



## Discipleship Lesson 3 1Q 2014

### Discipleship and Prayer

**Announcement:** We have transitioned our webcasting to a new online platform and hosting service. Over the last few weeks a few glitches have occurred. Our class is in the Eastern Time Zone but our hosting service is in Mountain Time Zone. Last week this resulted in our online chat room being opened at the wrong time, basically two hours late. We have resolved this now and apologize for the inconvenience to those who were unable to log on last week, which was everyone.

### SABBATH

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Read Memory Text: “ ‘I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.’ ” (John 17:20,21 NKJV)

Thoughts?

What does this mean? How are we to be one?

What prevents unity, what causes division?

- Lies
- Selfishness
- Pride
- Fear
- Doubt
- Distrust

What is necessary to establish unity? What enables us to be one?

- Truth
- Love
- Freedom

How does truth help establish unity?

What does it mean that Jesus prayed to His Father? Why was Jesus praying if He was fully God? Many use texts like this to draw conclusions that Jesus wasn't fully God. What is the problem with that conclusion?

Jesus lived as a human, and had to overcome as a human, by the exercise of His human brain, while denying use of His personal divine abilities. So, when we read such texts they inform us of Jesus' humanity, but not His divinity.



There are many texts in which the Bible speaks of Jesus' humanity, such as the Father granting, gifting, elevating, etc. the humanity of Jesus, and some erroneously conclude these texts speak of Christ's divinity and thus conclude that Christ is not fully and equally God.

I can understand how this could be confusing, but we must remember what damage we do to the plan of salvation and God's character if we suggest Christ is less than the Father.

There was a quote I intended to read last week from one of the founders of our church, but didn't get to and it speaks of this "oneness" as well. So I thought I would read it today:

**God is omnipotent, omniscient, immutable.** He always pursues a straightforward course. **His law is truth-immutable, eternal truth. His precepts are consistent with His attributes.** [Meaning He built His universe to run in harmony with His character of love] But Satan makes them appear in a false light. **By perverting them, he seeks to give human beings an unfavorable impression of the Law-giver.** [Attack God's law to alter how we see the Law-giver. How is the law attacked? Changed from Design law to Imposed law and this causes division, breaks down unity as each group has its own interpretation of the legal requirements of God] Throughout his rebellion he has **sought to represent God as an unjust, tyrannical being.** [What does a tyrant do? Makes up rules and imposes them as they see fit.] {ST, July 23, 1902 par. 12}

**In the beginning it was Satan's purpose to separate man from God.** [How? Lies believed break the circle of love and trust...] And this purpose he has carried out in every age. Constantly he is at work among the children of men. He sways all classes. The same **method of deception**, the same logic, that he used to deceive the holy pair in Eden, he has used in all succeeding ages. **His plan of work has ever been one of deception.** [What method? Lies believed...] **At times he assumes a cloak of piety, purity, and holiness. Often he transforms himself into an angel of light.** [Where will Satan have agents placed?] He has blinded the eyes of men so that they can not see beneath the surface and discern his real purpose. [How? Could it be by complex and confusing theologies?] As a result of Adam's disobedience, every human being is a transgressor of the law, sold under sin. [Why? Born in sin, conceived in iniquity Ps 51, what kind of law?] Unless he repents and is converted, he is under bondage to the law, serving Satan, falling into the deceptions of the enemy, and bearing witness against the precepts of Jehovah. **But by perfect obedience to the requirements of the law, man is justified.** [Who obeyed perfectly? Jesus, as a human, thus humanity, man, was set right with God in the person of Jesus Christ. Why? Because Jesus restored God's design of love back into the humanity He assumed] Only through faith in Christ is such obedience possible. Men may comprehend the spirituality of the law, they may realize its power as a detector of sin, but they are helpless to withstand Satan's power and deceptions, **unless they accept the atonement provided for them in the remedial sacrifice of Christ, who is our Atonement--our At-one-ment--with God.** [What was the atonement provided for? Not a legal payment, but as a remedy, it was a remedial sacrifice, it remedied, remediated, what was wrong in man that sin caused, and thus when we trust God, we experience renewal of heart so that we



are at-one with Him again, through what Christ accomplished in our behalf] {ST, July 23, 1902 par. 13}

