



## Family Seasons Lesson 2 2Q 2019 The Choices We Make

By Tim Jennings (announcements at end)

I viewed a few minutes of the Q&A session from last week and was quite disappointed with myself in how I appear to have come across. I allowed the pressure of trying to answer 27 pages of questions in only 60 minutes to increase my sense of urgency and came across too stern; perhaps it would have been better to not be so pressured and to have covered fewer questions. So, if I came across to stern I apologize to you and will try to slow down—but it's hard!

A news article this week on Spectrum Magazine reported:

In business meetings held last week, March 21-24, 2019, delegates of the Czech-Slovak Union voted their affirmation that women pastors should be ordained to pastoral ministry while rejecting the document “Regard for and Practice of General Conference Session and General Conference Executive Committee Actions” that was voted at the GC’s Annual Council on October 14, 2018.

In their resolution they state:

The Czech-Slovak Union Conference does not agree with the enforcement of unity by a “higher organizational body”; they believe that unity comes from the action of the Holy Spirit on every individual.

<https://spectrummagazine.org/news/2019/czech-slovak-union-votes-ordain-women-pastoral-ministry-rejects-gc-document>

Do you think people who lived under a dictatorship for decades are perhaps a little more savvy, sensitive, to the movements of imperialism and recognize a little more quickly such tactics are not in keeping with God’s design for unity?

In the discussion after this article, some argued that the actions of the Czech union could cause a split and that church members should not rebel against the church leadership of the GC. What I found interesting was in a response to that concern another person cited the following quotation from EGW, which she wrote after the 1888 Minneapolis GC, and then the person made an observation. Here is the EGW quote cited:

“When I purposed to leave Minneapolis, the **angel of the Lord** stood by me and said: **[The following is a quote from the angel of the Lord, who is Christ]** “Not so; God has a work for you to do in this place. **The people are acting over [re-enacting] the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.** I have placed you in your proper position, **which those who are not in the light will not acknowledge; they will not heed your testimony; [What was EGW advocating? For the healing view of the gospel promoted by Jones and Waggoner.**



Righteousness by faith message—which is actual, real, genuine righteousness within the heart/mind of those who trust in Jesus. The rebuilding and healing of our characters when we trust in Jesus—the fulfillment of the day of at-one-ment metaphor, the cleansing of the bride, the groom receiving His bride bringing her into unity/oneness with Him, the cleansing of the sanctuary. All the same. But church leadership rejected this healing view and chose instead to embrace the false imperial legal view of declared righteousness even though we are not. This, is, according to the angel of the Lord, like Korah saying “we can’t succeed in going into the promised land.” And church leaders, who prefer the imperial law view, have been telling Adventists ever since that we can’t succeed in experiencing Christ’s righteousness, which prepares us to stand in His presence; we can only be declared legally righteous, even though we are not.] but I will be with you; My grace and power shall sustain you. **It is not you they are despising, but the messengers and the message I send to My people.** [Friends of Come and Reason around the world, realize that when you are told you are not welcome, you cannot teach your SS class, that you cannot share the wonders of God’s love that has so transformed your life—that it is not you they are rejecting but Christ they are rejecting—just like Korah.] **They have shown contempt for the word of the Lord. Satan has blinded their eyes and perverted their judgment; and unless every soul shall repent of this their sin, this unsanctified independence that is doing insult to the Spirit of God, they will walk in darkness.** I will remove the candlestick out of his place except they repent and be converted, that I should heal them. **They have obscured their spiritual eyesight.** [What does this mean? How? By refusing the truth of God’s design law, by holding to Rome’s imperial law lie, they have blinded themselves to how reality actually works and live in a fantasy of confusion and contradictions mirroring this sinful world with a god who is the source of pain, suffering and death which they call justice.] They would not that God should manifest His Spirit and His power; for they have a spirit of mockery and disgust at My word. Lightness, trifling, jesting and joking are daily practiced. They have not set their hearts to seek Me. They walk in the sparks of their own kindling, and unless they repent, they shall lie down in sorrow. Thus saith the Lord: "Stand at your post of duty; for I am with thee, and will not leave thee nor forsake thee." These words from God I have not dared to disregard.”—Letter 2a, 1892, pp. 4, 5. (To "Dear Nephew and Niece, Frank (F.E.) and Hattie," Nov. 5, 1892.) {3MR 191.2}

The person who posted this on Spectrum noted that EGW took the position that church leadership became represented by Korah and to reject those who hold the legal/penal position is not rejecting God, but rejecting the leadership of those who have rebelled against God.

