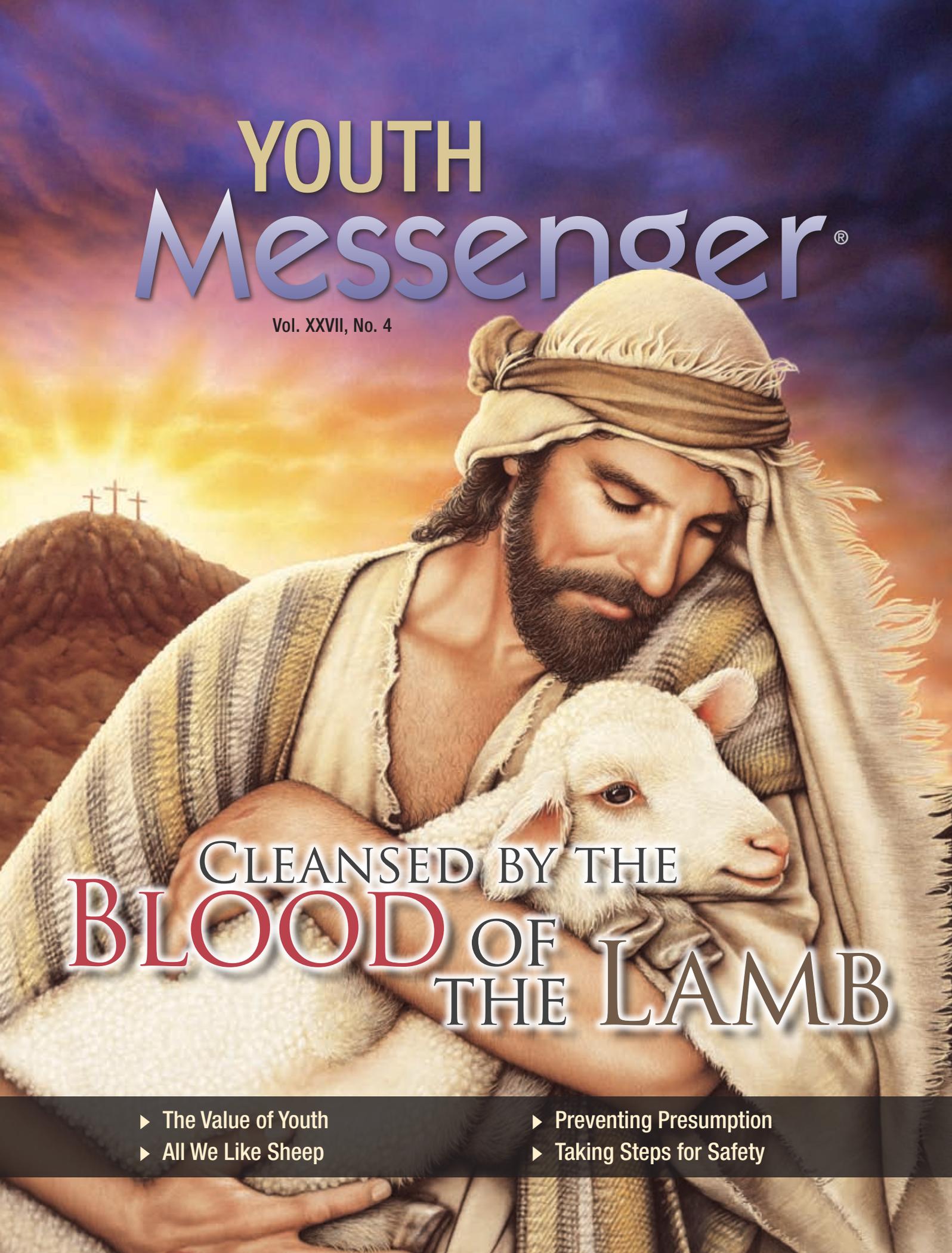


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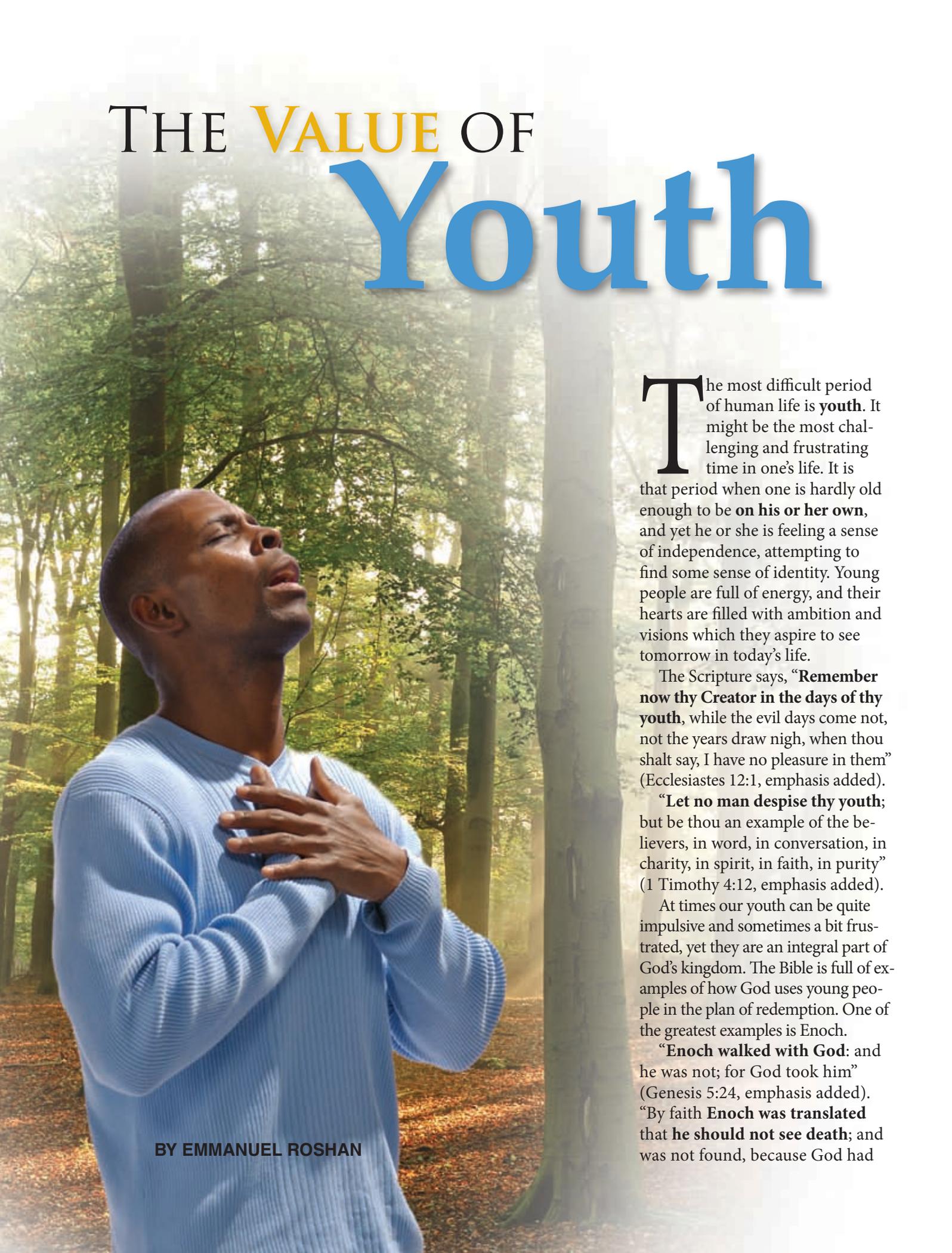
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CLEANSSED BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB

- ▶ The Value of Youth
- ▶ All We Like Sheep

- ▶ Preventing Presumption
- ▶ Taking Steps for Safety

A photograph of a man with a shaved head, wearing a light blue ribbed sweater, standing in a forest. He is looking upwards with his hands clasped over his chest, appearing to be in a state of prayer or deep reflection. The background is a dense forest of tall trees with green and yellowing leaves, suggesting an autumn setting. The lighting is soft and natural, filtering through the trees.

THE VALUE OF Youth

The most difficult period of human life is **youth**. It might be the most challenging and frustrating time in one's life. It is that period when one is hardly old enough to be **on his or her own**, and yet he or she is feeling a sense of independence, attempting to find some sense of identity. Young people are full of energy, and their hearts are filled with ambition and visions which they aspire to see tomorrow in today's life.

The Scripture says, "**Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth**, while the evil days come not, not the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them" (Ecclesiastes 12:1, emphasis added).

"**Let no man despise thy youth**; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12, emphasis added).

At times our youth can be quite impulsive and sometimes a bit frustrated, yet they are an integral part of God's kingdom. The Bible is full of examples of how God uses young people in the plan of redemption. One of the greatest examples is Enoch.

"**Enoch walked with God**: and he was not; for God took him" (Genesis 5:24, emphasis added). "By faith **Enoch was translated** that **he should not see death**; and was not found, because God had

BY EMMANUEL ROSHAN