**Those who believe on Christ and obey His commandments are not under bondage to God's law; for to those who believe and obey, His law is not a law of bondage, but of liberty.** [What does bondage to the law mean? How does God's law, if broken, hold one in bondage? Is it a legal condemnation by the ruling authority, or an actual state of being, for which we cannot of ourselves escape or change? A person who violates God's laws of health, and becomes sick, say smokes 2 packs per day and gets COPD, do they experience bondage? Do tight cords hold them where they do not have the liberty that once was theirs? Can they climb stairs, go skiing at altitude, run, walk fast, cut wood, or do any real labor? Are they actually tied down to an oxygen bottle, their liberty restricted? Consider someone who does MDMA, an illegal drug, which if prepared wrong can destroy the dopamine producing cells in the brain and cause a Parkinson's like problem, permanently. Will they be in bondage? Will their liberty be restricted? Which restricts ones liberty more completely and without compromise, a jail cell, a legal condemnation, or inability to move because one had destroyed either their lungs or their brain cells? Penal models of atonement undermine the law of God by representing it as human law, and suggesting what holds us in bondage is legal condemnation and the law enforcement angels from heaven.] Every one who believes on Christ, every one who relies on the keeping power of a risen **Saviour that has suffered the penalty pronounced upon the transgressor**, every one who resists temptation and in the midst of evil copies the pattern given in the Christ-life, will **through faith in the atoning sacrifice of Christ become a partaker of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. **Every one who by faith obeys God's commandments, will reach the condition of sinlessness in which Adam lived before his transgression.** {ST, July 23, 1902 par. 14} [What is the penalty of unremedied sin? Being let go by God, complete separation from Him. Jesus experienced this on the Cross, "My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me?" God let Jesus go to experience what Jesus chose, to be our Remedy, to do what was necessary to heal our condition, to love perfectly and purge the infection of fear and selfishness from humanity. Thus He rose again, having cleansed and purified the humanity He assumed. Christ, in His human brain, developed a perfect human character and became the human that God intended Adam originally to become. But of course, Christ was more than Adam, for He is also fully God. And notice, our faith in our reconciling (atoning) sacrifice results in what? Our actual partaking of the divine nature, we are not declared righteous merely, we are regenerated as righteous, and one day we will be fully glorified to be sinless.

## SUNDAY

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Read first paragraph, "Frequently, prayer assumes..." thoughts?

The lesson suggests one way to have our prayers become less self-centered is to engage in intercessory prayer.



What do you understand intercessory prayer to be?

- Who needs the intercessory prayers? And why?
- Does God need someone to pray to Him to encourage Him, persuade Him, convince Him, or somehow induce Him to do some good He would not want of His own accord want to do?
- Then, if God wants to do good anyway, what is the purpose of intercessory prayer?
- Will God violate the freewill of others? Why not? So if a person says to God, leave me alone, get out of my life, I am going to go it alone, will God force Himself into their lives?
- But, if another person says to God, “God, I know my child is choosing to turn away from You, but they don’t really understand. I know you give them freedom to make this choice, but for me will you continue to seek opportunities to reach them.” Does this give God, within the bounds of respecting freedom, an avenue to stay engaged? Any evidence?

Daniel 10:12-14, 20,21:

<sup>12</sup> Then he [an angel] continued, “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. <sup>13</sup> But the **prince of the Persian** kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then **Michael, one of the chief princes**, came to help me, because I was detained there with the **king of Persia**. <sup>14</sup> Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come.”

<sup>20</sup> So he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to **fight against the prince of Persia**, and when I go, **the prince of Greece** will come; <sup>21</sup> but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. **(No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince.**

Thoughts?

What is going on here? Daniel has been praying for the fulfillment of Jeremiah’s prophecy (see Daniel 9) and the release of the Jews from captivity. 21 days later Gabriel comes and tells him he has been delayed because the prince of Persia has been opposing him, and soon the prince of Greece will join the prince of Persia in opposing him, and the only one to help him is Michael.

