The Father, the Son, and the Spirit

Lesson 11, 4th Quarter December 7-13, 2024.

Sabbath Afternoon December 7

Memory Text:

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." KJV — John 14:26

"In describing to His disciples the office work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus sought to inspire them with the joy and hope that inspired His own heart. He rejoiced because of the abundant help He had provided for His church. The Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts that He could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people. The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church. DA 671.2

Sunday, December 8

The Heavenly Father

What were some of the roles of the Father, as described in the following passages?

John 3:16, 17; John 6:57 - "Daily the whole world receives blessing from God. Every drop of rain, every ray of light that shines on our unthankful race, every leaf and flower and fruit, testifies to God's love. Forbearance and long suffering." COL 301.2

"So fully was Jesus surrendered to the will of God that the Father alone appeared in His life." DA 389.4

John 5:22, 30 - "The world has been committed to Christ, and through Him has come every blessing from God to the fallen race. He was the Redeemer before as after His incarnation. As soon as there was sin, there was a Saviour." 5M 210.2

John 6:32; John 14:10, 24 - "Jesus used bread as a figure to illustrate the vitalizing power of God. The one supplies physical life, while the other satisfies the heart, and strengthens the moral powers. Said he, "I am the bread of life; he that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." 25F 276.2

Through Jesus there is divine sympathy between God and the human beings who, through obedience, are accepted in the Beloved. Thus humanity continues in the world of divinity, fulfilling the words, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." RH May 3, 1898, par. 16

John 6:45 - "Only through Christ could they receive a knowledge of the Father. Humanity could not endure the vision of His glory. Those who had learned of God had been listening to the voice of His Son, and in Jesus of Nazareth they would recognize Him who through nature and revelation has declared the Father." DA 387.5

John 15:16, John 16:23 - "When men respond to the drawing of Christ and view Jesus as the royal Sufferer on the cross of Calvary, they enter into oneness with Christ, they become the elect of God, not by works of their own, but through the grace of Christ. For all these good works are wrought through the power of the Spirit of God. All is of God, and not of themselves. The Lord chose us by his Spirit." ST May 2, 1892, par. 6

Monday, December 9

Jesus and the Father

Read Genesis 3:7-9. How does this reveal the breach that sin caused, and what does it mean that it was God seeking them out, not vice versa?

"It was not the will of God that the sinless pair should know aught of evil. He had freely given them the good, and had withheld the evil. But, contrary to His command, they had eaten of the forbidden tree, and now they would continue to eat of it—they would have the knowledge of evil—all the days of their life. From that time the race would be afflicted by Satan's temptations. Instead of the happy labor heretofore appointed them, anxiety and toil were to be their lot. They would be subject to disappointment, grief, pain, and finally to death. PP 59.3

"None but Christ could redeem fallen man from the curse of the law and bring him again into harmony with Heaven. Christ would take upon Himself the guilt and shame of sin—sin so offensive to a holy God that it must separate the Father and His Son. Christ would meet the power of Satan in his own province, the ruined race." PP 63.2

"God was to be manifest in Christ, "reconciling the world unto Himself." 2 Corinthians 5:19. Man had become so degraded by sin that it was impossible for him, in himself, to come into harmony with God. Human nature is purity and goodness. But Christ, who having redeemed man from the condemnation of the law, could impart divine power to unite with human effort. Thus by repentance toward God and faith in Christ the fallen children of Adam might once more become "sons of God." 1 John 3:2." PP 64.1

What wonderful hope is seen for us in these texts? John 1:1, 2; John 5:16-18; John 6:69; John 10:10, 30; John 20:28.

"Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? Is it possible that you do not see the Father in the works He does through Me? Do you not believe that I came to testify of the Father? How sayest thou then, Show us the Father?" "He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father." Christ had not ceased to be God when He became man. Though He had humbled Himself to humanity, the Godhead was still His own. Christ alone could represent the Father to humanity, and this representation the disciples had been privileged to behold for over three years. DA 663.5

"Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me; or else believe Me for the very works' sake." Their faith might safely rest on the evidence given in Christ's works; works that no man, of himself, ever had done, or ever could do. Christ's work testified to His divinity. Through Him the Father had been revealed." DA 664.1

Tuesday, December 10

Knowing the Son is knowing the Father

What do the following texts teach us about the relationship between Jesus and the Father? John 7:16; John 8:38; John 14:10, 23; John 15:1, 9, 10; John 16:27, 28; John 17:3.