“The value of man, the estimate God places upon him, is revealed in the cross of Calvary.”

translated him” (Hebrews 11:5 emphasis added).

Enoch, “the seventh from Adam” (Jude 14), was a very special person—a man that followed his faith and walked continually with God. He constantly set God before him and walked delightfully beside the Lord. His life was a life of continual communion with God. God’s Word was the rule of his faith. All his actions were intended for the glory of God. He wanted to please God in everything he pursued and lived to comply with God’s will and perfect plan. His life was a living testimony as Paul later revealed in Galatians 2:20, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Therefore we need to adopt His life and experience into ours.

Walk by faith and not by feeling

It is never a safe thing for the people of God to walk by feeling, but it is our duty to walk by faith. Therefore “trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:5, 6, NKJV).

Take the yoke

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28–30).

Please God

“Before [Enoch’s] translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God” (Hebrews 11:5).

Yield to God

Enoch surrendered himself to God. “The men of [Enoch’s] generation had mocked the folly of him who sought not to gather gold or silver or to build up possessions here. But Enoch’s heart was upon eternal treasures. . . . His mind, his heart, his conversation, were in heaven. The greater the existing iniquity, the more earnest was his longing for the home of God.” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 87).

Walk by fact and not by fiction

Enoch had a noble character. His life was a life of faith. He is one of the two men mentioned in Scripture who walked with God and also one of the two men who did not taste death. Enoch had a great relationship with God. “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3). Enoch surrendered his will to serve God wholeheartedly. He was a great witness of the true God. And yet Enoch walked humbly before his God.