What going on? Let’s identify the players involved in the Daniel text above:

Now is the time for judgment on this world; **now the prince of this world will be driven out.**

<sup>32</sup> But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all to myself.” John 12:31,32

- Who is the prince of this world that is being driven out by Christ? Satan
- Then who would be a prince of Persia and Greece? Would they be superior or inferior to the prince of the world? And they oppose Gabriel and Michael and are able to fight these heavenly beings, so what kind of beings must they be?
- These are fallen angels, who have authority in Satan’s order over these regions of the world



Some type of battle between angelic beings is being waged behind the scenes, and our prayers are involved in this battle. Angels appear to respond to our prayers. But what kind of war is this?

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. <sup>4</sup> The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. <sup>5</sup> We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2Cor 10:3-5

- What kind of war is this?
- What weapons are used?
- Satan is the Father of lies, and his weapons are lies, selfishness, deception, fear, coercion etc.
- So where is the battle ground of the war?
- Are angel beings involved in the war going on in our minds?

Why were no other angels able to help Gabriel other than Michael?

What kind of war is this? What weapons are used?

This is a war of ideas, the weapons of God are truth, love, freedom which oppose lies, deceit, selfishness, and coercion.

Lucifer, prior to his fall, was the covering cherub, a light bearer. So, how powerful and effective are Satan's lies likely to be? What kind of weapon is necessary to destroy such lies? Truth!

Gabriel took Lucifer's place, the implication is that Gabriel is now the highest created being in the army of truth. He would be the created being with the greatest breadth, depth, and ability to wield the sword of truth, which combats the weapons of Satan, IN THE MINDS of humans. The only One in heaven more capable than Gabriel would be who? Jesus, or in His preincarnate form Michael, the Divine Son of God, fully God, the source of all truth and light. Thus, the only one to help Gabriel is Michael. (Remember Michael is not a created being, but fully divine)

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6

Thoughts?

So, Daniel is praying for the fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy, the release of the Jews to return to the promised land. This requires the human ruler to pronounce it. Satan's agencies, the prince of Persia, is working through his means, consider the various people who tricked Nebuchadnezzar to set up the idol in order to trap the three worthies, or those who tricked Darius with to trap Daniel and the lion's den. Thus, Satan's agencies are working to bias Darius and give his false reasons to deny the release. Gabriel and Michael are on the scene to provide truth, love, and promote freedom, to offset the lies and allow Darius the freedom to choose rightly.



So, what does intercession do? It provides freedom, protection from evil, counterbalance to Satanic ideas, desires, which enables a person the ability to choose for themselves. Without the intercessions of Christ in our hearts and minds, we would not be able to conceive a good thought, choose a healthy choice or in any other way break free from Satan's power.

Here is a perspective from one of the founders of our church:

Christ desires His followers to reveal in their **lives this same character. In His intercessory prayer for His disciples He declared: "The glory [character] which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are 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"** (John 17:22, 23). {Amazing Grace 322.4}

Today it is still His purpose to sanctify and cleanse His church ". . . that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing . . ." (Ephesians 5:26, 27). **No greater gift than the character that He revealed, can Christ ask His Father to bestow upon those who believe on Him.** What largeness there is in His request! What fullness of grace every follower of Christ has the privilege of receiving!. . . O that we might more fully appreciate the honor Christ confers upon us! By wearing His yoke and learning of Him, we become like Him in aspiration, in meekness and lowliness, in fragrance of character. {AG 322.5}

What is Christ's prayer of intercession? For what is Christ praying in our behalf? For our healing and transformation to be like Him!

Any examples in Scripture of people engaged in intercessory prayer?

- Moses, people of Israel – note concerned for the people and God's reputation
- Abraham, Sodom – note concerned for the people and God's reputation
- Daniel – concerned for the people and God's reputation
- Jesus – concerned for us and our knowledge of God and unity with God
- Others?

## **MONDAY**

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Read first paragraph, "Think through what prayer really is..." thoughts?

What does this paragraph say to you? How do you hear it? What is implied?

What does it mean, "sinful beings worthy of death?"

Which way is it?



- A child has disobeyed their parent, who happens to be the judge and executioner of their jurisdiction, and the child is currently being held on death row, awaiting their sentence of death, but they have a radio where they can talk to their father.
- A child has disobeyed their parent and went caving where their parent told them not to go, and while in the cave it began to rain very hard, and water has risen in a stream in the cave trapping the child, as the water continues to rise it is only a short while and the child will be drowned, but the child has a radio they can talk with their parent.

