

07-Oct-2011

Smite of the Bright Light

Dear M_____,

You sent an E-mail that raises issues which requires a reply, one which will also benefit the brethren. You confess a propensity to hedge on forthrightness to the law of the land. My calling as your shepherd perfectly answers this problem, and you and all others should understand this interlude of counsel to be just another dimension of the spiritual therapy which the disciples must receive from Jacob, the *mustard seed*. The Lord has shown me that our path to the Kingdom as humans means that, in drastic reversal of our devotion to the truth yesterday, we must now sharpen our commitment to full honor and honesty. That is, instead of merely talking the talk, we must learn to walk the walk. Such an expression, I know, seems like a trite slogan, but in this moment in time it is more than that. It is to be our life; it is Jacob's conversion to Israel. Paul speaks to this modus operandi as follows:

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace...There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit” —Rom 8: 2-6, 1.

We can now see that Jesus repudiated sin by His deportment, His living actions and deeds: He condemned sin in the flesh. The *mustard seed* has given, in full clarity, “*the ♦♦LAW♦♦ of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus*” for it has given the Law of Moses, the Law which described in *Deut 18* how Christ would communicate through Jesus. It has resultantly shown that today the disciples must abandon their inherited fidelity to the flesh and, in so doing, become free from condemnation. It is no stretch to say that we must even look beyond the Flesh within which Christ hid and through which He spoke yesterday to His church, Jesus, and, in so doing, we must see Him, the Spirit Who clandestinely abode upon Jesus. After all, it was Father's delight to ease our fright; so Christ hid His light for it was then too bright. To behold Christ, by use of another jargon, is to ‘circumcise the heart.’ This the disciples must do by walking —not just talking— after the Spirit, after the themes which the Father has sent the Spirit to reveal to us pertaining to Christ and the never-ending life that He promised. This commission of the Comforter today is unlike any other before; He is sent to reveal the brilliance or the identity of Christ: “*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send IN MY NAME, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever, I have said unto you*” —John 14: 26. Of an absolute certainty then, to comply with the lessons taught in the day when the Comforter reveals the Lord's name, the very day when the Father sends Him “*in (Christ's) name*”, is to heed Paul's counsel and to walk by the Spirit and not by the flesh. It is to achieve that which Paul did not, which is life without death, “*For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*”

Apart from the figurative terms, “walk”, “circumcise the heart”, “behold the Light”, your letter facilitates the opportunity to bring practical meaning to these heretofore abstract expressions. To begin, since your question pertains to US government assistance, I can give you a financial example. Vinnette has been laid off for nearly 20 months; consequently, her unemployment benefits, insured to her while she was working, ended more than four months ago. Such was perceived to be a major financial loss. To receive extended unemployment afterwards, she would have had to declare that she was actively looking for work when the truth would have been that she was not. Our decision was that she would keep her hands on the plow by not seeking employment

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as a RN, and launch herself and the family on full, financial dependency on the Lord's work. She could have continued to receive unemployment by meeting their stepped-up and more strenuous requirements and feign to look for work as an RN, thusly deceiving the government. Such a decision would have manifested more than a theology, more than a talk: It would have displayed our walk in life. Instead, to meet the financial shortfalls, she merely tapped into, prematurely, her retirement account. These benefits were given to her to manage on her own when she was laid off in January, 2010. By using those funds, she not only became exposed to the fear of prematurely expiring her retirement benefits which accumulated over the prior 25 years of her employment, but she also risked penalties from the IRS for early withdrawal of those benefits. By walking this stride, after the Spirit, the Lord surmounted all of those concerns with real solutions that He has revealed to me and that I have put into practice. So you see, had we walked by the flesh, had we given regard to the perceived realities that were tangible to us, we could have blunted our participation in the Lord's Kingdom. Some would have expected the Lord to merely give to them more money. We could have prayed for that, but then the Lord would have said, "Use the means already placed in your care: Walk by the Spirit and answer your own prayers by faith". We did: We did not deceive; we did not fear for the future; we did not return back from the plough upon which we have put our hands; instead, we more fully integrated into our lives the Lord's testimony.