We are not to be guided by fiction, human theory, philosophy, the currents of the world, but to walk humbly with God as did Enoch.

Walk in moral fitness

Enoch pleased God in habitual fellowship with Him and he lived truth. Christ is the complete system of truth.

“Enoch was a man of strong and highly cultivated mind and extensive knowledge; he was honored with special revelations from God; yet being in constant communion with Heaven.”—*Ibid.*, p. 85.

Enoch’s spiritual communion and fellowship grew as the years went by. The fellowship that Enoch enjoyed with God was not tempo-

rary, but an ongoing way of life. He never depended on his own merit, nor esteemed himself high, but uplifted God at all time in his life.

Understand true value

As did Enoch, we need to understand who we are. What are our values? What about our duties? Where will we be when Jesus returns? How are we to behave, and how are we to be a witness? For what destiny we are headed?

Men estimate themselves with three mighty “M’s:” Money, Mind, Muscles, but the Lord measures differently. “Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord” (Jeremiah 9:23, 24).

“The value of man is estimated in heaven according to the capacity of the heart to know God. . . . Looking unto Jesus we obtain brighter and more distinct views of God, and by beholding we become changed. Goodness, love for our fellow men, becomes our natural instinct. We develop a character which is the counterpart of the divine character.”—*Christ Object Lessons*, pp. 354, 355.

“The value of man is to be estimated at the price paid for his redemption.”—*The Review and Herald*, December 18, 1894. “The value of man, the estimate God places upon him, is revealed in the cross of Calvary.”—*My Life Today*, p. 292.

“The Lord gave His only begotten Son to ransom us from sin. We

Maturity is neither age, nor academic level, nor achievement, but it is attitude and character.

are His workmanship. We are His representatives in the world, and He expects that we shall reveal the true value of man by our purity of life, and the earnest efforts put forth to recover the pearl of great price. Our character is to be modeled after the divine similitude, and to be reformed by that faith that works by love and purifies the soul. The grace of God will beautify, ennoble, and sanctify the character. The servant of the Lord who works intelligently will be successful. Our Saviour said, 'Greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.' —*Lift Him Up*, p. 48.

We are called to be ambassadors for Christ, representing His character. We must honor God through our life, caring for one another, equipping one another to be standard bearers, and communicating God's love to the world. This is life to the fullest. (See John 10:10.)

Our Saviour Jesus Christ, who knew the value of humanity, gave His life to redeem us from the bondage of sin and death. Yet very few appreciate the value God has placed. When we begin to understand the value of humans, we will cultivate and preserve purity, nobility, and integrity of character. Appreciation of your value also depends upon your action and interaction, which are listed as follows:

- Reaction to pressure (James 1).
- Respect for people (James 2).
- Constructive communication (James 3).
- Conflict resolution (James 4).
- Confident hope (James 5).

A controlled mouth is a Christian virtue (see James 1:26.) Spirit-controlled conversation is very

essential for every youth. "For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body" (James 3:2). "Death and life are in the power of the tongue." "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit." "Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones." "There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, but the tongue of the wise promotes health (Proverbs 18:21; 15:4; 16:24; 12:18 NJKV)." "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Ephesians 4:29).

Communication filters are the safest and the best way to represent our Saviour among our friends and others. Activate these filters which are truth, motive, tone, and timing. Ask before any communication: Is it true? Is it really necessary? Is it kind? Is it confidential? "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridled not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain" (James 1:26).

A caring heart is a witnessing sermon (see James 1:27). "Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow" (Isaiah 1:17). "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:8).

A clean mind (see James 1:27) guided by a spiritual conscience is the basis of our communication.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