Why is the child in the first scenario worthy of death?

Why is the child in the second scenario worthy of death?

If the child believed that the father was required by law and justice to execute them, would that increase their desire to talk with him? And if they did, perhaps out of fear and desperation talk to their father, what would they likely say?

If the child believed their situation was what condemned them, and though it resulted from disobedience, and they knew their father was crying longing to rescue them, would they want to talk to him? And if they did what would they likely say?

When we talk about prayer, what it really is, does our view of God affect it?

If we hold to a god who is the source of death, a god who is required to punish, a god who needs some other being to stand between us in order to absorb His wrath etc., and we do still pray to this god, will our prayers be affected by this conception of god?

How do prayers get impacted when we are afraid of God and believe His agenda is legal justice and punishment of sin?

- Are we afraid?
- Do we pray to the Father or to Jesus more often? Who did Jesus pray to? Did He tell us to pray like He did? Do penal theologies undermine our willingness to pray to God, and thus we pray more often to Jesus, or some even pray to Mary and the saints because they want more beings between them and God?
- Do we pray for ourselves more, for forgiveness, for pardon, for avoidance of punishment?
- Do we make deals with God, “I promise I will never do this again, please God just...” “God if you don’t do this then I will never speak to you again.” “God if you let me do this then I will do that for you...”
- Do we claim Bible promises as a way to hold God to it? “God you promised that if...”
- Do we pray the blood of Jesus to the Father, seeking to influence the Father with the blood of His Son? “Father, I don’t come before you on my own, I come by the mighty blood of Jesus, who has paid my sin and given me the right to come boldly before you...”
- Consider how the 450 prophets of Baal prayed? They prayed and prayed, but for what, with what mindset? Did they come with hearts that trusted, or with offerings to influence?



- Consider how the publicans and Pharisees prayed and prayed, but with what mindset and for what?

Do our prayers change when we come to realize that God is just like Jesus, that He is for us, on our side, giving everything He has for our salvation and redemption, a God who never needed convincing to do what is best for us, a being who set out to save us before we even knew we needed to be saved. If we view God like this do our prayers change? How?

- Instead of being afraid we move toward thankfulness
- Instead of focusing on self we meditate on Him
- We move away from insecurity and uncertainty to love and admiration
- We bring our concerns to our Father confident that He is for us, wants to know the issues of our hearts, longs for our good, will always listen, always understand, always forgive, always intervene with what is for our eternal best good, including if necessary, loving discipline, but He would much prefer such discipline would never be needed.
- We come to know He longs for us to be with Him infinitely more than we long for Him to be with us
- As we begin to appreciate His true self we begin to grieve at how little we have loved Him, how little we have spent time with Him, how little of ourselves we have actually returned to Him, how little of our hearts are truly dedicated to Him, and we tell Him of our sorrow, “Father I am so sorry.” And we, in our mind’s eye, see Him smile in love and reach out and like the prodigal’s father, pull us in for a big hug.

Does our conception of God make a difference in what prayer is?

Read fourth paragraph, “Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him.”

Thoughts? Isn’t this beautifully stated?

Remember what Jesus said to His disciples in John 15:15:

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

Can you talk to someone as a friend, if you live in fear that that person is out to kill you?

What is the essence of friendship? Love, trust and understanding! Friends are for each other. Friends know each other, understand each other, care for each other, want what is best for each other, love each other and trust each other.



In our case, we are imperfect, so human friends may fall short, may make mistakes, but such mistakes are not purposeful betrayals. A friend who lets a friend down is grieved, even before the friend knows about it. When we let God down, if we are His friend, we grieve because we have let Him down. We are sad in our hearts and we go to our heavenly Friend, tearful at times, and talk to Him, “Lord I am so sorry. I blew it. I am so weak. I want to never let you down, but sometimes the good I want to do, I don’t do it and the things I don’t want to do I find myself doing. I am so sorry...”

And Jesus responds by saying, “I know your heart is willing but your flesh is weak. I know you are for me. You just need more time with me, practicing choosing the right. Don’t worry, our friendship hasn’t changed. The only thing that will change our friendship is if you close your heart to me and stop coming to me when you make mistakes.”

