Heaven.** SC - Steps to Christ (1892, 1893) Chap. 3 – Repentance Written by Ellen G. White (E,G,W.)

[Read Ezekiel 33:11-20](#)

Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel? [Ezekiel 33:11.](#)

Thou shalt not steal. [Exodus 20:15.](#)

[Jesus said](#), "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. [Matthew 22:37-40.](#)

With these words in mind, pray and ask God to create in you a clean heart and to renew a right Spirit within you, that you may be a good vessel for

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*His Heavenly Kingdom. Remember to pray for others then your needs.
Thank God for His Love for you, in the Name of Jesus. Now unto the King
eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for
ever and ever. Amen. [1Timothy 1:17](#).*