

A close-up photograph of a man with short brown hair, wearing a dark blue collared shirt, looking down with a gentle smile at a newborn baby. The baby is lying on its back, wrapped in a white textured blanket, and is being held by the man's hands. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**Earliteen Sabbath  
School Lessons**

*Third Year, First Quarter*

*The  
Nature  
of Man*

**EARLITEEN**  
**SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS**

THIRD YEAR, FIRST QUARTER

THE NATURE OF MAN

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## **INTRODUCTION**

It is important to have a clear view of man's nature—what God created him to be and what he became by yielding to temptation. This quarter, the Earliteens will examine how God views man and the means He has provided for his restoration to divine favor. It is possible to overcome the natural tendencies to sin and obtain the divine virtues discussed in the lessons. But this can come about only by having a thorough understanding of what sin does to a person and how God works to change the sinful human nature.

Let each student examine his or her own life and discard those attitudes and actions that separate him from Jesus. God bless every student with a deep experience in the study of these vital spiritual truths.

# 1

# In the Beginning

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1. What do the Scriptures tell about Jesus' life? John 8:58; 17:5; Micah 5:2.
2. Where did He come from when He came to this earth? Luke 1:31, 35; John 8:42.
3. Who created all things? Hebrews 1:2, 10; John 1:1-3.
4. In what condition was all life on earth at the end of the creation week? Genesis 1:31.
5. With whom did sin begin? 1 John 3:8, first part.

“Sin originated with him who, next to Christ, had been most honored of God and was highest in power and glory among the inhabitants of heaven. Lucifer ... was first of the covering cherubs, holy and undefiled.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 35.

6. How did it develop? Ezekiel 28:14-19.

“Little by little Lucifer came to indulge the desire for self-exaltation.... Though all his glory was from God, this mighty angel came to regard it as pertaining to himself....

“Lucifer allowed his jealousy of Christ to prevail,...” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 35, 36.

7. What happened in heaven to Satan, who was once known as Lucifer, the angel of light? Revelation 12:7-9; 2 Peter 2:4.
  
8. Who lied to Eve and thus brought sin on earth? Genesis 3:1-6.
  
9. What has sin brought, and how many people in the world are affected by it? Romans 6:23; 5:12.

“Many who teach that the law of God is not binding upon man, urge that it is impossible for him to obey its precepts. But if this were true, why did Adam suffer the penalty of transgression? The sin of our first parents brought guilt and sorrow upon the world, and had it not been for the goodness and mercy of God, would have plunged the race into hopeless despair.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 61.

10. What merciful provision did God make to set man free from the law of sin? 1 John 3:5, 8; 1 Corinthians 15:22.

“In consequence of Adam’s sin, death passed upon the whole human race. All alike go down into the grave. And through the provisions of the plan of salvation, all are to be brought forth from their graves.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 544.

### ***Thought questions***

1. Although the entrance of sin was an enormous crisis for God’s government throughout the universe, what divine characteristic guaranteed His government’s security forever? See 1 John 4:8, 9.
  
2. Explain why only the love, obedience, and worship that are freely given to God by the beings He created are acceptable to Him.

**BIBLICAL DEFINITION:** “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.” 1 John 3:4.

**WEBSTER’S DICTIONARY DEFINITION:** “An offense against moral or religious law, an act that is or is felt to be highly reprehensible, transgression of the law of God, a vitiated [degenerate] state of human nature in which the self is estranged [separated] from God.”

1. In one word, what was the sin of Adam and Eve? Genesis 3:3, 6.

Answer: Disobedience.

2. Although man had to die because of sin, what merciful provision did God make to give him another chance to live eternally? Genesis 3:15; 1 John 3:8.



3. Why did the Lord remove Adam and Eve from the garden of Eden? Genesis 3:22, 23.

“Angels were commissioned to immediately guard the way of the tree of life. It was Satan’s studied plan that Adam and Eve should disobey God, receive His frown, and then partake of the tree of life, that they might perpetuate a life of sin.” –*The Story of Redemption*, p. 41.

4. What are the natural man’s chances of being free from sin? Romans 3:23.

5. What does it mean to be “born again”? John 3:3-7.

“The change of heart by which we become children of God is in the Bible spoken of as birth....