But, if we are not friends, if we are instead servants, then we fear what the master will do to us when we make mistakes. Instead of being sad, we are afraid of the punishment, so we seek to get our mistakes covered by the blood of His Son, or our punishment placed on Jesus and be sure the Father punishes Jesus for our mistake, or get the record books erased from any record of our mistake, or get Jesus to hide us from the Father so the Father won’t know about our mistakes.

Which type of conversation do you think God wants to have with us, that of servants or friends?

If you have never read the book by Graham Maxwell, *Servants or Friends* I highly recommend it to you. Graham does a masterful job of helping people see God in His true light, a God of consummate love and grace, who longs for His relationship with His children to be restored, and for us to grow up beyond just sons and daughters of God, to be also His understanding friends.

Think how our prayers change from focusing on ourselves to God’s greater purpose when we know and understand Him.

- Remember how David prayed to be able to build a house for God
- Remember how Daniel prayed for Israel, for the fulfillment of God’s purpose
- Remember how Moses and Abraham prayed for God’s reputation
- Remember how Jesus prayed that God’s will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Do you have a vision of what God is trying to accomplish? Do your prayers go beyond our safety, our earthly needs (which are good and proper to talk with God about), but do we go beyond this and also talk to Him about His desires and longings? Do we pray for greater opportunities to fulfill His purposes? Do we ask God for enabling to represent Him, for resources, skills, abilities to take a message forward to enlighten the world?

Do we ever talk with God and let Him know we are sorry for the pain and suffering He endures every day as He looks upon this sin sick world? Do we empathize with Him and tell Him, that we would love to shield Him from the agony He must endure, that if we could we would? Do you think such prayers are appropriate and proper?



## TUESDAY

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Read first paragraph, “Prayer miraculously...” thoughts?

If prayer is spiritual adhesive, if it bonds us to God, then is it critical that we are praying to the “right” God?

It is enough to end our prayers with, “in Jesus’ name”?

Can a person pray to “Jesus” or to the “Father” and actually be praying to a false god? If so, how?

Could a person pray to a deity, with a different salutation (something other than Jesus or Heavenly Father) and be praying to the true God?

What makes the difference? The kind of God one believes in and the motives of the heart.

In C.S. Lewis’ last book of the Narnia series Lewis describes a Calormene soldier named Emeth and his encounter with Aslan the lion. Emeth was a worshipper of Tash, and as a result was terrified when he came face to face with Aslan. This is that encounter from the book:

*I fell at his feet and thought surely this is the hour of death, for the Lion will know that I have served Tash all my days and not him.*

But Aslan’s response?

*Son thou art welcome. But I said, alas Lord I am no son of thine but the servant of Tash. He answered, Child all the service thou hast done to Tash I account as service done to me.*

*I questioned the Glorious One: Lord, is it then true that thou and Tash are one? The Lion growled and said, It is false. Not because he and I are one, but because we are opposites, I take to me the services which thou hast done to him. For I and he are of such different kinds that no service which is vile can be done to me, and none which is not vile can be done to him. Therefore if any man swear by Tash and keep his oath for the oath’s sake, it is by me that he has truly sworn, though he know it not, and it is I who reward him. And if any man do a cruelty in my name, then, though he says the name Aslan, it is Tash whom he serves and by Tash his deed is accepted”.*

Emeth questions once more:

*Lord, I have been seeking Tash all my days.*

*Beloved, said the Glorious One, unless thy desire had been for me thou shouldst not have sought so long and so truly. For all find what they truly seek.*



Thoughts? Do you agree with this assessment? If a person prayed to Buddha their entire life, but lived in harmony with God's methods, having the right conception of God's principles, methods, but not knowing about Jesus, would God take all of that as service to Him, would such a person be saved?

If a person prayed to Jesus their entire life, but viewed God as punitive, severe, and thus they practiced such methods toward others, though they claimed the blood of Jesus, they would coerce and pressure others to bend toward their way, could they actually be praying to Satan?

