

Fundamental Belief Number Thirteen

The Remnant and its Mission

Part 6

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Memory Text

1 Thessalonians 5:19 Quench **not** the **Spirit**.

1 Thessalonians 5:20 **Despise** not **prophesyings**.

1 Thessalonians 5:21 Prove all things; **hold** fast that which **is good**.

Bible Study Summary Introduction Statement

The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ, but in the last days, a time of widespread apostasy, a remnant has been called out to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour, proclaims salvation through Christ, and heralds the approach of His second advent. This proclamation is symbolized by the three angels of Revelation 14; it coincides with the work of judgment in heaven and results in a work of repentance and reform on earth. Every believer is called to have a personal part in this worldwide witness.

BIBLE STUDY

What is the twelfth spiritual test of a prophet that Ellen G. White fulfilled?

12. Every True Prophet of God will always teach, uplift, encourage and love God's True Church

1 Corinthians 14:3 But he that **prophesieth** speaketh unto men *to* edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

1 Corinthians 14:4 He that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth **edifieth** the **church**.

Note yet another fulfillment of this qualification of the gift of prophecy in the following quote from Ellen's writings.

The life of Christ was a life charged with a divine message of the love of God, and he longed intensely to impart this love to others in rich measure. Compassion beamed from his countenance, and his conduct was characterized by grace, humility, truth, and love. Every member of his church militant must manifest the same qualities, if he would join the church triumphant. The love of Christ is so broad, so full of glory, that in comparison to it, everything that men esteem as great, dwindles into

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insignificance. When we obtain a view of it, we exclaim, O the depth of the riches of the love that God bestowed upon men in the gift of his only begotten Son! **{CE 76.3}**

God has a church upon the earth who are His chosen people, who keep His commandments. He is leading, not stray offshoots, not one here and one there, but a people. The truth is a sanctifying power; but the church militant is not the church triumphant. There are tares among the wheat. "Wilt thou then that we . . . gather them up?" was the question of the servant; but the master answered, "Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them." The gospel net draws not only good fish, but bad ones as well, and the Lord only knows who are His. **{CCh 240.1}**

The Seventh-day Adventist church was ever close to the heart of Ellen G. White. A thousand times and more through her long life, heaven had drawn near to her with messages of encouragement, of instruction, of information, and of reproof and correction. These many visions were given to guide and guard the members of god's Sabbath keeping remnant, both individually and collectively.

"the Lord loves his church," she declared when it was under attack (selected messages, book 2, p. 68). Tenderly she wrote, **"The church of Christ, enfeebled and defective as it may be, is the only object on earth on which he bestows his supreme regard."**--**Testimonies to Ministers, p. 15.**

Ellen White loved the church deeply. Her whole life was dedicated to its welfare and ultimate triumph.

How appropriate, then, that this volume of selected messages should open with a definition of what the church is, drawn from a letter of counsel to an administrator working outside North America. This is followed by admonitions calling for unity as a means of strength, and warning against independent action, which could only weaken the church's efforts to reach and rescue a confused world.--**white trustees.**

What is the thirteenth spiritual test of a prophet that Ellen G. White fulfilled?

13. Every True Prophet of God will teach the Bible Truth that the dead are asleep in their graves until the resurrection at the Second Coming of Christ

Isaiah 8:19 And when they shall say unto you, **Seek** unto them that have familiar **spirits**, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people **seek** unto their **God**? for the living to the dead?

Leviticus 19:31 Regard **not** them that have familiar **spirits**, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I *am* the LORD your God.

John 11:11 These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend **Lazarus** sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of **sleep**.

John 11:12 Then said his disciples, Lord, if he **sleep**, he shall do **well**.

John 11:13 Howbeit Jesus spake of his **death**: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.

John 11:14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, **Lazarus** is **dead**.

Psalms 13:3 Consider *and* hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I **sleep** the *sleep of death*;

Ecclesiastes 9:5 For the **living know** that they shall **die**: but the **dead know not** any **thing**, neither have they **any** more a **reward**; for the **memory** of them is **forgotten**.

Ecclesiastes 9:6 Also their **love**, and their **hatred**, and their **envy**, is now **perished**; neither have they any more a **portion** for ever in any *thing* that is done under the **sun**.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do *it* with thy might; for *there is* no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the **grave**, whither thou **goest**.

John 6:39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should **raise** it up again at the **last** day.

John 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will **raise** him up at the **last** day.

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will **raise** him up at the **last** day.

John 6:54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will **raise** him up at the **last** day.

Ellen G. White also speaks on this subject with unmistakable Biblical authority in the quote below.