Can you see why they shipped her to Australia?

Can you see why our church is still wandering in the wilderness instead of going home to our heavenly promised land?

An online listener, Jonathan Mahurin, in aftermath of our Q&A last week sent this quote from DA in relationship to God cleansing people from sin:



“I indeed baptize you in water unto repentance,” said John; “but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.” Matthew 3:11, R. V., margin. The prophet Isaiah had declared that the Lord would cleanse His people from their iniquities “by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning.” The word of the Lord to Israel was, “I will turn My hand upon thee, and surely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy sin.” Isaiah 4:4; 1:25. To sin, wherever found, “our God is a consuming fire.” Hebrews 12:29. **In all who submit to His power the Spirit of God will consume sin. But if men cling to sin, they become identified with it. Then the glory of God, which destroys sin, must destroy them.** Jacob, after his night of wrestling with the Angel, exclaimed, “I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.” Genesis 32:30. Jacob had been guilty of a great sin in his conduct toward Esau; but he had repented. His transgression had been forgiven, **and his sin purged; therefore he could endure the revelation of God's presence. [from where was his sin purged? What was purged? Fear and selfishness and the lies he had been telling himself that justified his selfish choices]** But wherever men came before God while willfully cherishing evil, they were destroyed. At the second advent of Christ the wicked shall be consumed “with the Spirit of His mouth,” and destroyed “with the brightness of His coming.” 2 Thessalonians 2:8. **The light of the glory of God, which imparts life to the righteous, will slay the wicked.** DA 107.4

Sin has two roots, lies and fear-based selfishness, truth burns out lies and love burns out fear and selfishness. Thus, God’s presence of truth and love burns out lies about God and fear and selfishness.

So, how do we get healed? How do we get the lies, fear and selfishness burned out of our hearts, minds, characters, without being destroyed in the process?

Malachi writes, after the previous chapter where he wrote about the cleansing of the sanctuary, in which our hearts and minds are cleansed:

“Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the Lord Almighty. “Not a root or a branch will be left to them.” <sup>2</sup> **But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings.** 4:1,2

What do you understand this to mean?

Christ is the source of truth, spiritual light, at the end of time truth increases in its intensity and those who love truth assimilate it and grow in the truth until they are ready to meet Christ face to face. But those who do not love the truth, deny it and stay in the darkness of false ideas about God, rooted in the false law lens of an imperial dictator and they are not prepared to stand in His presence.

Consider, being in a dark cave for days and then being brought out at 4 a.m. and allowed to sit there while the sun rises, how would that be?



What if you were in that dark cave for days and being brought out at noon on a sunny day, how would that be?

Jesus is rising now, truth is increasing in its intensity for this generation, are we advancing in it, assimilating it, being transformed by it or are we clinging to old ideas, preferring the darkness of the Dark Ages view of God?

Consider these quotes:

**The earth was dark through misapprehension of God. [What is the cause of darkness in the minds of humans?] That the gloomy shadows might be lightened, that the world might be brought back to God, Satan's deceptive power was to be broken. This could not be done by force. [Why could this not be done by force? What kind of law uses force? What kind of law does Satan allege God uses?] The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God's government; He desires only the service of love; and love cannot be commanded; it cannot be won by force or authority. [Is there darkness in the world today because essentially all of Christianity teaches that God's justice requires Him to use force to torture and kill those who don't love Him? But at this time in history the Sun of righteousness is rising with healing—healing for our minds, hearts, characters as we reject the imperial law lie and the penal substitution lie and return to worship our Creator God whose laws are design laws] Only by love is love awakened.** To know God is to love Him; **His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan.** This work only one Being in all the universe could do. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known. Upon the world's dark night the Sun of Righteousness must rise, "with healing in His wings." Malachi 4:2. {DA 22.1}

**In these final hours of probation** for the sons of men, when the fate of every soul is so soon **to be decided forever**, [decided by who?] the Lord of heaven and earth expects His church to arouse to action as never before... The good news of salvation is to go to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. [For what purpose? Would it be for people to make a decision upon? And what decision? Would it be whether to trust God? And would the message be different from the dictator view of a punishing god that Christianity has spread for over a thousand years?] {PK 716.2}

