

Fundamental Belief Number Thirteen

The Remnant and its Mission

Part 8

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Memory Text

1 Corinthians 14:4 But he that **prophesieth** speaketh unto men *to* **edification**, and **exhortation**, and **comfort**.

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

Ellen G. White fulfils the Thirty Spiritual tests of a True Prophet of God

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

16. Every True Prophet of God will exhort God's people to do all that God asks then to do

1 Corinthians 14:4 But he that **prophesieth** speaketh unto men *to* edification, and **exhortation**, and comfort.

Uplifting the Church was something Ellen G. White frequently wrote about as we will observe in these following references.

It is constantly an onward march. Jesus sits as a refiner and purifier of his people, and when his image is reflected in them perfectly, they are perfect and holy, and prepared for translation. A great work is required of the Christian. **We are exhorted to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.** Here we see where the great labor rests. There is a constant work for the Christian. Every branch in the parent vine must derive life and strength from that vine, in order to yield fruit.

Ellen G. White. {RH, May 6, 1862 par. 27}

May he help and strengthen and bless you. Look and live. He will prepare the way before you. Only have faith. God is our helper, our defense. Let us act in accordance with the Scriptures. **We are exhorted to be found "praying always with all prayer and supplication."** Again we read, **"Be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer."** **We are to feel it our privilege to pray, to seek wisdom from God, looking to him for encouragement and spiritual strength. If we were permitted to know one half of the dangers that surround us, we would pray more.**

(Signed) Ellen G. White. {SpM 198.1}

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

17. Every True Prophet of God will comfort God's people especially when they are discouraged in their Christian walk

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

The following citation from Ellen's pen of inspiration gives us insight into this test also.

"Ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness." By faith and prayer press back the power of the enemy. Speak words of faith and courage that will be as a healing balm to the bruised and wounded one. **Many have fainted and become discouraged in the great struggle of life, when one word of kindly cheer would have strengthened them to overcome. Never should we pass by one suffering soul without seeking to impart to him of the comfort wherewith we are comforted of God.**

Ellen G. White. {PUR, June 9, 1904 par. 6}

The truth that God has given for His people in these last days should keep them firm when there come into the church those who present false theories. The truth that has stood firm against the attacks of the enemy for more than half a century must still be the confidence and comfort of God's people. {CEV 64.1}

When Ellen told the members of the Portland church what God had shown her, she said, "While under the power of the Lord, I was filled with joy. I seemed to be surrounded by holy angels in the glorious courts of heaven, where all is peace and gladness."

The members of the church all believed that God had chosen this way to comfort and strengthen His people after the great disappointment they had suffered. How happy they all were to know that their heavenly Father was watching over and caring for them.

An unspeakable awe filled Ellen that she, so young and feeble, should be chosen as the instrument by which God would give light to His people. His Messenger p 33

James White and his wife Ellen were penniless, except as he worked at common labor for a livelihood. A child was born to them in the late summer of 1847, their firstborn, named Henry Nichols White, in honor of a friend whose family had helped them spiritually and materially. Living in poverty, they were tempted to feel that their duty as well as necessity pointed to their maintaining a frugal and industrious life, slowly to build their fortunes. But the hand of God in affliction tore them away from this mundane plan and sent them together on faith into the field of Christian service.

Leaving their child in the tender care of devoted friends, they traveled into New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, as well as Maine, carrying a message of healing, comfort, enlightenment, inspiration. They were forwarded from place to place with little gifts—\$5.00 here, \$10 there, a helping hand now, a horse-and-buggy transportation there, occasional shelter and food. **There shines a light p, 35**

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

18. Every True Prophet of God will increase the learning of the Scriptures and God's will to all that accept and read their writing

1 Corinthians 14:31 For ye may all **prophecy** one by one, that **all** may **learn**, and all may be comforted.

Note: The millions of copies of books sold and the many translations into which they have been translated testify with many of the readers of these inspiring books of the deeper knowledge of the Bible and the more earnest desire to study the Bible that the reading of Ellen G. Whites book bring about. The following story illustrates just one of these instances.

James and Ellen White had many such experiences. Years later while traveling in Michigan by carriage with other workers, they lost their way. The driver, though well acquainted with the route, became confused and left the traveled road. It was Friday, and the distance to Vergennes, where they intended to hold Sabbath meetings, was only fifteen miles; yet that

day they traveled forty miles before reaching their destination. For hours they drove through dense woods, following faint wheel tracks which were often blocked by logs and fallen trees. All the while they kept looking for a house where they might get directions.

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It was hot. They had no food, and no water could be found. Passing some grazing cows, the thirsty travelers tried to get close enough to obtain a little milk. But the cows would not let strangers approach. Twice Mrs. White fainted, and her husband prayed for her.

Finally they came in sight of a log cabin in a little clearing, where they were kindly received and given refreshments. While they lingered to rest and eat and to learn their way, they chatted with the family. Before leaving, Ellen gave them a copy of her little book *Experience and Views*.

For years they wondered why they should have been left to such weary wanderings, especially on a Friday, before their important Sabbath appointments. Twenty-two years later at a Michigan camp meeting they found out.