“It is only through the life from God that spiritual life is begotten in the hearts of men.” –*Steps to Christ*, p. 67.

6. Is it possible for a sinner to be freed from sin? 1 John 5:18; 3:6, 9.

“By faith you became Christ’s, and by faith you are to grow up in Him—by giving and taking. You are to give all—your heart, your will, your service—give yourself to Him to obey all His requirements; and you must take all—Christ, the fullness of all blessing, to abide in your heart, to be your strength, your righteousness, your everlasting helper—to give you power to obey.” –*Steps to Christ*, p. 70.

7. What is God’s promise regarding freedom from the shackles of sin? 1 John 1:9.

8. Upon whom does spiritual freedom from sin depend? John 3:35, 36.

9. How is faith in Jesus obtained? Matthew 7:7-11.

10. Therefore, who alone can be the foundation of a person’s faith? John 3:27.



***Think about this***

What are the three sides of man’s being, and how is each affected by sin?

# 3

## Cain and Abel's Heritage

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1. How did Cain and Abel differ in character? 1 John 3:12.

“Abel had a spirit of loyalty to God; he saw justice and mercy in the Creator’s dealings with the fallen race, and gratefully accepted the hope of redemption. But Cain cherished feelings of rebellion, and murmured against God because of the curse pronounced upon the earth and upon the human race for Adam’s sin.” *–Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 71.

2. What was Abel’s offering to God? What was Cain’s? Genesis 4:3, 4.

“Cain and Abel represent two classes that will exist in the world till the close of time. One class avail themselves of the appointed sacrifice for sin; the other venture to depend upon their own merits;...” *–Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 72, 73.

5. How did the animal sacrifices point to Jesus’ sacrifice to be made on the cross of Calvary? Hebrews 9:13-15.

“Without the shedding of blood there could be no remission of sin; and they were to show their faith in the blood of Christ as the promised atonement by offering the firstlings of the flock in sacrifice.” *–Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 71.

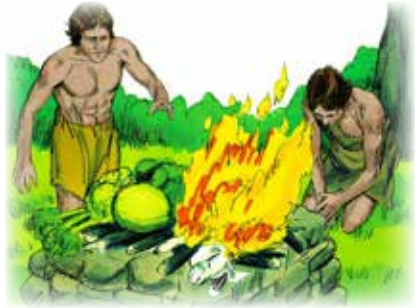
4. What happened when pride hardened Cain’s heart? Genesis 4:8.

“The murder of Abel was the first example of the enmity that God had declared would exist between the serpent and the seed of the woman—between Satan and his subjects and Christ and His followers.” *–Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 77.

5. Even after Cain slew Abel, was a door of mercy still open to him? Genesis 4:9.

“God had given Cain an opportunity to confess his sin. He had had time to reflect. He knew the enormity of the deed he had done, and of the falsehood he had uttered to conceal it; but he was rebellious still, and sentence was no longer deferred.” –

*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 77.



6. Why was Cain’s offering not accepted by God? Galatians 2:16.
7. Why was Abel’s sacrifice approved by Him? Hebrews 11:4.
8. What is faith without action? James 2:14, 17, 22.

“True faith, which relies wholly upon Christ, will be manifested by obedience to all the requirements of God. From Adam’s day to the present time the great controversy has been concerning obedience to God’s law.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 73.

9. Upon whom does the hope of mankind depend? Acts 4:12.

“The class of worshipers who follow the example of Cain includes by far the greater portion of the world; for nearly every false religion has been based on the same principle—that man can depend upon his own efforts for salvation.... Humanity has no power to regenerate itself. It does not tend upward, toward the divine, but downward, toward the satanic. Christ is our only hope.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 73.

### ***Think about this***

Every young person of accountable age is responsible for his or her personal relationship with Jesus as the Saviour. Is this a frightening or a wonderful thought to you? Why?

# 4

## The First City

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1. Under what conditions was the first city built? Genesis 4:16, 17, 14.

“He [Cain] had gone out from the presence of the Lord, cast away the promise of the restored Eden, to seek his possessions and enjoyment in the earth under the curse of sin, thus standing at the head of that great class of men who worship the god of this world.” *–Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 81.