In the visions of the prophets of old the Lord of glory was represented as **bestowing special light upon His church in the days of darkness and unbelief preceding His second coming. As the Sun of Righteousness, He was to arise upon His church, "with healing in His wings."** Malachi 4:2. And from every true disciple was to be diffused an influence for life, courage, helpfulness, and true healing. {PK 716.3}

**The coming of Christ will take place in the darkest period of this earth's history.** The days of Noah and of Lot picture the condition of the world just before the coming of the Son of man. The Scriptures, pointing forward to this time, declare that **Satan will work with all power and**



**"with all deceivableness of unrighteousness."** 2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10. [This is a quotation from 2 Thes 2—which is the same evil power that wars against the saints and sets itself up in God's temple proclaiming itself to be God. How? By replacing God's design law with imperial law. This is the deceivableness of unrighteousness and the message we have for this time sets minds free, the eternal gospel about our Creator God!] His working is plainly revealed by the rapidly increasing darkness, the multitudinous errors, heresies, and delusions of these last days. Not only is Satan leading the world captive, but his deceptions are **leavening the professed churches of our Lord Jesus Christ. The great apostasy will develop into darkness deep as midnight.** To God's people it will be a night of trial, a night of weeping, a night of persecution for the truth's sake. **But out of that night of darkness God's light will shine.** {PK 717.1} [Light about what—about God Himself, His character and methods, which are magnified when we reject the imperial human law construct with its false penal substitutionary theology!]

He causes "the light to shine out of darkness." 2 Corinthians 4:6. When "the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep," "the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light." Genesis 1:2, 3. So in the night of spiritual darkness, God's word goes forth, "Let there be light." **To His people He says, "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee."** Isaiah 60:1. {PK 717.2}

"Behold," says the Scripture, "the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee." Verse 2. **Christ, the outshining of the Father's glory, came to the world as its light. He came to represent God to men...** [And what did we learn about God in the life of Jesus? How many imperial rules did Jesus lay down? How many people did Jesus seek to punish, stone, imprison, persecute for breaking God's laws? Do we really learn about God in the life of Jesus, or have we rejected the truth Jesus revealed and replaced it with the Roman lie and teach Jesus came to be punished by His Father?] In the synagogue at Nazareth He said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; **He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives,** and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." Luke 4:18, 19. **This was the work He commissioned His disciples to do. "Ye are the light of the world,"** He said. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see **your good works,** and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:14, 16... {PK 718.1} [Do we shed the light about God when we teach the penal legal views of God or are we spreading the darkness?]

**Thus in the night of spiritual darkness God's glory is to shine forth through His church in lifting up the bowed down and comforting those that mourn.** {PK 718.3}

All around us are heard the wails of a world's sorrow. On every hand are the needy and



distressed. It is ours to aid in relieving and softening life's hardships and misery. **The wants of the soul only the love of Christ can satisfy...** {PK 719.1} [People are living in fear, guilt, shame, fear of rejection, fear of not being good enough, fear of failure and only the truth and love of God can heal and set them free. We must embrace the truth and love of God and let people know this truth and love and hearts will be transformed!]

There are many from whom hope has departed. **Bring back the sunshine to them...** {PK 719.2}

**Light is a blessing**, a universal blessing, pouring forth its treasures on a world unthankful, unholy, demoralized. **So it is with the light of the Sun of Righteousness. The whole earth, wrapped as it is in the darkness of sin and sorrow and pain, is to be lighted with the knowledge of God's love.** [What is the knowledge the world needs? It is the proper lists of rules, rituals, foods, dress, days of worship or is it the knowledge of God's love?] From no sect, rank, or class of people is the light shining from heaven's throne to be excluded... {PK 719.3}

**Christ has made every provision that His church shall be a transformed body, illumined with the Light of the world, possessing the glory of Immanuel.** It is His purpose that every Christian shall be surrounded with a spiritual atmosphere of light and peace. He desires that we shall reveal His own joy in our lives. {PK 720.1} [If Christ has made every provision that His church shall be transformed to reveal His character of love—why has this not happened? Has something gotten in the way? What? The imperial law lie, which corrupts every teaching and sews distrust and fear into hearts thereby obstructing the provisions of Christ from actually reaching the heart—because people don't actually trust God!]