At the close of one service a woman came to the front and grasped Mrs. White's hand eagerly. "Do you remember getting lost many years ago and stopping at a log house in the woods?" she asked. "We gave you refreshments, and you talked to us about Jesus and the beauties of heaven. Your words were spoken with such fervor that I was charmed and have never forgotten them.

"You left with us a little book. We lent that book to neighbors, as families settled around us, and it was read until there is little left of it. Since that time the Lord has sent ministers to preach to us; and now there is quite a company observing the Sabbath who date their first experience from the influence of that little book."

It was easy then to understand how God's Providence had led them, even on that wearisome day. *Stories of my Grandmother* by ELLA M. ROBINSON, pp 50, 51.

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

19. Every True Prophet of God will agree totally with all the prophets of both the Old and New Testaments

1 Corinthians 14:32 And the spirits of the **prophets** are **subject** to the **prophets**.

The comments of Ellen give us picture of how she totally agrees with this Bible on this point too as we can see from the following books that she published.

Notwithstanding the fact that Paul was personally taught by God, he had no strained ideas of individual responsibility. While looking to God for direct guidance, he was ever ready to recognize the authority vested in the body of believers united in church fellowship. He felt the need of counsel, and when matters of importance arose, he was glad to lay these before the church and to unite with his brethren in seeking God for wisdom to make right decisions. Even "the spirits of the prophets," he declared, "are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." **1 Corinthians 14:32, 33.** With Peter, he taught that all united in church capacity should be "subject one to another." **1 Peter 5:5. {AA 200.2}**

It is the voice of Christ that speaks through the prophets and patriarchs, from the days of Adam even down to the closing scenes of time. This truth was not discerned by the Jews who rejected Jesus, and it is not discerned by many professing Christians today. **A beautiful harmony runs through the Old and New Testaments; passages which may seem dark at a first reading, present clear interpretations when diligently studied, and compared with other scripture**

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referring to the same subject. A careful search of the prophecies would have so enlightened the understanding of the Jews that they would have recognized Jesus as the

predicted Messiah. But they had interpreted those predictions to meet their own perverted ideas and ambitious aspirations. **{3SP 209.1}**

The proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages has been located by the word of Inspiration. Not a peg or pin is to be removed. **No human authority has any more right to change the location of these messages than to substitute the New Testament for the Old. The Old Testament is the gospel in figures and symbols. The New Testament is the substance. One is as essential as the other.** The Old Testament presents lessons from the lips of Christ, and these lessons have not lost their force in any particular. **{CW 26.2}**

There is no discord between the Old Testament and the New. In the Old Testament we find the gospel of a coming Saviour; in the New Testament we have the gospel of a Saviour revealed as the prophecies had foretold. While the Old Testament is constantly pointing forward to the true offering, the New Testament shows that the Saviour prefigured by the typical offerings has come. The dim glory of the Jewish age has been succeeded by the brighter, clearer glory of the Christian age. **{FLB 12.4}**

Christ as manifested to the patriarchs, as symbolized in the sacrificial service, as portrayed in the law, and as revealed by the prophets, is the riches of the Old Testament. Christ in His life, His death, and His resurrection, Christ as He is manifested by the Holy Spirit, is the treasure of the New Testament. Our Saviour, the outshining of the Father's glory, is both the Old and the New. . . . The Old Testament sheds light upon the New, and the New upon the Old. Each is a revelation of the glory of God in Christ. Both present truths that will continually reveal new depths of meaning to the earnest seeker. **{FLB 12.5}**

Jesus said of the Old Testament Scriptures--and how much more it is true of the New--"They are they which testify of me" (**John 5:39**). . . . Yes, the whole Bible tells of Christ. From the first record of creation, for "without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:3), to the closing promise, "Behold, I come quickly" (Revelation 22:12), we are reading of His works and listening to His voice. If you would become acquainted with the Saviour, study the Holy Scriptures.

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{FLB 12.6}

Matthew 13:52 Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe *which is* instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man *that is* an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure *things* new and old.

In this parable, Jesus presented before His disciples the responsibility of those whose work it is to give to the world the light which they have received from Him. **The Old Testament was all the Scripture then in existence; but it was not written merely for the ancients; it was for all ages and for all people. Jesus would have the teachers of His doctrine diligently search the Old Testament for that light which establishes His identity as the Messiah foretold in prophecy, and reveals the nature of His mission to the world. The Old and the New Testament are inseparable, for both are the teachings of Christ. The doctrine of the Jews, who accept only the Old Testament, is not unto salvation, since they reject the Saviour whose life and ministry was a fulfillment of the law and the prophecies. And the doctrine of those who discard the Old Testament is not unto salvation, because it rejects that which is direct testimony of Christ.** Skeptics begin with discounting upon the Old Testament, and it takes but another step to deny the validity of the New, and thus both are rejected. **{5BC 1094.1}**

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

20. Every True Prophet of God will encourage all to turn away from idolatry and seek God with all their heart, soul and desire