This is from the book *The Desire of Ages*:

Those whom Christ commends in the judgment may have known little of theology, **but they have cherished His principles.** Through the influence of the divine Spirit they have been a blessing to those about them. Even **among the heathen** are those who have cherished the spirit of kindness; before the words of life had fallen upon their ears, they have befriended the missionaries, even ministering to them at the peril of their own lives. **Among the heathen are those who worship God ignorantly, those to whom the light is never brought by human instrumentality, yet they will not perish.** Though ignorant of the written law of God, **they have heard His voice speaking to them in nature, and have done the things that the law required. Their works are evidence that the Holy Spirit has touched their hearts, and they are recognized as the children of God.** {DA 638.2}

Thoughts? Does it matter to whom we pray? Is it the salutation that matters the most, or the character of the one to whom we pray?

Here is from Paul in the NT:

For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. <sup>14</sup> (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do **by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves**, even though they do not have the law, <sup>15</sup> since **they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts**, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.) Rom 2:13-15

What is the New Covenant?

This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. **I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts.** I will be their God, and they will be my people. Heb 8:10

So, if a person has the law written on their heart, how did it get there? Who did the writing? The Holy Spirit. So, is Paul saying a person can have the law of God written on their heart without ever having the Scripture presented to them, without ever going through water baptism, without ever partaking communion, without ever attending church, without ever paying tithe, without ever claiming the blood of Jesus for their sins? Is Paul really saying this?

What would this say about God and His law?



That God is love and His law is an expression of His character of love, the protocols of life.

- It doesn't matter what one calls oxygen as long as one breathes it
- It doesn't matter what one calls water as long as one drinks it
- It doesn't matter what one calls bread as long as one eats it
- A rose by any other name is just as sweet
- The true God, by any other name is just as beautiful and true
- But, also, it doesn't matter what one calls cyanide it is just as deadly

So, the point, when we understand God's law as the protocols of life, then what label we put on Him doesn't matter, what matters is whether we actually know Him, partake of Him, internalize His methods and principles into the heart. This is Design law, not imposed law.

But, if we have penal views, if we have imposed laws then it can't be like this. In that view we must go through the proper rituals, be baptized by the proper authorized representatives, have the proper incantations spoken above us as we are baptized, ensure we ask forgiveness and claim the blood of Jesus as our legal penalty for each and every individual act of sin. If we don't do this, then we can't be legally saved – or so the false gospel teaches.

The true God is our Creator, our Designer, and He knows we are defective, deviant from the design and in a terminal condition and He has worked through Christ to provide Remedy to heal us.

He isn't concerned if we call the Remedy:

- Jesus
- Joshua
- Yoshua
- Immanuel
- El-Shaddai
- Elohim
- El
- Rose of Sharon
- Lilly of the Valley
- Bright and Morning Star
- King, Lord, Master, Sovereign, Ruler, Creator, Designer, Teacher, Heavenly Physician, Father, Daddy, Papa or any other name

He is concerned with whether we actually partake the Remedy, whether we partake the truth about God as revealed by Jesus and trust Him and open the heart to the Holy Spirit for healing and transformation!

What do we do with the passages that no one comes to the Father except through Christ and there is no other name under heaven whereby men can be saved?

Who is the member of the Godhead through whom all things were made? Jesus



And, Scripture says that God's divine nature are seen in what He has made, (Rom 1:20) so if someone comes to know God through seeing God's methods in nature, who is the one who put that lesson into nature? Who wrote it there? Jesus, so they still come through Jesus.

And when they are won to trust through the evidence Jesus provided, whether in Scripture or nature, from where does the healing remedy come that the Spirit applies? In other words, how does the divine nature get back into humanity? Who did that? Jesus! Jesus is still the healing Remedy, the pattern, the connecting link, the conduit through which God's character is reproduced into the heart of all the saved, whether they have heard the name "Jesus" or not.

A person doesn't have to know what penicillin is, nor have heard the name "penicillin" to benefit from taking it.

### **WEDNESDAY**

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Third paragraph states, "Jesus could effectively intercede on His disciples' behalf because He was actively engaged in their lives, thoroughly understood them, and passionately desired their good. Effective intercession today demands nothing less."

Thoughts?

When you hear intercession what comes to mind? What does it entail?

Who needs the intercession to influence them to cooperate with the plan of salvation?

Does God need to be interceded with in order to influence Him to be positively involved in our salvation?

Do we need to be interceded with in order to influence us to be positively involved in our own salvation and the salvation of others?

So, when we hear of intercessory prayer is it ever to influence God to be positive in His desire, willingness or attitude to help?