It has become my observation that people, once their backs are against the wall facing perceived danger, like cornered animals, will immediately resort to two reactions which manifest their walk in life. Being universal among humans, it is a reaction which we must overcome so that we can righteously judge others. I have been shown that, when under stress, people invariably will either lie or steal—none are born with the instincts of honesty making these reactions the quintessential quality of the fleshly walk. In children and in the elderly, because they perceive themselves to be the most vulnerable, this reaction, as I directly witness now in my ministry, becomes common place. However, you see it in the elderly because they have never learned honesty in their maturing adulthood, and change in deportment to them is a mighty struggle requiring an extenuated process. This process of practical honor counters the life of sophistry upon which they have learned to trust. They have not mastered Jacob's victorious stride. In fact, for Jacob to be victorious, his old walk had to become disabling. This, though we preach otherwise, we are reluctant to make as our way of action and movement. Somehow all presume that Father can be deceived by our charades, and we can swindle our way into His Kingdom merely by making a profession of honesty. This is far from the truth as none of these reactions, deceptions or thieveries, will—contrary to our tainted perspectives—relieve our perceived danger, and they are traps which the enemy has learned to set for our entanglement. He well knows that this has become humanity's instinctive reaction, and it proves to him that we are natural and intuitive nominees for his kingdom, people who do not trust God. For this reason, when we as teachers perceive deception in others, we must wisely allow for time and also wisely discern how much time to wait for them to become truthful. Such is our judicial duty as we become commissioned to enforce the law. It is a central variable for those who are still learning to walk after the Spirit. I believe, even the courts of this land understand this component to honesty: You must hear a man's full testimony. To explain further, being that artifice is an impulsive reaction of the immature, one cannot be judged a deceiver, if he begins the path of sophistry, then catches himself, and, on his own recognizance, shifts his account to reflect the full truth. But all must be reminded, fear is condemned by the Lord. He said—indeed, He commanded— **"...fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell"** —Matt 10: 28. If nothing else, this issue illustrates the impossibility of the foolish virgins to embrace this light after the "midnight cry"; it takes time to learn to walk this new way. So I am glad to have the opportunity to use your letter as a teaching prop. One cannot merely hear or read this component of human dignity; he must practice it. Only practice will make it integral to our lives; only it will allow a person to reverse an instinctive response. Even the athlete illustrates this lesson: His body does not perform at its optimal peak naturally; he must train to become efficient in his physical performance.

We all must think on these things when we, out of a moment of spiritual exasperation proclaim,

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“Why is it taking so long for God to fulfill the promises of His word?” There may be other reasons, but our reluctance to change our walk to one that is after the Spirit, our refusal to behold Christ’s brightness, is the reason that falls into our laps. We are why He seems to take so long! Having said these things as a backdrop, I can now examine your self-confessed venture into deception: You said the following:

“In lieu of the call below to come clean in all areas of our lives, I feel that I also must expose to you my being less than forthright in reporting to the DCF my total income each year so as to secure a better chance at receiving Medicaid benefits for the family as well as more food stamps. I have only reported to them the income I receive which is already recorded on paper (pay stubs). I have not included side jobs or the occasional gift in my totals. I felt ‘justified’ in doing this over the past several years because, DCF will not recognize my mother-in-law as a legitimate house member under our roof. She is in this country only on a visitor’s visa. According to the government, we don’t make enough annual income to sponsor her into the U. S., therefore, she gets no benefits as a resident alien or citizen would. I also ‘fudged’ my true income level so that D___ would be able to have medical coverage until he was eligible for social security disability.” —Your E-mail, 17-Sep-2011; Parenthesis belong, brackets & underscored blank added