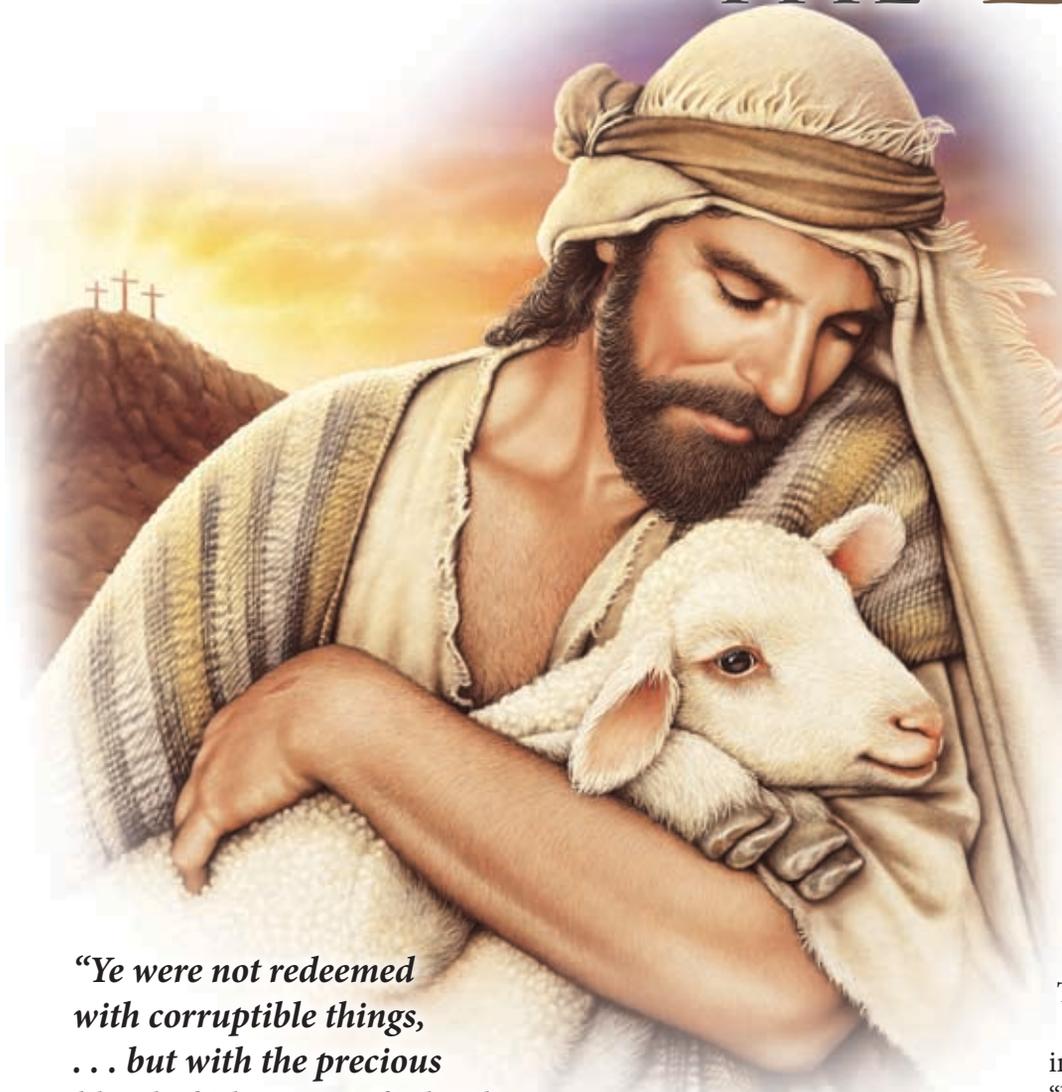
Union with Christ adds value to men and women. "The value of man as God estimates him is through his union with Christ, for God is the only One able to raise man in the scale of moral worth through the righteousness of Christ. Worldly honor and worldly greatness are of just that value that the Creator of man places upon them. Their wisdom is foolishness, their strength weakness" (*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 1, p. 30).

Experience maturity and Christ-likeness till reaching the full stature of humanity in Christ, representing the Master in character. This way our deportment will produce in others a deep, abiding, and increasing love for Jesus. Maturity is neither age, nor academic level, nor achievement, but it is attitude and character. Maturing in Christ is much more important than knowing something about Jesus or doing something to please Him. To be a maturing Christian means to enjoy the refreshing, empowering, and joyful experience of sharing His love and walking with Him side by side.

If we wish to understand our true value, let's just become friends with Jesus, and we can talk to Him in prayer; then what now seems tedious will become easy. His power will make us wiser and stronger. Rest yourself wholly in the hands of Jesus, for He has inscribed you in the palm of His hands. Then those who see us will say: "These people have been with Jesus." 

CLEANSED BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB

BY B. MONTEIRO



motion. Its approximately five quarts of volume flow freely throughout the body, bringing vital nourishment and carrying away poisonous waste. This feeding and cleansing process circulates through the entire system about every 23 seconds. What an awesome mystery indeed is this amazing element of creation—for once this crimson current fails to reach the cells, they promptly die. Ultimately, when the blood stops circulating throughout the entire body, the person is dead. Truly, life is in the blood.

It is interesting to note that in the New Testament, the word “blood” occurs three times as often as the “cross” of Christ, and five times as often as the word “death.” Just as blood is to our bodies, so is the blood of Jesus to His body, the members of the church. Because His blood is “fluid” it can reach every member of that body. And just as the physical blood supplies every cell with nutrients and washes away its waste products, so the Lord nourishes and cleanses every faithful believer. Many of us are familiar with

“Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, . . . but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Peter 1:18, 19).

There is one significant thing which every member of the human race has in common. It is that warm, sticky, slightly acrid substance flowing through our bodies: Blood. Scripture teaches that God

“hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth” (Acts 17:26). Indeed, if we had no blood, we would not be alive, for in Leviticus 17:11 it is written that “the life of the flesh is in the blood.”

In the human body, most of the tissues consist of fixed cells with a specific function, placed in a specific location. But the blood is fluid and constantly in

Just as blood is to our bodies, so is the blood of Jesus to His body—the members of the church.

the well-known hymn based on a poem by William Cowper,

“There is a fountain filled
with blood,
Drawn from Immanuel’s veins;
And sinners plunged
beneath that flood,
Loose all their guilty stains.”

This concept of being “washed in the blood of the Lamb” may seem rather strange when we consider how nothing in our modern culture associates blood with being a cleansing agent. We use antibacterial soaps, disinfectants, and iodine scrubs to wash *off* blood, not to wash *with* it! Surprisingly, however, the concept makes not only good theological sense but good biological sense as well.