"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." Isaiah 60:1. **Christ is coming with power and great glory. He is coming with His own glory and with the glory of the Father.** And the holy angels will attend Him on His way. **While all the world is plunged in darkness, there will be light in every dwelling of the saints. They will catch the first light of His second appearing.** The unsullied light will shine from His splendor, and Christ the Redeemer will be admired by all who have served Him. **While the wicked flee, Christ's followers will rejoice in His presence.** {PK 720.2} [Do you see the first light of His second coming—the light of the truth of God's character which must dawn upon us, upon our minds and hearts BEFORE we are prepared to see Him? This is the light that precedes His coming—do you see it?!?]

## SABBATH

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The Choices We Make—do we make the choice to embrace the truth about God as our Creator and His laws as design law, or to reject that view and cling to Satan's view that God runs His universe like sinful humans run our governments, on imperial law requiring judicial oversight and infliction of pain and suffering?



## MONDAY

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Read first paragraph, “We all know very well...” How can we know what the right choices are?

Here are some guidelines that improve healthy decision-making:

- Reason and evidence-based decisions over feeling-based decisions
  - Does that mean we ignore our feelings—no we seek to understand in light of evidence why we are having feelings. However, if we are uncomfortable with a decision, it is best to take time and reflect prayerfully before acting if there is not a clear unquestionable right course to take.
- Understanding design law, the protocols upon which life is constructed to operate
- Living in a state of communion with God in which the mind is constantly seeking God’s direction and guidance
- Differentiate between moral decisions and decisions that are not moral in nature
  - moral decisions are decisions that are actually right or wrong, in harmony with God’s design law or not, which if wrong are evil or sinfulness—acts of selfishness, breaking God’s law of love
  - non-moral decisions would be many of the decisions in life such as:
    - which toothpaste to use
    - which umbrella to buy
    - which neighborhood to live in
    - which car to drive
  - decisions that could be either moral or non-moral depending on the motive and reasons, include:
    - which job—if specifically called by God and says no (Jonah)
    - clothing—if promotes ungodly ideas or motives or is bought in order to primarily make self the center of attention
- Realize there is a difference between making mistakes and choosing evil
  - We want to avoid choosing evil—but it is not possible to grow, advance without making mistakes
  - If learning a musical instrument, math, or any subject, will mistakes be made? Are mistakes evil?
  - Is there a difference between making a math error in your check registry and accidentally over-drafting a check and purposely writing fraudulent checks?
  - Many people live in fear of making mistakes, feeling guilty for them as if they chose evil. But life is about choices and learning from choices. We need to give ourselves permission to reason, problem solve, make the best choice we can with the information we have and then evaluate the outcome and update the decision-making process.
- Grow in spiritual maturity (our method of determining what is right and wrong) so moral decision are made at level five and above
  - 1. Reward and Punishment



- 2. Market Place Exchange
- 3. Social Conformity
- 4. Law and Order
- 5. Love for others
- 6. Principle based living
- 7. Understanding friend of God
- Get more information about the decision
- Weigh pros and cons
- Get insight or guidance from people with experience
- Make a choice and reassess—the worst option in MOST but not all decisions is to make no decision, because then one never advances, but is stuck in life

Read second paragraph, “In every important decision we make...” Does our level of moral development impact how we understand God’s law and what it would mean to violate God’s law?

What about those who wanted to stone Jesus for healing on the Sabbath—didn’t they want to stone Him for breaking God’s law? Why did they think this?

Do we have any such problems today?

- Health care professionals who want to run a free clinic for the indigent on Sabbath are told by the businessmen sponsors that the funding will be pulled if they do this on the Sabbath—the health care professionals are operating at least at level five, perhaps at level 7, but the businessmen are at level four and believe it is wrong to break a rule as they understand it.

The last sentence says, “if we in faith and humility surrender our lives to Him, we can move ahead in faith on the choices we make.”

What do you think about this?

- Do you think that those people who burned to death in Waco with the Branch Davidians would have agreed with this? Would they have thought of themselves as having surrendered their lives to Jesus in faith? What about the decisions they made?
- What about those who sincerely unite with the state to pass laws to enforce their religious beliefs on others?
- If we don’t understand how God’s law functions, design law, and instead believe the lie of Satan that God’s law functions like human law, then we could easily move forward in faith to harm others. Consider Saul of Tarsus before Damascus road.