This section can be summarized as follows: You feel compelled to exhaust your energy and effort to carry the burdens of D___ and his mother. Below, comments on this will be given. First let me address your issue pertaining to making honest appeals to the government. Much of this has been addressed above and in the prior E-mail to which you eluded in your question. I have no authority to make exceptions pertaining to honesty. Any person who chooses to misrepresent themselves to the government places themselves at risk of being accused, indicted, or reprimanded by the authorities, and as shown more fully below, such tactics are completely unnecessary to secure the financial benefits that we seek. Regarding gifts of money that you receive, they may or may not be considered income by the government; so, if after this letter, you still need for them to scrutinize your financing, you should ask them. If you are receiving money “on the side” and not reporting it, then, as partially expressed in accounting principles of a prior E-mail (*Don’t let the Green Grass Fool You*, 09-Nov-2009), you may indeed be hurting yourself. Honesty on this level is subject to interpretation, and you should go to the website to review that letter. It essentially gives, with carefully delineated qualifiers, explanations that one does not need to report their total finances to Caesar if such is used to do alms. Your judgment, not mine, on that issue will rule the day. Remember, the government’s laws contain many rules and many exceptions. Some hire accountants and lawyers to forge or customize a legal path to follow, and this is a legitimate strategy to working the system; it is not deception. We, being citizens with limited funding, must rely upon the Lord to use the tools available to us so as to win financial justice. Some of this was alluded to above by the example of unemployment. However, much of your problem is different: For you to submit an application requesting financial gratuities and benefits from the government requires that one give honest answers to the best of their ability. To do otherwise is, by secular and divine standards, to defraud the government. Additionally, if the Government requests a profit-and-loss statement to process a request for assistance, then such a request can be —not just an anxiety, but— a very reasonable requisite for your own interest. Before explaining further, you said the following:

“I have not been putting my trust in my heavenly Father... I have not been putting my trust in Him. Lately, (the Lord has) been putting me through a rigorous test of honesty with the application I placed with the ___ government in May to help us with our mortgage payments. They are “combing” through our bank statements and wanting an explanation of every deposit we made on those statements. Then, they asked for a third party profit and loss statement for the first two quarters of this year because I labeled myself as self-employed. That really threw me since I don’t have an accountant or a tax consultant or a business partner.” —Your E-mail, 17-Sep-2011

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A profit-and-loss statement could help you in this regard. If counsel is needed, you should prayerfully “Google” search the Internet; I too may be able, in a limited sense, to help you to establish a business. You may find that the money, received while self-employed, may, in the eyes of the government, not be a cause for anxiety and fear; they will define your income differently than you may first suppose. For example, if you make \$1000.00 a month, the instinctive perception is that the government wants to consider that to be your net, taxable salary. This is not true because, if your income has been offset by -\$100.00 in expenses, then your net is (\$100.00) making you a case for hardship. Particularly will this be the case if you charge your “company”, which is yourself, for the enormous expense of assisting your mother-in-law and for occupancy (rent, utilities, phone, etc/the normal cost of opening a business site) in your home. Such expenses would not be deductible unless you are a business operating from the confines of your home. If you operate elsewhere, then those expenses will be required out of pocket, but they also would be considered expenses to offset income. If you do not have the time to learn the accounting end of your “self-employed” business, then you still have alternatives: You can withdraw your appeal for government assistance. If you take these steps while honoring God’s will and testament, you will be blessed.