A practical illustration

If you have ever experimented with a blood pressure testing kit (sphygmomanometer), you may have observed that if the device is pumped up above a certain range, your arm under the cuff will feel uncomfortably tight. That is because the flow of blood is being stopped. If you then try flexing your fingers, making a fist, or operating a pair of scissors, you may feel some weakness or even a flash of pain.

As soon as the air pressure is released from the cuff, blood will rush back into your aching arm and sweet relief will soothe your muscles. The pain disappears and freedom of motion is restored. What a pleasant difference! You have just experienced the cleansing power of blood.

While the blood supply to your arm was cut off, you had forced

your muscles to keep working. This caused them to produce metabolic waste products that are normally flushed away by the bloodstream. But when the blood flow was constricted, these waste products accumulated in the muscles since they were not “cleansed” by the flow of blood. For a few brief moments you had felt the agony of retained toxins.

The agony of that paralyzing toxin known as “sin” works the same way. We do not always realize how our life forces are being constricted and the flow of our life “shut off” by this evil poison—until we come to the Saviour. He invites us to lay all that poison at His feet, and He releases the mounting pressure. What a welcome sense of relief then follows! It is neither physical nor emotional, but it is better than either. It is a glorious taste of what the 144,000 will experience for they are identified as those “which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (Revelation 7:14).

How does this all work?

Dear young people: It does no good to deny our sins. To do so would be only deceiving ourselves. Our only hope is in confessing them and allowing the Lord to send the army of “white cells” of Christ’s blood to cleanse us. And the “red cells” will give us vitality. Jesus says, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink

indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him” (John 6:53–56). It may sound like a strange concept, but Jesus explains further in verse 63: “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”

The Lord does not intend for us to have a mere ceremonial sprinkling of His words or a pouring out of them as a sacrifice. Instead, He wants us to really chew on them, digest them, and assimilate them until they become a natural part of our being. In *The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 5, p. 1135, this is identified as “eating the fruit of the tree of life.” What a wonderful thought! Through the words of Christ, we regain spiritual access to that tree in Eden which perpetuated immortal life.

Our next step is to continue to **trust** Christ, because His precious blood also supplies “antitoxins” to boost our immunity to sin. Instead of being weak and vulnerable to temptation, we are strengthened to withstand the attacks of the enemy. This is the process of sanctification. Praise God that through the merits of Christ’s blood, “if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

“God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him” . . . “that loved us, and **washed us from our sins in his own blood**” (Romans 5:8, 9; Revelation 1:5 emphasis added).

Let us fully appreciate the world’s only cleansing agent that is absolutely perfect—able to wipe out even sin itself: The spotless blood of the Lamb of God. 



All We Like Sheep

BY JONATHAN TYLER

Sheep are fascinating animals! They are very gentle social creatures, and they hate being alone. We miss so many of the Bible's important lessons because we no longer freely come into contact with sheep. My first opportunity for mingling with sheep came while visiting a small farm in middle Tennessee (U.S.A.). Right away many things of the scriptures started to come alive.

At feeding time I went and started dividing and setting out hay for the sheep and they gleefully came running to their high-fiber, extremely low-fat diet. One thing that fascinated me right away when the sheep came running for the food was that they ran all around me, including between my legs and they packed in very tightly. If it wasn't for the very thick padding created by their wool coats I think I would have lost the circulation in my legs! Their ability to press

tightly together was amazing—and no matter what, you could not pull them apart. As a unit pressing together, they have incredible protection and strength. The only way to break up this little flock is to either entice them away with food or to cause such a scare that they all panic and scatter.

The sheep's main weakness is that it is easily frightened. It has been observed that they will actually drink less if running water is all that is available. Fast running water frightens them altogether, and they won't go near it. The psalmist surely had observed this when writing, "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the **still waters**" (Psalm 23:2 emphasis added).

In the highlands of Scotland, the sheep jump down ten or twelve feet into little crevices along the cliffs to get at sweet grass, and then they can't jump back out again. The shepherds

just leave them until they have eaten all the grass. Waiting until the sheep are so faint that they cannot stand, shepherds then pull them out with a rope. When asked why they wait so long to rescue the sheep, the shepherds reply, "Ah! they are so very foolish they would dash right over the precipice and be killed!"

The sheep's only defense other than the watchful care of a shepherd is their ability to make such a tight and impenetrable group. Herd dogs will often walk on top of the sheep as the only way to get through the flock.

Sheep are so insecure about life that they require at least four or five other sheep around with which to maintain constant eye contact. The presence of the shepherd with whom the sheep are familiar is very calming to the sheep. The Bible uses this common occurrence as an illustration: "Therefore they went their way as a flock, they were troubled, because there was no

shepherd” (Zechariah 10:2). “And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord” (Jeremiah 23:4).

Sheep are followers so much so that they will follow the leader right into danger. On July 8, 2005, a flock of sheep were left to roam free near a Turkish village while shepherds were eating breakfast. For no apparent reason 1,600 sheep followed one very depressed sheep over the edge of a cliff. When the shepherds made it to the bottom, they found a pile of sheep—of which 450 were dead.

Without a shepherd, sheep will follow a path until they reach a desolate place and starve even though they may have passed excellent forage along the way. They push their heads through fences and get stuck, get bitten by snakes, stung by bees, poison themselves, overeat and bloat, get hung trying to climb trees, fall into rivers and ponds, starve, freeze, and the list goes on. How thankful we should be for Christ, the Good Shepherd:

“He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young” (Isaiah 40:11). He assures us: “I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick” (Ezekiel 34:16).