Consider this EGW quote:

**Faith in a lie will not have a sanctifying influence upon the life or character.** No error is truth, or can be made truth by repetition, or by faith in it. **Sincerity will never save a soul from the consequences of believing an error.** Without sincerity there is no true religion, **but**



**sincerity in a false religion will never save a man.** [Why not? Isn't about the sincerity of the heart?] I may be perfectly sincere in following a wrong road, but that will not make it the right road, or bring me to the place I wished to reach. **The Lord does not want us to have a blind credulity, and call that the faith that sanctifies. The truth is the principle that sanctifies, and therefore it becomes us to know what is truth.** We must compare spiritual things with spiritual. We must prove all things, but hold fast only that which is good, that which bears the divine credentials, which lays before us the true motives and principles which should prompt us to action.--Letter 12, 1890. {2SM 56.1}

What is the point here?

We all have the freedom to believe as we choose, but not all beliefs are equally healthy—some beliefs are actually harmful—like God as the source of inflicted pain and suffering.

But, there are some beliefs that are inconsequential—i.e. may be wrong but don't really matter in the end, such as:

- Who the king of the north or the king of the south is
- Whether one does communion every weekend or once a quarter, or in church or in a home

The beliefs that matter are those that impact our view of God, His character, methods, principles, the nature of sin, the actual conditions necessary for our salvation, in other words—how reality works.

## WEDNESDAY

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### Choosing a Life Partner

What would you recommend to young people?

Evaluate the trustworthiness of the person:

- Love you more than self
- Are mature (have self-governance)
- Have wisdom (understand God's methods—design law)

Here are 10 other actions you can take to obtain a healthy relationship:

#### 1) First Be Healthy:

Healthy relationships require healthy people! Therefore, the number one action you can take to ensure a healthy marriage is to do all in your power, through God's grace, to be emotionally and spiritually healthy. Being emotionally and spiritually healthy changes the filters that are used when evaluating others. What you find attractive changes as you get healthier and more mature. Becoming healthy not only allows you to interact in healthy ways, but changes who



you find attractive enough to date. In other words, a healthier person generally dates healthier people.

## **2) Be Honest:**

Far too many people are so afraid of hurting someone's feelings that they fail to be honest. If your partner asks whether you like their new hairstyle, don't lie. If you don't like the hairstyle graciously, but honestly, let them know your preferences. If a certain meal is cooked and you don't particularly enjoy it, affirm them for the cooking, but be honest about your taste preferences. Why is this important? Because if you are graciously honest about the things you don't like, when you do tell your partner their hair looks great, or they looking amazing in that suit, or that meal was wonderful they will know you really mean it. But, if you always say you like everything, even when you don't, your affirmations will become meaningless and your partner will lose confidence in your ability to be truthful. It will also send a message that you think so poorly of your partner that you either don't trust them enough to handle the truth, or don't respect them enough to be truthful with them. Learning to be honest may have moments of disappointment, but over the long haul will result in a much healthier marriage with enhanced respect and more meaningful affirmations.

## **3) Be Yourself:**

The only way you will know if the person you are dating genuinely likes you for who you are, and therefore meets that qualification, is to be yourself. Never pretend to be someone or something you're not. Don't try and figure out what the other person wants and act in ways to please them, simply be yourself and evaluate whether the person you are dating likes you, or instead tries to change you. If they try and change you simply say, "Thanks for letting me know you are not qualified to be with me," and move on!

## **4) Create a List of Non-Negotiable Qualifications for Your Life Partner:**

Before dating, first identify the non-negotiable qualifications a person must possess in order to be qualified to be your life partner. These are qualities that if the person doesn't possess, would cause you to be dissatisfied and result in you trying to invest them with those qualities. For instance, if you are a Christian dating a non-Christian would you try to "convert" them? If so, being a Christian is a non-negotiable quality that you require in a life partner in order for you to be satisfied with them. If they don't possess this quality you will begin trying to change your spouse to "fit" your parameters. This generally never works. People are who they are. It is wiser to understand what qualities you demand of a life partner and then, when dating, evaluate whether the person possesses those qualities or not, than to marry someone without those qualities and spend your energy trying to change them to fit your expected mold.