2. What sins characterized Cain’s descendants? Genesis 4:19, 23, 24.

“To the crime of murder, in which Cain had led the way, Lamech, the fifth in descent, added polygamy, and, boastfully defiant, he acknowledged God, only to draw from the avenging of Cain an assurance of his own safety.” *–Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 81.

3. Who was born after Abel and had faith in God? Genesis 4:25, 26.

“Abel had led a pastoral life, dwelling in tents or booths, and the descendants of Seth followed the same course, counting themselves ‘strangers and pilgrims on the earth, seeking a better country, that is, an heavenly,’ Hebrews 11:13, 16.

“For some time the two classes remained separate.” *–Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 81.

4. What happened to break down the separation between those who were wayward and those who loved God? Genesis 6:1, 2.
5. What were the results of this in society? Genesis 6:6, 4, 5.

“Many of the worshipers of God were beguiled into sin by the allurements that were now constantly before them, and they lost their peculiar, holy character.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 81.

6. What grace was bestowed upon the human race during the antediluvian period?

“The people were granted the opportunity of reaching a high standard of moral and intellectual attainment. They possessed great physical and mental strength, and their advantages for acquiring both religious and scientific knowledge were unrivaled.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 82.

7. How long did Adam live? Genesis 5:5.

8. Was He released from the responsibility for his first sin during his lifetime?

“Adam’s life was one of sorrow, humility, and contrition. When he left Eden, the thought that he must die thrilled him with horror.... Yet after beholding for nearly a thousand years the results of sin, he felt that it was merciful in God to bring to an end a life of suffering and sorrow.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 82.

9. How did God show His love for Adam? Genesis 3:9-15.

10. By what means, then, has the Lord demonstrated His great love for all mankind? Romans 5:18, 19, 21; 1 Corinthians 15:22.

### ***Thought questions***

1. In what places in the antediluvian world was a person more likely to be safe from the temptation to rebel against God?
2. What about today?

# 5

## From Noah to Now

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1. What relationship did Noah have with God? Genesis 6:8, 9; 7:1.
2. What judgment did the Lord tell Noah He would bring upon the wicked antediluvians? Genesis 6:13, 17.
3. What moral degeneracy did men sink to in Noah's day? Genesis 6:5, 12, 13.

"Men put God out of their knowledge and worshiped the creatures of their own imagination; and as the result, they became more and more debased.... It is a law of the human mind that by beholding we become changed. Man will rise no higher than his conceptions of truth, purity and holiness." –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 91.

4. What way of salvation was offered to everyone at that time? Genesis 7:1, 5, 7.

"While building the ark he [Noah] was to preach that God would bring a flood of water upon the earth to destroy the wicked. Those who would believe the message, and would prepare for that event by repentance and reformation, should find pardon and be saved." –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 92.



5. How were Noah and his family rewarded for their faithfulness? Genesis 7:23, last part; 8:1, 16; 9:1.

6. How far did God's promises reach? Genesis 8:21, 22; 9:12-16.

7. What is the only way to obtain righteousness? Hebrews 11:7.

"While Noah was giving his warning message to the world, his works testified of his sincerity. It was thus that his faith was perfected and made evident. He gave the world an example of believing just what God says. All that he possessed, he invested in the ark." *—Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 95.

8. As Noah, what are the children of God commissioned to do in these last days? Matthew 28:18-20.

9. What warnings are to be proclaimed to the world? Revelation 14:6-12; 18:2-4; Ephesians 5:14-17.

"Before the Flood God sent Noah to warn the world, that the people might be led to repentance, and thus escape the threatened destruction. As the time of Christ's second appearing draws near, the Lord sends His servants with a warning to the world to prepare for that great event." *—Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 102.

10. What means will God use to cleanse the earth at the end? 2 Peter 3:10.

"God will cleanse the earth from its moral corruption, not by a sea of water as in Noah's day, but by a sea of fire that cannot be quenched by any human devising." *—Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 179.

11. What protection and reward will be given to God's faithful people at that time? Isaiah 26:20, 21; Revelation 22:4.

### ***What do you think?***

Why did no one beside Noah and his family want to enter the ark built to carry the people and animals to safety?