"As Jehovah, the supreme Ruler, God could not personally communicate with sinful men, but He so loved the world that He sent Jesus to our world as a revelation of Himself. "I and My Father are one," Christ declared. [John 10:30.] "No man knoweth the Father save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him." [Matthew 11:27.] 18LMs, Ms 124, 1903, par. 2

"And Christ is also the revealer of the hearts of men. He is the exposer of sin. By Him the transgressor of all ages is to be judged. To Him all judgment has been committed, because He is the Son of man." Spirit 5.271 18LMs, Ms 124, 1903, par. 3

"Taking humanity upon Him, Christ came to be one with humanity and at the same time to reveal our heavenly Father to sinful human beings. He was in all things made like unto His brethren. He became flesh, even as we are. He was hungry and thirsty, and He was weary. He was tempted in all points like as we are tempted. He was poor, and yet He was the blameless Son of God. He was a stranger and sojourner on the earth—in the world, but not of the world; tempted and tried as men and women today are tempted and tried, yet living a life free from sport or stain of sin. "We have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." [Hebrews 4:15.] In His single person men and women can live the life of purity and nobility that He lived. 18LMs, Ms 124, 1903, par. 4

"Christ came to teach human beings what God desires them to know. Just before His trial and crucifixion, He said to His disciples, "Hitherto ye have asked nothing in My name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs, but the time cometh when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall show you plainly of the Father." [John 16:24, 25.] 18LMs, Ms 124, 1903, par. 5

"At that day ye shall ask in My name; and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you; for the Father Himself loveth you, because ye have loved Me, and have believed that I came out from God. I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father. 18LMs, Ms 124, 1903, par. 6

"His disciples said unto Him, Lo, now speakest Thou plainly, and speakest no proverb. Now we are sure that Thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask Thee: by this we believe that Thou camest forth from God." 18LMs, Ms 124, 1903, par. 7

Wednesday, December 11

The Holy Spirit

Read John 1:10-13. What does this text teach us about the importance of the Holy Spirit for conversion?

"He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, ... full of grace and truth.... And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace" John 1:11-16). 15M 310.1

"Those who are adopted into the family of God are transformed by His Spirit. Self-indulgence and supreme love for self are changed for self-denial and supreme love for God. Ne man inherits holiness as a birthright, nor can he, by any methods that he can devise, become holy of God. "Without me," Christ says, "ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). Human righteousness is as "filthy rags." But with God all things are possible. In the strength of the Redeemer, weak, erring man can become more than conqueror over the evil that beats him." 15M 310.2

What do the following passages tell of the activities of the Holy Spirit? John 3:5-8, John 6:63, John 14:26, John 15:26, John 16:7-11.

"Before this the Spirit had been in the world; from the very beginning of the work of redemption He had been moving upon men's hearts. But while Christ was on earth, the disciples had desired no further helper. Not until they were deprived of His presence would they feel their need of the Spirit, and then He would come. DA 669.1

"The Holy Spirit is Christ's representative, but divested of the personality of humanity, and independent thereof. Combined with humanity, Christ could not be in every place personally. Therefore it was for their interest that He should go to the Father, and send the Spirit to be His successor on earth. No one could then have any advantage because of his location or his personal contact with Christ. By the Spirit the Saviour would be accessible to all. In this sense He would be nearer to them than if He had not ascended on high." DA 669.2

"The Comforter is called "the Spirit of truth." His work is to define and maintain the truth. He first dwells in the heart as the Spirit of truth, and thus He becomes the Comforter. There is comfort and peace in the truth, but no real peace or comfort can be found in falsehood. It is through false theories and traditions that Satan gains his power over the mind. By directing men to false standards, he mishapes the character. Through the Scriptures the Holy Spirit speaks to the mind, and impresses truth upon the heart. Thus He exposes error, and expels it from the soul. It is by the Spirit of truth, working through the word of God, that Christ subdues His chosen people to Himself." DA 671.1

Thursday, December 12

The Prayer of Jesus

Read John 17:1-26. What words or phrases in this chapter express the desire of Jesus for a close relationship of love between Himself, the Father, and His disciples?

"With strong, hopeful words the Saviour ended His instruction. Then He poured out the burden of His soul in prayer for His disciples. Lifting His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour is come; glorify Thy Son, that Thy Son also may glorify Thee: as Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, that whatsoever Thou hast given Him, He may give eternal life to many as Thou hast given Him. And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." DA 680.2

"Christ had finished the work that was given Him to do. He had glorified God on the earth. He had manifested the Father's name. He had gathered out those who were to continue His work among men. And He said, "I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to Thee. Holy Father, keep through Your own name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are." "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word; that they all may be one; ... I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me." DA 680.3

"Thus in the language of one who has divine authority, Christ gives His elect church into the Father's arms. As a consecrated high priest He intercedes for His people. As a faithful shepherd He gathers His flock under the shadow of the Almighty, in the strong and sure refuge. For them their wants the last battle with Satan, and He goes forth to meet it." DA 680.4

Friday, November 13

Further Thought

"Christ designs that heaven's order, heaven's plan of government, heaven's divine harmony, shall be represented in His church on earth. Thus in His people He is glorified. Through them the Sun of Righteousness will shine in undimmed luster to the world. Christ has given to His church ample facilities, that He may receive a large revenue of glory from His redeemed, purchased possession. He has bestowed upon His people capabilities and blessings that they may represent His own sufficiency. The church, endowed with the righteousness of Christ, is His depositary, in which the riches of His mercy, His grace, and His love, are to appear in full and final display. Christ looks upon His people in their purity and perfection, as the reward of His humiliation, and the supplement of His glory.—Christ, the great Center, from whom radiates all glory." DA 680.1