Understand though, because the Lord blesses you, such does not mean that He will help those adults who are connected with you, people who refuse His light. This may mean that you must remove from your shoulders all burdens that can be removed and that, by the limits of your financial strength, you cannot carry. In a sense, you already know the veracity of the things that I am telling you; after all, you have acknowledged that you are resisting the Lord’s efforts to help by not being fully forthright with the government. My counsel is that you do the opposite and be totally honest about all of your activities, and by faith, leave the outcome with the Lord. These troubles which cause you to lament are, in fact, stepping stones and answers to prayers. Consider that, if the worst-case scenario occurs, and your mother-in-law loses her US Visa, visiting privileges, then, as harsh as it may sound, the Lord will have deployed Caesar to unburden you from an enormous load. Then, by law, you are prohibited from being her caretaker leaving that duty to others. Who then could condemn you? Will they say that you should deceive Caesar, to help your mother-in-law? Such is in noncompliance with Father’s expressed will. Also, with her gone, your need for more food stamps will likewise diminish, presumably! The same applies to losing your house: For how can you and D___ live there if you cannot pay the mortgage? You should not rob from Peter to pay Paul. Your marriage vows cannot or should not be construed to overrule your duties to the laws of God and man. Ultimately, it seems to me that the outcomes which you fear are the very answer to your prayers. Sure, the Lord could rain down more money, but why should He do so to help the enemies of His work or to lock you into a perpetual, carnal walk? The life and peace promised by Paul and, of course, by Christ, is the reason for your association with God; it is your prayer and your faith. This being true, then you must thankfully allow the Father to answer that prayer! To assume an adverse posture cannot lead to everlasting life for *“the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made (you) free from the law of sin and death...For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”* Father’s goal is to advance His Kingdom of life, not that of the devil’s Kingdom of hell. Another personal anecdote may help here: When I entered into the Lord’s work and Vinnette and I could not meet our financial burdens at our newly reconstructed level to which we were accustomed, instead of the Lord sending us more money, we more effectively used the money at our disposal and legally reduced our expenses. We eventually used the law and dispatched many of them. It was embarrassing to file for bankruptcy, but the path to the Kingdom for the saints demands humility—even if it means social ostracism. The Lord’s promise of salvation does not include a commensurate guarantee of public veneration and praise. We must, despite the opinions of others, show a willingness to do all that we can do in order to help ourselves; so Vinnette and I stepped forward (“walked”) in the Lord’s work with this expression of our faith. Remember VTH’s wisdom, ‘Blessings fall from heaven; we must bend down to retrieve them.’

I do not suggest that bankruptcy is your financial remedy, but face it, your options to free yourself from entanglement are likewise subject to open ridicule. This you must not fear. To

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continue to stress and stretch your budget to the limit so as to provide homecare for D___'s mother and to provide him with medical coverage may be, in the eyes of some, a noble deed, but the act of refusing the Lord's counsel from His testimony to garner monetary provisions so that you can carry someone else's cross more than dissolves that former noble deed, and it will never provide to you relief. Instead, you must do the *will of the Father* and seek first the Kingdom of heaven. D___'s problems stem from the fact that he is a non-believer, and you have no duty to support him or join him by violating Father's will. He does not even tithe to the storehouse; how then can he expect to have "medical coverage" to win health, vitality, and strength? —certainly not by the strategic, carnal sophistries of the saints! My latest book as well as other E-mails shows the formula for "healthcare" comes from the Lord's counsel as expressed in *Isa 58*. (See MSC, 16-Jan-2010, *Vegetarianism: A fallen Adventist Fortress* &/or 20-Jun-10, *The curse of the Churl*) Therein is described the Lord's plea for Davidia to respond to the trumpet call of Jacob, the need to turn their hearts to the dispossessed; after so doing, the Lord promises that, "***then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily***" —Isa 58: 8. This is the message to be gleaned from your problems with the government as they relate to your desire to help your husband and his mother with their healthcare needs. Yet, I caution that you do not proceed recklessly in this matter. You must discuss your options and your resolutions with him, your husband, so that he may have opportunity know his options and to choose his destiny in the light of the proper perspective. This is another dimension of being an honorable person; for remember, this Jacob failed to do when he left Padanaram. One final message is worthy of integration into my answer to your letter: All is not lost; if you cannot come to agreement and you cannot legally care for your mother-in-law, or your home, then D___ himself or others will have to rise to meet that challenge. In the past, you have expressed that these things were a burden entirely assigned to you; now you must, as defined in the *Impressive Dream* of EGW and in the counsel to the rich young ruler of *Matt 19*, determine to relieve yourself of your burdens and invest all of your energy holding onto the cords. We have no inheritance in Laban's ranch! As you faithfully unburden yourself, you must trust Father to manage the troubles of those adult unbelievers whom you leave behind. Christ, your caretaker tells us that Father watchfully regards the sparrows, and people are worth more to Him than many sparrows, we are also told. Vinnette and I have learned this lesson by beholding how He cared for our eldest daughter these past 10 years, a time when she refused any connection to our home. Knowing this, the time is here when we all must assume the course of divestiture, and as we do our part, trust God to make up the difference.