1. What is the nature of the human heart? Jeremiah 17:9; Mark 7:20-22.
2. How is it possible for God's nature to influence man's heart and mind?  
1 John 4:19.

"The heart of man is by nature cold and dark and unloving; whenever one manifests a spirit of mercy and forgiveness, he does it not of himself, but through the influence of the divine Spirit moving upon his heart." –*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 21.

3. Who alone knows man's heart? Jeremiah 17:10.

"We cannot read the heart. Ourselves faulty, we are not qualified to sit in judgment upon others. Finite man can judge only from outward appearance. To Him alone who knows the secret springs of action, and who deals tenderly and compassionately, is it given to decide the case of every soul." –*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 124.

4. What is the condition of many hearts, and what is their inevitable destiny? Proverbs 16:5, 18.
5. How can the wayward heart be connected to God's heart? Joel 2:12-14, 32.
6. What does the Holy Spirit do for man? John 16:8; Jeremiah 24:7. What is the result? Mark 12:30.



“There is no evidence of genuine repentance unless it works reformation. If he restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, confess his sins, and love God and his fellow men, the sinner may be sure that he has passed from death unto life....

“In the heart renewed by divine grace, love is the principle of action.” –*Steps to Christ*, p. 59.

7. What will become the desire of one whose heart has been made new by God? Deuteronomy 11:13; Joshua 22:5; 1 Samuel 12:20.
8. How does the Lord plead with the wayward, unconverted heart? Ezekiel 11:18-20; 18:30, 31.
9. In what way does one whose heart is converted show his sincerity? Romans 10:9, 11.
10. How is the new soul preserved after being reborn? Ephesians 3:17-19.

### ***What do you think?***

How does a person's everyday choices actually determine his eternal destiny?

“Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.’ 1 Samuel 15:23. Rebellion originated with Satan, and all rebellion against God is directly due to satanic influence. Those who set themselves against the government of God have entered into an alliance with the archapostate, and he will exercise his power and cunning to captivate the senses and mislead the understanding. He will cause everything to appear in a false light. Like our first parents, those who are under his bewitching spell see only the great benefits to be received by transgression.

“No stronger evidence can be given of Satan’s delusive power than that many who are thus led by him deceive themselves with the belief that they are in the service of God. When Korah, Dathan, and Abiram rebelled against the authority of Moses, they thought they were opposing only a human leader, a man like themselves; and they came to believe that they were verily doing God service. But in rejecting God’s chosen instrument they rejected Christ; they insulted the Spirit of God. So, in the days of Christ, the Jewish scribes and elders, who professed great zeal for the honor of God, crucified His Son. The same spirit still exists in the hearts of those who set themselves to follow their own will in opposition to the will of God.

“Saul had had the most ample proof that Samuel was divinely inspired. His venturing to disregard the command of God through the prophet was against the dictates of reason and sound judgment. His fatal presumption must be attributed to satanic sorcery. Saul had manifested great zeal in suppressing idolatry and witchcraft; yet in his disobedience to the divine command he had been actuated by the same spirit of opposition to God and had been as really inspired by Satan as are those who practice sorcery; and when reproved, he had added stubbornness to rebellion. He could have offered no greater insult to the Spirit of God had he openly united with idolaters.

“It is a perilous step to slight the reproofs and warnings of God’s word or of His Spirit. Many, like Saul, yield to temptation until they become blind to the true character of sin. They flatter themselves

that they have had some good object in view, and have done no wrong in departing from the Lord's requirements. Thus they do despite to the Spirit of grace, until its voice is no longer heard, and they are left to the delusions which they have chosen.

"In Saul, God had given to Israel a king after their own heart,... 'Behold, the king whom ye have chosen, and whom ye have desired.' 1 Samuel 12:13.... They did not ask for one who had true nobility of character, who possessed the love and fear of God. They had not sought counsel from God as to the qualities a ruler should possess, in order to preserve their distinctive, holy character as His chosen people. They were not seeking God's way, but their own way. Therefore God gave them such a king as they desired—one whose character was a reflection of their own. Their hearts were not in submission to God, and their king also was unsubdued by divine grace. Under the rule of this king they would obtain the experience necessary in order that they might see their error, and return to their allegiance to God.