Sheep are so attached to their shepherd that they can distinguish the sound of his voice above the calling of a dozen or more other shepherds. No matter how much another shepherd may call, the sheep will not come running until they hear the familiar voice of their own shepherd. Likewise, Jesus says, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:27).

Every sheep has a distinct personality, and for every timid and fearful animal, there is a curious and affectionate one. These creatures are very sensitive and will run when they sense anger or frustration. Good shepherds will move calmly and slowly through

their flocks, and talk to them. The sheep respond with contented bleating sounds. “For the pastors are become brutish, and have not sought the Lord: therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered” (Jeremiah 10:21).

Sheep love gentle attention and affection. Sheep on a ranch in Crawford (Colorado, U.S.A.), were reported to line up in front of a resident cat who enjoyed grooming them, and purring over them. During these sessions the sheep would close their eyes and soak up the affection. Some would even get back in line afterwards, hoping for a second turn. “Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture” (Psalm 100:3).

Sheep have an amazing tolerance for pain. If injured in an accident, the sheep do not lie there and scream, they get up and hobble off in silence. How fitting a picture of the spirit of the sacrificial Lamb of God! “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to



Nothing could harm the sheep without first facing the shepherd. . . . The good shepherd would literally “lay down” his life for the sheep.

the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth” (Isaiah 53:7).

Sheep appear to be predisposed to stray. If a lamb is constantly straying, the shepherd does something that seems a bit harsh. He breaks one of the lamb’s legs so it cannot walk and then carries it on his shoulders until it can walk again. The healing time becomes a bonding time, and the sheep learns to trust the shepherd and follow his leading. “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:6).

Amazingly, sheep seem willing to follow another one right into danger. However, they never walk a straight line because they are always looking back.

The biblical shepherd

“And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father’s sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: and I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him” (1 Samuel 17:34, 35).

It took courage to be a shepherd in biblical times—it was a dangerous job. There were foxes, wolves, lions, and bears always looking for an easy meal. And if that was not enough, there were thieves ready to steal as well. So a shepherd had to be armed and ready to defend the flock. The most common weapons were a sling and a club with sharp objects embedded in the end. A faithful



shepherd did not run at the sight of danger—he put his own life at risk to save the sheep. This is why Jesus explained: “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep” (John 10:11, 12).

In ancient times, shepherds lived an entire life with their sheep. Thus when the lambs grew up, they learned to associate the sound of the shepherd’s voice with safety, security, and tender care. Hence the comforting words: “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want” (Psalm 23:1).

At night the shepherd would gather the sheep together and lead them into the fold. Most of these were crude, makeshift circles of

sticks, brush, rocks, and others were limestone caves in the hillsides. Still today, in Palestine, one can see roughly constructed, temporary sheepfolds dotting the landscape. When the shepherd finally has all the sheep inside for the night he lies down in the doorway. So, the shepherd literally, physically becomes the door! “I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture” (John 10:9).

During the night no sheep can wander out, or wolves and robbers get in with the shepherd guarding the entrance. So nothing could harm the sheep without first facing the shepherd. Some shepherds were badly injured and others killed while defending their flock in the night. The good shepherd would literally “lay down” his life for the sheep (see John 10:15). What a lesson for our encouragement! 

Preventing Presumption

BY DANIEL ARWA OJUOK

“Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God” (Matthew 4:7).

Picture the scene: Christ is praying and fasting in the wilderness, preparing Himself for the great ministry He is about to undertake. He is weak and faint from hunger. Suddenly, Satan appears as a beautiful angel, urging the Lord to make instant bread to satisfy His physical need. But the Saviour refuses to give in to the temptation. He continues on, hungry as before.

The archenemy does not quit. Now he tells Jesus to jump off the top of the temple, arguing that God will

automatically protect Him if He does. Satan further insinuates that, Jesus enjoys the favor of God, and surely the all-powerful Father in heaven will send His angels to secure the safety of His beloved Son. After all, the psalmist had written of God’s promise of protection. Is it true? What would you do if you were Jesus in this situation?

We know the rest of this story. . . . Christ knew the will of His Father. He was one with Him. Jesus depended on God so much that He could boldly remind the deceiver not to tempt the Lord God.

Christ knew it was sin to tempt the Lord—it is presumption, the opposite of faith. And He knew this was a temptation He had to overcome in our behalf.

“Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

We believe Christ is coming soon. So when we come to Jesus, in order for us to have faith sufficient not to be deceived by the enemy, we cannot doubt God. But in presumption we crave God’s blessing—and we want it in order to commit sin. This is

contrary to the revealed will of the Father.

How can we tell the difference?

“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

Faith believes what God has said, but in presumption we know the will of God but still do the opposite. Christ was not overcome by the enemy to despise the revealed will of God.

“Faith is in no sense allied to presumption. Only he who has true faith is secure against presumption. For presumption is Satan’s counterfeit of faith. Faith claims God’s promises, and brings forth fruit in obedience. Presumption also claims the promises, but uses them as Satan did, to excuse transgression. Faith would have led our first parents to trust the love of God, and to obey His commands. Presumption led them to transgress His law, believing that His great love would save them from the consequence of their sin. It is not faith that claims the favor of Heaven without complying with the conditions on which mercy is to be granted. Genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of the Scriptures.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 126.