Then what is it for?

### **THURSDAY**

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The second paragraph, speaking of the Apostles states, "Frequently their payers assumed the form of intercession. They prayed for government leaders, fellow believers, and, generally speaking, everyone!"



Thoughts about this?

So, could this be a form of intercession – praying that God would give true wisdom in decision making to government officials who don't acknowledge Him and don't seek His wisdom in their decision-making?

With your prayers, might God send an angel to provide insight, perspectives, wisdom, discernment to an individual who might not otherwise receive that special help because they themselves are simply not seeking for it?

In researching I came across this description and found it quite interesting:

I was shown that the advocates of truth should not seek discussions. And whenever it is necessary for the advancement of the cause of truth and the glory of God that an opponent be met, how carefully and with what humility should they go into the conflict. With heart-searching, confession of sin, and earnest prayer, and often fasting for a time, they should entreat that God would especially help them and give His saving, precious truth a glorious victory, that error might appear in its true deformity and its advocates be completely discomfited. Those who battle for the truth, against its opposers, should realize that they are not meeting merely men, but that they are contending with Satan and his angels, who are determined that error and darkness shall retain the field and the truth be covered up with error. **As error is most in accordance with the natural heart, it is taken for granted to be clear.** Men who are at ease love error and darkness, and are unwilling to be reformed by the truth. They do not love to come to the light, lest their deeds should be reproved. {1T 624.2}

If those who stand in vindication of the truth, trust to the weight of argument, with but a feeble reliance upon God, and thus meet their opponents, nothing will be gained on the side of truth, but there will be a decided loss. Unless there is an evident victory in favor of truth, the matter is left worse than before the conflict. Those who might formerly have had convictions in regard to the truth set their minds at rest and decide in favor of error, because in their darkened state they cannot perceive that the truth had the advantage. These last two discussions did but little to advance the cause of God, and it would have been better had they not occurred. Brother F did not engage in them with a spirit of self-abasement and a firm reliance upon God. He was puffed up by the enemy and had a spirit of self-sufficiency and confidence not becoming a humble servant of Christ. He had on his own armor, not the armor of God. {1T 624.3}

Brother F, God had provided you with a laborer of deep experience, the ablest in the field. He was one who had been acquainted in his own experience with the wiles of Satan, and who had passed through most intense mental anguish. He had been permitted in the all-wise providence of God to feel the heat of the refining furnace and had there learned that every refuge but God would fail and every prop upon which he could lean for support would prove but a broken reed. You should have realized that Brother Andrews had as deep an interest in the discussion as yourself, and you should have listened in the spirit of humility to his counsel and profited by his instructions. But Satan had an object to gain here, to defeat the purpose of God, and he



stepped in to take possession of your mind and thereby thwart the work of God. **You rushed into battle in your own strength, and angels left you to carry it on.** But God in mercy to His cause would not suffer the enemies of His truth to obtain a decided victory, and in answer to the earnest, agonizing prayers of His servant, angels came to the rescue. Instead of an utter failure there was a partial victory, that the enemies of truth might not exult over the believers. But nothing was gained by that effort, when there might have been a glorious triumph of truth over error. There were two of the ablest advocates of truth by your side; three men, with the strength of truth, to stand against one man who was seeking to cover up truth with error. In God you could have been a host, had you entered the conflict right. **Your self-sufficiency caused it to be almost an entire failure.** {1T 625.1}

**Never should you enter a discussion where so much is at stake, relying upon your aptness to handle strong arguments.** If it cannot be well avoided, enter the conflict, but **enter upon it with firm trust in God and in the spirit of humility, in the spirit of Jesus,** who has bidden you learn of Him, who is meek and lowly in heart. And then in order to glorify God and exemplify the character of Christ, you should never take unlawful advantage of your opponent. Lay aside sarcasm and playing upon words. **Remember that you are in a combat with Satan and his angels, as well as with the man.** He who overcame Satan in heaven and vanquished the fallen foe and expelled him from heaven, and who died to redeem fallen man from his power, when at the grave of Moses, disputing about his body, durst not bring against Satan a railing accusation, but said: "The Lord rebuke thee." {1T 626.1}

## FRIDAY

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Read and discuss first three questions