"Yet the Lord, having placed on Saul the responsibility of the kingdom, did not leave him to himself. He caused the Holy Spirit to rest upon Saul to reveal to him his own weakness and his need of divine grace; and had Saul relied upon God, God would have been with him.... But when Saul chose to act independently of God, the Lord... was forced to set him aside. Then He called to the Throne 'a man after His own heart' (1 Samuel 13:14)—not one who was faultless in character, but who, instead of trusting to himself, would rely upon God, and be guided by His Spirit; who, when he sinned, would submit to reproof and correction." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 635, 636.

### **Answer the questions from the story**

1. What is rebellion?
2. With whom did rebellion begin?

3. How are those who rebel against God deceived?
  
4. What type of thinking made Korah, Dathan, and Abiram rebel against Moses' leadership?
  
5. Did Saul know that the commands he received from Samuel were from God?
  
6. What did Saul's presumptuous disobedience lead to?
  
7. What causes a person to be blind to the real nature and destructiveness of sin?
  
8. Who chose Saul to be the king of Israel, and whose image did he reflect?
  
9. How long was God patient with Saul?
  
10. Who chose David to be the king of Israel after Saul, and why was he chosen?

### ***Thought questions***

1. Did Saul think ahead of time what would be the result of disobeying God?
  
2. What was he thinking when he deliberately acted contrary to God's instructions?

1. With whom did pride originate? Isaiah 14:12-14; 1 John 2:16.

“Self-will and pride are evils that turned angels into demons and barred the gates of heaven against them.” –*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 115.

2. What is pride?

“It is a wicked pride that delights in the vanity of one’s own works, that boasts of one’s excellent qualities, seeking to make others seem inferior in order



to exalt self, claiming more glory than the cold heart is willing to give to God.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 223.

3. Where does the door to pride end up? Jeremiah 13:15-17; Proverbs 13:10; Obadiah 3.
4. What does pride cause people to do? Who were two examples of this? Daniel 5:18-23, 30.
5. How does God view the proud heart? Why? Proverbs 16:5, 18; 18:12.

“Pride feels no need, and so it closes the heart against Christ and the infinite blessings He came to give. There is no room for Jesus in the heart of such a person. Those who are rich and honorable in their own eyes do not ask in faith, and receive the blessing of God. They feel that they are full, therefore they go away empty.” –*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 7.

6. What is the condition of the natural heart? Mark 7:21-23.

7. How may the proud heart of man be changed to holiness? John 3:14, 15; 6:37.

“Do not feel that you are sufficient in your own strength. Only in the name of the mighty Conqueror can you gain the victory. In conversation with others dwell upon the mercy, goodness, and love of God.... Cling fast to His promises. You can do nothing in your own strength, but in the strength of Jesus you can do all things.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 259.

8. How are God’s peculiar people turned away from the pride of fashion and display? 1 John 5:4-6.

“When their hearts are affected by the truth, it will cause a death to the world, and they will lay aside the ribbons, laces, and collars; and, if they are dead, the laugh, the jeer, and scorn of unbelievers will not move them. They will feel an anxious desire to be separate from the world, like their Master. They will not imitate its pride, fashions, or customs. The noble object will be ever before them, to glorify God and gain the immortal inheritance.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, pp. 136, 137.

9. What happens when an unconditional surrender to God’s takes place in one’s heart? Romans 6:6.

“When self is crucified, then this sensitiveness, or pride, will die;... To be a Christian is to be Christlike, to possess humility and a meek and quiet spirit....” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 573.

10. How does God change pride to humility? Jeremiah 31:3.

“With untold love our God has loved us, and our love awakens toward Him as we comprehend something of the length and breadth and depth and height of this love that passeth knowledge. By the revelation of the attractive loveliness of Christ, by the knowledge of His love expressed to us while we were yet sinners, the stubborn heart is melted and subdued,... God does not employ compulsory measures; love is the agent which He uses to expel sin from the heart. By it He changes pride into humility, and enmity and unbelief into love and faith.” –*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 76, 77.

# Wanted! Dead and Alive

**For each question, circle the letter of the correct answer**

1. What is the greatest danger of living for self?
  - a. A person becomes selfish.
  - b. It upsets his parents.
  - c. One does what he is not supposed to do.
  - d. The person cuts himself off from Jesus.