Examples

It is presumptuous to go to any place that is questionable while expecting God to be with us. To climb on top of a high roof or dangerous cliff and decide to jump

“Faith claims God’s promises, and brings forth fruit in obedience. Presumption also claims the promises, but uses them . . . to excuse transgression.”

off is presumption. Driving a car too fast or ignoring the highway warning signs is presumption. Getting involved in certain kinds of social encounters with bad company is presumption. Yes, we may think to claim God’s protection in such situations, but we may do so only by presumption.

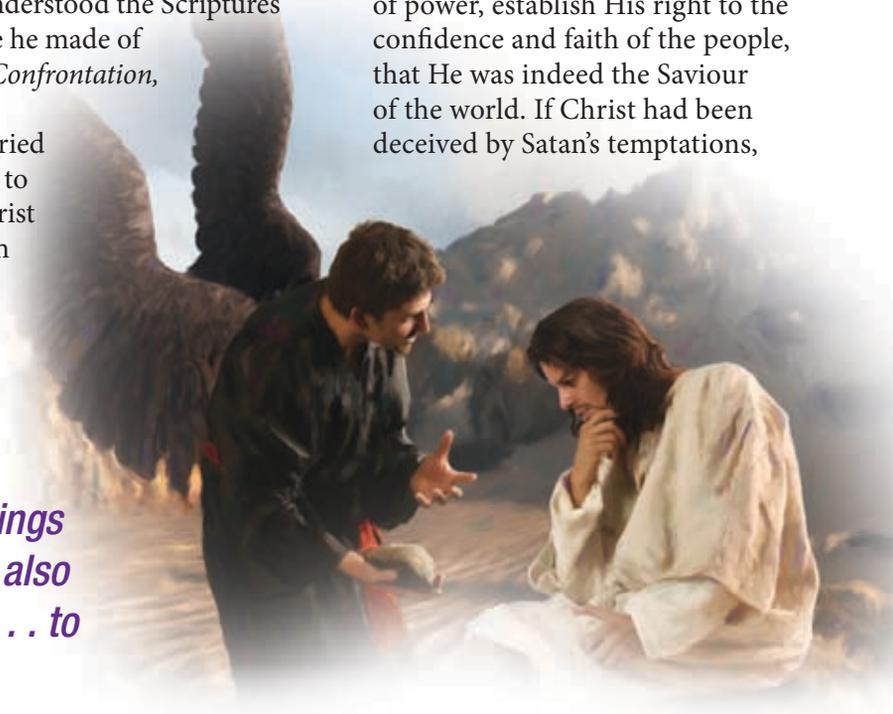
“The sin of presumption lies close beside the virtue of perfect faith and confidence in God. Satan flattered himself that he could take advantage of the humanity of Christ to urge Him over the line of trust to presumption. Upon this point many souls are wrecked. Satan tried to deceive Christ through flattery. He admitted that Christ was right in the wilderness in His faith and confidence that God was His Father, under the most trying circumstances. He then urged Christ to give him one more proof of His entire dependence upon God, one more evidence of His faith that He was the Son of God, by casting Himself from the Temple. He told Christ that if He was indeed the Son of God He had nothing to fear; for angels were at hand to uphold Him. Satan gave evidence that he understood the Scriptures by the use he made of them.”—*Confrontation*, p. 48.

Satan tried very hard to tempt Christ to act with

presumption. If Christ had jumped off that high pinnacle, the plan of redemption would have failed and we would be forever lost. The enemy tried to put doubt into the mind of Jesus. “If thou be the son of God,” he said. If? There was no need for an “if.” Christ knew who He was, so He did not need to prove anything.

Presumption is often associated with pride—something we do willfully, to despise the revealed will of God. In such circumstances, we think we can handle things, but often the enemy is craftier than we are, and suddenly we are trapped in his net.

“There are many who fail to distinguish between the rashness of presumption and the intelligent confidence of faith. Satan thought that by his temptations he could delude the world’s Redeemer to make one bold move in manifesting His divine power, to create a sensation, and to surprise all by the wonderful display of the power of His Father in preserving Him from injury. He suggested that Christ should appear in His real character, and by this masterpiece of power, establish His right to the confidence and faith of the people, that He was indeed the Saviour of the world. If Christ had been deceived by Satan’s temptations,



and had exercised His miraculous power to relieve Himself from difficulty, He would have broken the contract made with His Father, to be a probationer in behalf of the race.”—Ibid., pp. 84, 85.

Adam and Eve were warned not to eat of the forbidden fruit, but they believed they would still have God even while they were eating it. Just look at the tragic results of that one presumptuous act!

In Luke chapter 6, the man with the withered hand came to Jesus for help. The Lord told him to stretch forth his hand. By obeying, the man’s hand was restored. He acted by faith, not presumption.

Remember also the experience of Peter when he saw Christ walking on the sea. (Matthew 14:26–33.) The disciples were terrified at first, but then Peter asked the Lord to invite him onto the water if this was His will. Peter would have walked all the way until he reached Christ, but his faith failed on the way. When the Lord commands us to follow Him, we should do so until we reach Him and not worry about the consequences. We should not look around to see if anyone is watching. In genuine faith, Jesus will take care of the consequences.