One non-negotiable qualification for everyone is - your life partner must genuinely like you for who you are. If they don't like you for who you are then they are not qualified to be your life partner.



### **5) Agreement on Children and Child Rearing Principles:**

I have had a number of couples come to see me who have experienced stress in their marriage because one spouse wanted children, while the other did not. Generally, if a person feels strongly one way or the other in regard to having children that attitude doesn't change after marriage. If disagreement exists, then one partner will necessarily be dissatisfied. This can lead to a great sense of loss at not having children, or irritation, or loss of love of the spouse. Either way, such a relationship is set up for resentment and conflict. Additionally, children in such homes often suffer in atmospheres where the parents are at odds with each other, and the children may be blamed for the marital discord. Also, unity in parenting practices reduces points of conflict and contributes to greater team work within the marriage.

### **6) Common Vision and Life Goals:**

What is your vision for your life and family? Where do you want to live? Is your goal to become wealthy, raise a family, have pets, live on a farm, enjoy city living, be a missionary, own your own business, or be a church worker? If your life goals conflict with the life goals of your potential partner, then conflict could develop over whose life goals take priority. If both goals cannot be realized, then one partner will have to surrender their dreams/goals, which may generate disappointment, dissatisfaction, or resentment. A shared vision and goal allows spouses to work together as a team through life rather than, what can seem like, opposition to each other.

### **7) Shared Lifestyle:**

Relationships grow as we share life experiences together. If we choose a life partner with whom we share little in common, and thus during the course of the marriage each partner does activities either alone or with someone other than their spouse, the marriage risks fracturing as the two slowly grow apart. Conversely, as life experiences are shared, these shared experiences continue to bond the partners together and grow the relationship into deeper levels of connectedness. Additionally, choose a partner who shares your style in diet, exercise, dress and health habits. If you enjoy a glass of wine with dinner but your potential spouse is a teetotaler, or you don't smoke but your future partner does, or you are vegetarian but your love interest enjoys meat, the future home life is at increased risk for long-term tension and conflict. This can be avoided by choosing a partner who shares your lifestyle.

### **8) Compatibility IQ:**

Choose a life partner who has a compatible intelligence level, a person who can appreciate and comprehend what you think and the way you think. When a drastic disparity exists in intelligence, one risks becoming disinterested and slowly disengaging conversation, sharing ideas, and exploring insights because the other one "just doesn't understand." This often results in not feeling valued, appreciated or loved, which generates feelings of hurt and anger. Because we naturally seek to share our thoughts, insights, and ideas with others, when our spouse is incapable of understanding then another may be found with whom to talk, confide or share ideas, which can undermine the strength of the marriage and forge bonds with another.



### **9) Same Religion, Belief System or Philosophy of Life:**

Our beliefs influence our habits, choices, and daily home routines. A committed Christian may want to go to church and raise their children with Bible stories and Christian education. Whereas, an agnostic, or non-committed Christian, may prefer to go to ball games, work around the house and not attend church on weekends, not have Bible stories in the home and not spend money on Christian education or donate to church charities. Such differences can be a source of conflict and strife in a marriage. Choosing someone who shares the same philosophy increases the likelihood of harmony in the home.

### **10) Have your prospective spouse meet your family and friends and get feedback from them:**

During the dating process emotions generally are intense, deep and passionate. Oxytocin and dopamine are surging, which give us that giddy sense of pleasure, happiness and joy. However, these same changes in brain chemistry can interfere with objective thinking and ability to accurately assess a prospective life partner. One way to guard against overly emotional decision-making is to include the perspectives of people you know, love and trust, people who you know love you and have your best interest at heart. Hear their feedback, insights, concerns, or affirmations and then carefully evaluate their feedback in light of the evidence and act on the evidence.

## **SUNDAY**

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Read first paragraph, “Some Christians believe...” Why do some prefer to believe this?

Because of fear—fear of making a mistake, fear of being guilty, fear of doing wrong, fear of being responsible. So, this view that God has predetermined exonerates people from any personal responsibility and places it all on God’s shoulders. They don’t have to engage any effort to overcome any selfishness in their lives, it is up to God, so why try.

What evidence do we have that this view is wrong?