“Self-esteem and self-sufficiency are killing spiritual life. Self is lifted up; self is talked about. Oh, that self might die!... When this ... self-sufficiency and this complacent self-righteousness permeate the soul, there is no room for Jesus. He is given an inferior place, while self swells into importance and fills the whole temple of the soul.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 538, 539.

2. The Lord can make someone a new creature when he:
  - a. Shapes up.
  - b. Denies himself.
  - c. Reads his Bible.
  - d. Joins the church.

“‘The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.’ Psalm 51:17. Man must be emptied of self before he can be, in the fullest sense, a believer in Jesus. When self is renounced, then the Lord can make man a new creature.... In him who looks unto the Author and Finisher of our faith the character of Christ will be manifest.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 280.

3. As the Captain of our salvation, Jesus will:

- a. Do all our fighting for us.
- b. Sound a retreat.
- c. Help us fight our battles with self.
- d. Direct and fight the battle with the cooperation of the yielded will.

“Battles are to be fought every day. A great warfare is going on over every soul, between the prince of darkness and the Prince of life. There is a great battle to be fought,... but you are not to do the main fighting here. As God’s agent you are to yield yourselves to Him, that He may plan and direct and fight the battle for you, with your cooperation.... He is to be with you in your daily battle with self, that you may be true to principle; that passion, when warring for the mastery, may be subdued by the grace of Christ; that you come off more than conqueror through Him that hath loved us.”  
–*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 160.

4. When must self die for it to be subdued?

- a. Before the Lord’s Supper.
- b. When one feels sin coming on.
- c. Each day, each moment.
- d. Every Sabbath.

“I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.” “Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God:...” 1 Corinthians 15:31, 34.

“... Genuine sanctification ... is nothing less than a daily dying to self and conformity to the will of God.... His [Paul’s] will and his desires every day conflicted with duty and the will of God. Instead of following inclination, he did the will of God, however unpleasant and crucifying to his nature.” –*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, p. 237.

5. What is the difference between love and selfishness?

- a. Giving and taking.
- b. Sharing and keeping.
- c. Living and dying.
- d. Building and destroying.

“At the cross of Calvary, love and selfishness stood face to face. Here was their crowning manifestation. Christ had lived only to comfort and bless, and in putting Him to death, Satan manifested the malignity of his hatred against God. He made it evident that the real purpose of his rebellion was to dethrone God, and to destroy Him through Whom the love of God was shown.” –*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 244.

6. What thought should be the expression of our hearts?

- a. Glory to me.
- b. Glory to God.
- c. Self must die.
- d. My moral character is good.

“We must renounce our own righteousness and plead for the righteousness of Christ to be imputed to us. We must depend wholly upon Christ for our strength. Self must die. We must acknowledge that all we have is from the exceeding riches of divine grace. Psalm 115:1; Isaiah 42:8.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 219.

7. How is it possible to have life “more abundantly”?

- a. Spiritually.
- b. By staying awake.
- c. By waiting for the resurrection day.
- d. By drawing near to Jesus, who died to redeem us.

“God spared not His own Son, but delivered Him to death for our offenses and raised Him again for our justification. Through Christ we may present our petitions at the throne of grace. Through Him, unworthy as we are, we may obtain all spiritual blessings. Do we come to Him, that we may have life? Colossians 3:1-4; John 10:10, last part.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 221.

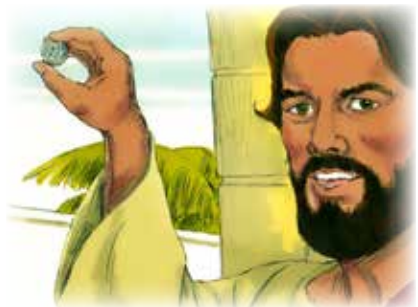
**Think about this**

Why is it so dangerous to follow one’s feelings?

**BIBLICAL DEFINITION:** “But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.” Luke 8:15.

**WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY DEFINITION:** “An unimpaired condition; soundness, firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values; incorruptibility.”