Says the prophet Isaiah: "When they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." **Isaiah 8:19, 20**. If men had been willing to receive the truth so plainly stated in the Scriptures concerning the nature of man and the state of the dead, they would see in the claims and manifestations of spiritualism the working of Satan with power and signs and lying wonders. But rather than yield the liberty so agreeable to the carnal heart, and renounce the sins which they love, multitudes close their eyes to the light and walk straight on, regardless of warnings, while Satan weaves his snares about them, and they become his prey. "Because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved," therefore "God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." **2 Thessalonians 2:10, 11. {DD 22.5}**

In his first epistle to the Thessalonian believers, Paul endeavored to instruct them regarding the true state of the dead. He spoke of those who die as being asleep--in a state of unconsciousness: "I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe

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that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. . . . For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up

together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." {AA 257.3}

The Thessalonians had eagerly grasped the idea that Christ was coming to change the faithful who were alive, and to take them to Himself. They had carefully guarded the lives of their friends, lest they should die and lose the blessing which they looked forward to receiving at the coming of their Lord. But one after another their loved ones had been taken from them, and with anguish the Thessalonians had looked for the last time upon the faces of their dead, hardly daring to hope to meet them in a future life. {AA 258.1}

As Paul's epistle was opened and read, great joy and consolation was brought to the church by the words revealing the true state of the dead. Paul showed that those living when Christ should come would not go to meet their Lord in advance of those who had fallen asleep in Jesus. The voice of the Archangel and the trump of God would reach the sleeping ones, and the dead in Christ should rise first, before the touch of immortality should be given to the living. "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

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{AA 258.2}

The hope and joy that this assurance brought to the young church at Thessalonica can scarcely be appreciated by us. They believed and cherished the letter sent to them by their father in the gospel, and their hearts went out in love to him. He had told them these things before; but at that time their minds were striving to grasp doctrines that seemed new and strange, and it is not surprising that the force of some points had not been vividly impressed on their minds. But they were hungering for truth, and Paul's epistle gave them new hope and strength, and a firmer faith in, and a deeper affection for, the One who through His death had brought life and immortality to light. {AA 259.1}

Now they rejoiced in the knowledge that their believing friends would be raised from the grave to live forever in the kingdom of God. The darkness that had enshrouded the resting place of the dead was dispelled. A new splendor crowned the Christian faith, and they saw a new glory in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. {AA 259.2}

"Even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him," Paul wrote. Many interpret this passage to mean that the sleeping ones will be brought with Christ from heaven; but Paul meant that as Christ was raised from the dead, so God will call the sleeping saints from their graves and take them with Him to heaven. Precious consolation! glorious hope! not only to the church of Thessalonica, but to all Christians wherever they may be. {AA 259.3}

I saw that the saints must get a thorough understanding of present truth, which they will be obliged to maintain from the Scriptures. They must understand the state of the dead; for the spirits of devils will yet appear to them, professing to be beloved friends and relatives, who will declare to them that the Sabbath has been changed, also other unscriptural doctrines. They will do all in their power to excite sympathy and will work miracles before them to confirm what they declare. The people of God must be prepared to withstand these spirits with the Bible truth that the dead know not anything, and that they who appear to them are the spirits of devils. Our minds must not be taken up with things around us, but must be occupied with the present truth and a preparation to give a reason of our hope with meekness and fear. We must seek

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wisdom from on high that we may stand in this day of error and delusion. {EW 87.2}

Correct Understanding Vital.--A correct understanding of "what saith the Scriptures" in regard to the state of the dead is essential for this time. God's Word declares that the dead know not anything, their hatred and love have alike perished. We must come to the sure word of prophecy for our authority. Unless we are intelligent in the Scriptures, may we not, when this mighty miracle-working power of Satan is manifested in our world, be deceived and call it the workings of God; for the Word of God declares that, if it were possible, the very elect should be deceived. Unless we are rooted and grounded in the truth, we shall be swept away by Satan's delusive snares. We must cling to our Bibles. If Satan can make you believe that there are things in the Word of God that are not inspired, he will then be prepared to ensnare your soul. We shall have no assurance, no certainty, at the very time we need to know what is truth.-- Review and Herald, Dec. 18, 1888. {Ev 249.2}

**What is the twelfth test of a prophet that Ellen G. White fulfilled perfectly?
Every True Prophet of God will always teach, uplift, encourage and love God's True Church**

What does a true prophet teach concerning the state of the dead? They are asleep

Where does a person go when he dies? The grave

What reward do the dead receive when they die? None

When do the righteous receive their reward of eternal life? The last day

How many times did Jesus say in John chapter 6 that he would raise the righteous dead from their graves on the last day? 4 times

Name three things that perish when a person dies? Love hatred and envy