This challenge is one that nearly all disciples have either faced or must now face; it is a roadblock which seeks to impede their progress. With the Lord's expressed command to "forsake" echoing in our minds, we must now discern that those who connect with Him will come into direct conflict with their loved ones, and their connection to Him will create an ever-widening schism as they advance upward. Couples who do not have the unity and oneness in the Lord will then become either fallen or torn apart. Such, I know, seems dramatic and dynamic, but this separation will not be as grim and as stark as was our immature beliefs yesterday. The faithful then fully believed, taught, and yearned for all of the promises pertaining to Jesus' second coming. We cherished the day when He, Jesus, would merely kill all of our apostate relatives with His brightness as He likewise was to smite the redeemed with a different malady, amnesia, just as He rushes them off to glory. This foggy rendition of salvation has, with this, our ministry, now become more refined as we continue our "walk after the Spirit". We now have been made to learn from the Bible that, while here on earth and while abiding among the carnal-hearted rebels, we must begin the process of separation. Everybody in the church therefore who is to become "smitten" with His brightness will receive this unfortunate calamity —not momentarily or instantaneously, but— after an enduring struggle with their own carnal flesh as they war against those who abide in the Spirit. We have been assured above that to walk after the flesh yields death, and to walk after the Spirit yields life and peace. With this teaching more clearly explained and combined with the Lord's promises, we can now discern that the path to death begins with a gradual downward spiral, and the path to glory

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elevates us in the opposite dynamic mode and direction. Consequently, by the time Jesus returns, the wicked within Laodicea will have already had their smite from the bright light which will beforehand have culminated, in ultimate finality, with *Ezek nine*. The reward for the faithful, the amnesia given to the righteous, is made more understandable also. It is not due to a divinely-induced brain malfunction; instead, it is attributable to the joy with which the Lord graces them, a grace that causes them to forget the enormous tug from their former, aberrant and perverse love connections. They will mature and grow out of love for them as they fall in Love with God. Yet, their transition will as well commence by their response to the *mustard seed*, their bright light: They will have begun to walk after the Spirit, after the Comforter Whom Father promised to send 'IN CHRIST'S NAME'. Such a gradual time period, as is this transition, will convince us for an eternity that those closest to us who are lost had more than ample opportunity to win for themselves our everlasting joy, and we will gladly leave them behind in our minds. Think of the tragic results that would become reality if this separation did not occur, if it was not the reality of this *parting of the ways*; then our continued fellowship with men who hate the Lord would yield a monumentally negative effect. The results of such would mean that all of our health needs as well as our bread, our sustenance, our heavenly "food stamps", will spiral down with us as we cling to our apostate relatives. So we must display great emotional strength. If we do not, then our families, the accuser of the brethren, and the heavenly witnesses will never know of the heroic commitment to Christ that is required to be saved. If they are not given hard evidence pertaining to our voluntary disconnections from the Lord's enemies within our "luggage", they will see little to no justification for our exalted station as disciples. This will cause the same covetousness which led to Satan's fall, and rebellion would rise again. But, contrary to this result is the Lord's plan. It will instead show all of the immortalized saints, from earth and elsewhere, that Satan was wrong: that there is no fallacy or flaw in Christ's management and that it is possible to serve God out of love or to love Him with all our hearts, souls, and minds. Beyond that, if at this late hour we continue to sit on the fence, then, should the Lord display another and final petition to save our loved ones, they will, because of our hesitancy to walk by faith in Christ, never hear and respond to an appeal to righteousness so long as they see our own commitment to the Word is limp and tepid.