1. What situation exists in the world? What is another word for “integrity”? Micah 7:2; Job 31:6; Proverbs 20:7.
2. What type of people dislike those with integrity? Proverbs 29:10.
3. When a person falls into sin, what does the Lord do for him? Micah 7:9.
4. How is integrity demonstrated? 2 Corinthians 8:21; 13:7; 1 Timothy 2:2.
5. What enables a Christian to live honestly? Habakkuk 2:4; Psalm 41:12.
6. What rewards come from integrity? Psalm 25:21, 22; Proverbs 13:6.



7. When will every person's life be carefully examined to see if he has learned integrity? Psalm 7:8, 9.

“Christian faith will never harmonize with worldly principles; Christian integrity is opposed by all deception and pretense. The man who cherishes the most of Christ's love in the soul, who reflects the Saviour's image most perfectly, is in the sight of God the truest, most noble, most honorable man upon the earth.”  
–*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 235.

### ***Thought questions***

1. Where is the best place to begin practicing integrity?
2. What principle applies here? See Luke 16:10.



**BIBLICAL DEFINITION:** “But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.” “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” Matthew 5:44, 45, 48.

**WEBSTER’S DICTIONARY DEFINITION:** “Acting in accord with moral or divine law; free from guilt or sin, morally right or justifiable (decision), arising from an outraged sense of justice or morality (indignation).”

1. What was the righteousness of Jacob? Genesis 30:33; Psalm 37:5, 6.
2. What is the Bible’s count of righteous men? Ecclesiastes 7:20; Psalm 53:1.
3. What is man’s best righteousness equal to? Isaiah 64:6.
4. What is the great danger of self-righteousness? Luke 18:11-14.

“His self-righteousness leads to accusing. ‘Other men’ he condemns as transgressors of God’s law. Thus he is making manifest the very spirit of Satan, the accuser of the brethren. With this spirit it is impossible for him to enter into communion with God. He goes down to his house destitute of the divine blessing.”  
–*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 151.

5. Where does saving righteousness come from? Psalm 24:4, 5; Romans 3:22.

## 6. What is righteousness?

“Righteousness is holiness, likeness to God; and ‘God is love.’ It is conformity to the law of God; for ‘all Thy commandments are righteousness;’ and ‘love is the fulfilling of the law.’ Righteousness is love, and love is the light and the life of God.” –*Sons and Daughters of God*. p. 304.

## 7. How does one receive righteousness?

“The righteousness of God is embodied in Christ. We receive righteousness by receiving Him.” –*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 304.

## 8. How does a person keep from being self-righteous?

“No man can of himself understand his errors.... In one way only can a true knowledge of self be obtained. We must behold Christ. It is ignorance of Him that makes men so uplifted in their own righteousness.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 159.

## 9. Who are righteous in Christ? Isaiah 51:7; Romans 3:22.

“By faith—faith that renounces all self-trust—the needy suppliant is to lay hold upon infinite power.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 159.

## 10. Why is Jesus called Christ Our Righteousness? Isaiah 53:5, 6, 10, 11.

“Christ offered up His broken body to purchase back God’s heritage, to give man another trial.... His offering is complete,... wholly acceptable, and pardon covers all transgressions.

“Christ has pledged Himself to be our substitute and surety, and He neglects no one....

“In the whole Satanic force there is not power to overcome one soul who in simple trust casts himself on Christ.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 156, T57.

**BIBLICAL DEFINITION:** “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.” Proverbs 9:10.

**WEBSTER’S DICTIONARY DEFINITION:** “Accumulated philosophic or scientific learning; knowledge, ability to discern inner qualities and relationships; insight, good sense; judgment, a wise attitude or course of judgment.”

1. Who were the first on earth to desire wisdom? Genesis 3:4-6.
2. What did they find out? How did the Lord consider Adam and Eve’s newfound “wisdom”? Genesis 3:7, 8, 16, 17.

“If Adam and Eve had never touched the forbidden tree, the Lord would have imparted to them knowledge,... The only knowledge they gained by their disobedience was a knowledge of sin and its results...” –*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 183.

3. How did God protect Adam and Eve—actually, the whole world—from their chosen wisdom? Genesis 3:22-24.
4. What was God’s view of the human wisdom used to build the tower of Babel? Genesis 11:4-8.