- Quantum physics demonstrates what is called the observer effect, that a particle remains in a state of uncertainty until acted upon by the observer and it is the choice of the observer measuring it that determines what the particle does. This provides a physics evidence base for freedom to choose, our choices actually do make changes in the outcomes
- The law of liberty—love can only exist in an atmosphere of freedom, without genuine freedom of choice there can be no love. Computers cannot love and love cannot be forced by threats of punishment for not loving.

Read second paragraph, “Fortunately, as Seventh-day Adventists...” Does this mean that if God has chosen for all to be saved then all will be saved? Why or why not? Does this mean we can overrule God’s choices?



Read fourth paragraph, “The Lord does not force...” Well said!!!! And because this is true then all the doctrines of God using power to inflict pain, suffering and death for sin must be rejected. Does that mean there is no punishment for sin? No, it means that the punishment for sin doesn’t come out from God, but from unremedied sin. This is the big difference.

Satan wants beings to believe God is the source of pain and death, thus we become afraid of God and don’t trust Him. The truth is that pain and death come out from sin, from breaking God’s law, and God is the source of healing and life.

This is why the Bible says that the power of sin is the law—what does this mean? 1Cor 15:56 How do you explain it?

## **TUESDAY**

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Why does it matter who we choose as friends?

Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” 1Cor 15:33 NIV84

Does this mean we should not interact with people who are not Christians?

No, but it requires a certain maturity of character to effectively share God’s kingdom with those who don’t know it. If we are insecure, fear rejection, need to be accepted by others, cannot tolerate it when people think we are weird or out of touch, then we are not mature enough to interact with those who don’t know God because we will be too easily influenced by their values in order to avoid conflict, argument, disagreement, being disliked, rejection.

What is required in order for someone to be an actual friend? That they love you and are interested in your welfare.

So many people who come to see me approach relationships from a fear, not love, their motive:

- fear of not being liked
- fear of rejection
- fear of being laughed at or making themselves look stupid
- fear of not being loved
- fear of not being good enough

And thus they seek to get approval, acceptance, validation, love from others in order to make them feel good about themselves. This, make them vulnerable to people who are also needy, insecure, and who seek to control others to make themselves feel powerful. Thus, they are easily manipulated with validations and threats of rejection.

A real friend will not pressure you to do things you don’t want to do, but will respect your boundaries.



## **THURSDAY**

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Choosing a course—what direction to go with life.

They have done evaluations of workers and found there are generally three types of workers:

Those whose jobs are:

- jobs—they work for the paycheck and weekends and are generally unhappy workers
- careers—they work for the promotion, corner office, advancement and are generally unhappy workers
- calling—these are fulfilling what they believed is the purpose of their lives and are generally happy workers

## **FRIDAY**

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Why do we have freewill today? Because of God's grace intervening in our hearts to negate the power of selfishness to give us freedom to choose.

Can we become enslaved to sin?



## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Thank you to all of our supporters!!! We appreciate your prayers and financial support.**

To let you know what is IN THE WORKS in addition to our weekly class:

- A weekly 15-minute radio show/podcast will start in April
- Audio version of the Remedy is in production, three quarters through and hope to have it by the end of April.
- **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!** January 17-19, 2020, in Allen Texas (30 miles north of DFW airport) we will have a Come and Reason Ministries: The Power of Love Training and Equipping Course. If you would like to be prepared to more effectively share this message then come to this course. More details will be forthcoming shortly.

**April 3-6, 2019:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking in Sophia Bulgaria.

**May 10,11, 2019:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Barrie SDA Church, 140 Mapleton Ave Barrie, ON L4N 9N7 Canada

**May 18, 2019:** Dr. Jennings will be a speaker at the Love and Transformation Institute: The Epidemic Rise of Anxiety, Depression and Suicide at the Phoenix Seminary, in Scottsdale, AZ.

**June 8, 2019:** Dr. Jennings will present The Aging Brain Seminar at Mid Columbia Medical Center, in The Dalles, OR.

**July 10, 2019:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the 3rd Global Health Conference, sponsored by the General Conference of SDA and held at Loma Linda University.

**September 21, 2019:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Crossroads Community Church in Georgetown Delaware.

**October 9-12, 2019:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the American Association of Christian Counselors World Conference at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville. Come and Reason Ministries will have a booth in the exhibit hall sharing our material with the attendees.

**January 17-19, 2020:** Come and Reason Ministries: The Power of Love Training and Equipping Course. Dallas TX.