At least one brother among us can give a personal testimony to show that continued love for hostile family who refuse to hear this light does not bring them closer: He, himself was in need of assistance, and his brother was likewise desperate as he was laid off from his job. Approximately four years back, this MSA believer sought to placate family ties, by assisting his brother with a purchase so as to boost his newly-established career in the sales of air filtration systems. With that impulse to assist, he purchased from the apostate Davidian, a very expensive, system for approximately \$900.00. I cannot be certain if that brother promised, as a sales tactic, to investigate the MSC, but remember the human, carnal nature; they all, when at the point of desperation, begin to lie, cheat, and steal. Today, after years of appeals, he still remains on the spiritually downward spiral. I do not know if he has recovered financially. But what is definite and certain is that those of this light who ignore Father's clearly-stated counsel on this matter place themselves at variance with the Lord's purpose and yearning to bless them. The Lord does indeed desires to heal us financially, morally, physically and in other ways; however, when He does, we are expected to use our own power in harmony —not in countervalance— with His. This power must begin with a walk after the Spirit. After all, did He not, as a part of His healing the man stricken with palsy, command him to "**Arise, take up thy bed, and walk?**" —Mar 2: 9. Could not the Lord have just as easily commanded His disciples to help the man and to clean up his mess? He could have but He did not. Once one offers to the Lord their petitions for help, they must, with that petition, prepare to receive His answer. It will come as it has often come in the past: that is with an assigned duty for the very one in dire straits to, by cooperative faith, perform. With the family members of the *mustard seed* adherents, the cooperation is simple: Give the message an honest and objective, Bible-based investigation, a thing which your husband for years has refused to do. Do not feel put upon by this letter, you are not the only one, and the example given by the brother seeking to help his nominal brother is not the last. How do I know, because this zeal to comfort the enemies of the

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Lord has flared up in my own house? I praise the Lord that Vinnette, my dear wife, stood strong to this principle this past summer when her family urged her to travel to England for her mother's funeral. Because she adhered to financial restraints and withstood the test, she now is made to sing praises and glory for her compliance to "the man of wisdom". All who have connected themselves to the *mustard seed* can likewise find this joy.

It is very difficult to disappoint family, but to fulfill our calling and be His elected judges, will we not be called to disappoint others with whom we do not have familiar ties? Does the Lord now uphold hypocrisy? Are we to duplicitously command others to be bolder for Him than we ourselves have been? We have learned that the Lord promises to affirmatively answer all of our requests; however, attached to this promise is the commission to 'abide in Him as we also allow His words abide in us.' Only then are we assured that, we "**shall ask what (we) will, and it shall be done unto (us)**" —John 15: 7. Has not the Lord's testimony been very clear on our duties to non-believing relatives? The word most applicable to this letter is "forsake"; this is what we have been commissioned to do for them. Have we assumed that we will never be tested on these issues?

Some family members who are rooted in the *Three-Angels' Message*, Laban's ranch, may be in the valley of decision, and so long as they pay their tithe or have committed to investigate the literature, we can assume that they are legitimately with us, though they may not be candidates to become ranked among the circle of the 12 disciples. However, those family members who are clearly and openly not with us must be left back on that ranch with the acknowledgment that the Lord's grace is sufficient. They do not require more grace from us. Sure, as Adventists, they may not understand our seemingly noncompliance to the call for charity. This being their retort, tell them that the message which you have been trying to get them to investigate is the greatest endowment of charity that could ever be bestowed; they simply need to read it. Also, ask them if they were journeying to heaven after the second coming, or if they saw you amongst the condemned after the millennium, would they dishonor the Lord and leave their post of victory to assist you on the other side? Or, would they forsake you as they continue in the joy of the Lord's salvation? Our situation is no different; we too are, even now, joying in the Lord's salvation. Finally, explain to them that you have the solution to all their problems and the key to all their needs, the source of your very faith, and then offer to them the latest MSC book. Should they refuse, then they are like the man smitten with palsy, had he refused to rise and walk.

I hope that you and all who read this reply will find it useful in your walk.

Sincerely,

Derek