“The schemes of the Babel builders ended in shame and defeat. The monument to their pride became the memorial of their folly. Yet men are continually pursuing the same course—depending upon self, and rejecting God’s law.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 123.

5. What good did the wisdom of the Greek philosophers do them in obtaining understanding and the saving knowledge of the plan of salvation? Acts 17:15, 17, 30-32.

“The Greeks sought after wisdom, yet the message of the cross was to them foolishness, because they valued their own wisdom more highly than the wisdom that comes from above.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 240.

6. Is there virtue in knowledge?

“There is no virtue in ignorance, and knowledge will not necessarily dwarf Christian growth; but if you seek for it from principle, having the right object before you and feeling your obligation to God to use your faculties to do good to others and promote His glory, knowledge will aid you to accomplish this end;...” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 223.

7. Where is true wisdom found? Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7.

8. How does man’s wisdom compare with God’s? 1 Corinthians 1:25.

9. How does one obtain wisdom, and from whom? James 1:5.

10. How valuable is God’s wisdom? 1 Corinthians 1:30; Proverbs 8:11.

“True wisdom is a treasure as lasting as eternity.... The unlearned man, if he knows God and Jesus Christ, has a more enduring wisdom than has the most learned man who despises the instruction of God.” –*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 183.



11. How is wisdom obtained from God? 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:13, 4, 5.

“Divine wisdom is to be a lamp to your feet.... Everything that can be shaken will be shaken; but rooted and grounded in the truth, you will abide with those things that cannot be shaken.” –*Sons and Daughters of God*, p.183.

## 1. What is salvation?

“The sin of Adam and Eve caused a fearful separation between God and man. And Christ steps in between fallen man and God, and says to man: ‘You may yet come to the Father; there is a plan devised through which God can be reconciled to man, and man to God; through a Mediator you can approach God.’ And now He stands to mediate for you. He is the great High Priest who is pleading in your behalf; and you are to come and present your case to the Father through Jesus Christ. Thus you can find access to God; and though you sin, your case is not hopeless.”  
–*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 591.

## 2. How does one obtain salvation? Acts 4:12.

## 3. What is the human being’s part in salvation? Philippians 2:12, 13.

“The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can choose to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centered upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him.” –*Steps to Christ*, p. 47.

## 4. Explain the three phases of salvation. Romans 5:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53.

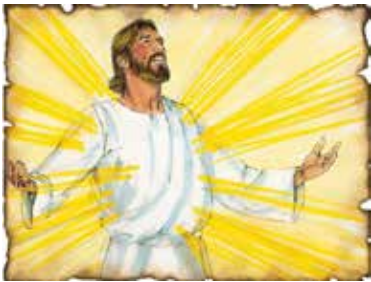
“What is justification by faith? It is the work of God in laying the glory of man in the dust, and doing for man that which it is not in his power to do for himself.” –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 456.

“There is no such thing as instantaneous sanctification. True sanctification is a daily work, continuing as long as life shall last. Those who are battling with daily temptations, overcoming their own sinful tendencies, and seeking for holiness of heart and life, make no boastful claims of holiness. They are hungering and thirsting for righteousness.” –*The Sanctified Life*, p. 10.

“The living righteous are changed ‘in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.’ At the voice of God they were glorified; now they are made immortal, and with the risen saints are caught up to meet their Lord in the air.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 645.

5. What needs of man were provided for him at creation and will be fully met in eternity?

“The loves and sympathies which God Himself has planted in the soul, shall there find truest and sweetest exercise. The pure communion with holy beings, the harmonious social life with the blessed angels and with the faithful ones of all ages, who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, the sacred ties that bind together ‘the whole family in heaven and earth’—these help to constitute the happiness of the redeemed....



“There the grandest enterprises may be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations reached, the highest ambitions realized; and still there will arise new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of mind and soul and body.

“All the treasures of the universe will be open to the study of God’s redeemed.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 677.

6. Who is to be thanked for granting eternal salvation? Revelation 5:12, 13.

7. How can one show gratitude to Him today?

“Encourage the youth to glorify God by giving expression to their gratitude to the Lord for all His mercies. Let their thanks be spoken often in the heart and with the voice, and let self-denial and self-sacrifice be shown.” –*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 457.