- 2 Chronicles 15:8** And when Asa heard these words, and the **prophecy** of **Oded** the **prophet**, he took courage, and put **away** the abominable **idols** out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the LORD, that *was* before the porch of the LORD.
- 2 Chronicles 15:9** And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and the strangers with them out of Ephraim and Manasseh, and out of Simeon: for they fell to him out of Israel in abundance, when they saw that the LORD his God *was* with him.
- 2 Chronicles 15:10** So they gathered themselves together at Jerusalem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa.
- 2 Chronicles 15:11** And they offered unto the LORD the same time, of the spoil *which* they had brought, seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep.
- 2 Chronicles 15:12** And they **entered** into a **covenant** to **seek** the **LORD** God of their fathers with **all** their **heart** and with all their **soul**;
- 2 Chronicles 15:13** That whosoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman.
- 2 Chronicles 15:14** And they swore unto the LORD with a loud voice, and with shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets.
- 2 Chronicles h 15:15** And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with **all** their **heart**, and sought him with their whole **desire**; and he was found of them: and the LORD gave them rest round about.
- 2 Chronicles 15:16** And also *concerning* Maachah the **mother** of Asa the king, he **removed** her from *being* **queen**, because she had made an **idol** in a grove: and Asa cut down her idol, and stamped *it*, and burnt *it* at the brook Kidron.

Reading her observations on idolatry below is another evidence of our search that leaves no doubts to the clarity of Ellen beliefs on this topic either.

Those who have gained a knowledge of the truth are to teach others by engaging in house-to-house work, that those around them may receive the knowledge of Christ, and turn from their idols to serve God. But this work is strangely neglected. Large portions of the Lord's vineyard are left to lie uncultivated and neglected. Thousands might today be rejoicing in the truth if those who claim to love God and keep his commandments would work as Christ worked and as the apostle Paul worked,--going from house to house, and in all humility declaring the need of repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. **{RH, January 31, 1899 par. 12}**

The fact that unbelief prevails, that iniquity is increasing all around us, should not cause our faith to grow dim or our courage to waver. . . . **If we will but seek God with all our hearts, if we will work with that same determined zeal, and believe with that unyielding faith, the light of heaven will shine upon us, even as it shone upon the devoted Enoch. {ML 8.3}**

When Josiah heard the words of warning and condemnation because Israel had trampled upon the precepts of Heaven, he humbled himself. He wept before the Lord. He made a thorough work of repentance and reformation, and God accepted his efforts. The whole congregation of Israel entered into a solemn covenant to keep the commandments of Jehovah. **This is our work today. We must repent of the past evil of our doings, and seek God with all our hearts. We must believe that God means just what He says, and make no compromise with evil in any way.** We should greatly humble ourselves before God, and consider any loss preferable to the loss of His favor. **{RC 57.4}**

Ours is the most solemn work that was ever given to mortals, and we are doing this work for eternity. We are to be a spectacle to angels and to men, and we want our spirits softened and

subdued by the meekness and lowliness of Christ, and have his Spirit enshrined in the heart. We want that active, living faith that will take **God at his word, and trust in his promises at all times. And as we on our part lay hold of the arm of infinite power, we must feel that it is an individual work; we must cling to the Mighty One; and if we seek God with all our hearts, we will find him, because he has promised to be found of us.** He is the Captain of the Lord's host, and he will be with us; and if he gives us any measure of success, express thankfulness to him. "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth God." All heaven is interested in this work that God's messengers are carrying forward in the world, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. **{RH, July 12, 1887 par. 8}**

Willing Ignorance Increases Sin

(1868) 2T 70, 71

53. It is a duty to know how to preserve the body in the very best condition of health, and it is a sacred duty to live up to the light which God has graciously given. If we close our eyes to the light for fear we shall see our wrongs, which we are unwilling to forsake, our sins are not lessened, but

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increased. If light is turned from in one case, it will be disregarded in another. **It is just as much sin to violate the laws of our being as to break one of the ten commandments, for we cannot do either without breaking God's law. We cannot love the Lord with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength while we are loving our appetites, our tastes, a great deal better than we love the Lord.** We are daily lessening our strength to glorify God, when He requires all our strength, all our mind. By our wrong habits we are lessening our hold on life, and yet professing to be Christ's followers, preparing for the finishing touch of immortality. **{CD 44.3}**

Are you happy that Ellen G. White was sent to build up the Remnant Church and send us comfort and learning in the Old and New Testaments as foretold in Revelation 12:17 and Joel 2:28-32? Yes!

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Name three things that 1 Corinthians 14:4 tell us that a true prophet will do? Edify, Exhort and Comfort.

What is another benefit that a prophet brings to all according to 1 Corinthians 14:31? That all may learn

What is a clear test of a prophet mentioned in 1 Corinthians 14:32 and what does this mean? The prophets must be subject to the prophets or in other words agree 100% with all the prophets of the Old and New Testaments

What excellent advice does 2 Chronicles 15:8-16 tell us a prophet will give? To turn away from idols and seek the Lord with all our hearts and souls.

Did Ellen G. White fulfill all of these tests of a True Prophet of God in her writings? Yes