“We should choose the right because it is right, and leave consequences with God. To men of principle, faith, and daring, the world is indebted for its great reforms. By such men the work of reform for this time must be carried

“There is no assurance of . . . protection for those who deliberately venture upon Satan’s ground.”

forward.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 460.

Let us go forward and upward as God has commanded.

Obedience is the key

God warns us about presumption in His inspired writings. He tells us how we may be preserved from presumption.

“Often when Satan has failed of exciting distrust, he succeeds in leading us to presumption. If he can cause us to place ourselves unnecessarily in the way of temptation, he knows that the victory is his. God will preserve all who walk in the path of obedience; but to depart from it is to venture on Satan’s ground. There we are sure to fall. The Saviour has bidden us, ‘Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation’ (Mark 14:38). Meditation and prayer would keep us from rushing unbidden into the way of danger, and thus we should be saved from many a defeat.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 126.

Christ humbled Himself and brought salvation to the human race. God gave all heaven in one gift. We are told to resist the devil and he will flee from us. We

should cleanse our hands and be clean by the blood of Christ and come before Him always.

“Angels of God will preserve His people while they walk in the path of duty, but there is no assurance of such protection for those who deliberately venture upon Satan’s ground. An agent of the great deceiver will say and do anything to gain his object. . . . Pretending great interest in their welfare, he casts a spell over his unsuspecting victims, charming them as the serpent charms the trembling bird. Soon they are completely in his power; sin, disgrace, and ruin are the terrible sequel.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 198.

We must study the Bible and see what is the revealed will of God—otherwise we could be walking on the enemy’s ground and not even realize it. But by knowing God’s will and walking only in straight paths we can be assured of the protection of God and of the holy angels.

Jesus wants us to learn meekness, humility, and self-control, for only such shall inherit the earth made new. Our Saviour was tempted not only in presumption, “for we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15 emphasis added).

We are invited to claim the power of Christ. He is more than willing to grant it to us that we may walk in safety. The victory is won through self-sacrifice and trust in His will and in His watchcare. Let us faithfully follow the footsteps of our Redeemer! 





**A COMPILATION
FROM THE WRITINGS OF
ELLEN G. WHITE**

The directions that Moses gave concerning the passover feast are full of significance, and have an application to parents and children in this age of the world. “Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the passover. And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the bason, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the bason; and

none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning. For the Lord will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the Lord will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you” (Exodus 12:21–23).

The father was to act as the priest of the household, and if the father

was dead, the eldest son living was to perform this solemn act of sprinkling the doorpost with blood. This is a symbol of the work to be done in every family. Parents are to gather their children into the home and to present Christ before them as their Passover. The father is to dedicate every inmate of his home to God, and to do a work that is represented by the feast of the passover. It is perilous to leave this solemn duty in the hands of others. This peril is well illustrated by an incident that is related concerning a Hebrew family on the night

If children would be more familiar with their parents, if they would confide in them and unburden to them their joys and sorrows, they would save themselves many a future heartache. When perplexed to know what course is right, let them lay the matter just as they view it before their parents, and ask advice of them.

“Have you marked the doorpost with blood?” . . . “Yes; I have given directions in regard to the matter. Do not be troubled; for the destroying angel will not enter here.” . . . “Are you sure that the doorpost is marked with blood?”

of the passover. The legend goes that the eldest daughter was sick; but that she was acquainted with the fact that a lamb was to be chosen for every family, and that its blood was to be sprinkled upon the lintel and side posts of the door so that the Lord might behold the mark of the blood, and not suffer the destroyer to enter in to smite the firstborn. With what anxiety she saw the evening approach when the destroying angel was to pass by. She became very restless. She called her father to her side, and asked, “Have you marked the doorpost with blood?” He answered, “Yes; I have given directions in regard to the matter. Do not be troubled; for the destroying angel will not enter here.” The night came on, and again and again the child called her father, still asking, “Are you sure that the doorpost is marked with blood?” Again and again the father assured her that she need have no fear; that a command which involved such consequences would not be neglected by his trustworthy servants. As midnight approached, her pleading voice was heard saying, “Father, I am not sure. Take me in your arms, and let me see the mark for myself, so that I can rest.” The father conceded to the wishes of his child; he took her in his arms and carried her to the door; but there was no blood mark upon the lintel or the posts. He trembled



with horror as he realized that his home might have become a house of mourning. With his own hands he seized the hyssop bough, and sprinkled the doorpost with blood. He then showed the sick child that the mark was there.¹

If you are blessed with God-fearing parents, seek counsel of them. Open to them your hopes and plans; learn the lessons which their life experiences have taught.

If children would be more familiar with their parents, if they would confide in them and unburden to them their joys and sorrows, they would save themselves many a future heart-ache. When perplexed to know what course is right, let them lay the matter just as they view it before their parents, and ask advice of them. Who are so well calculated to point out their dangers as godly parents? Who can understand their peculiar temperaments so well as they? Children who are Christians will esteem above earthly blessing the love and approbation of their God-fearing parents. The parents can sympathize with the children and pray for and with them that God will shield and guide them. Above everything else they will point them to their never-failing Friend and Counselor.² 

¹ *The Review and Herald*, May 21, 1895.

² *The Adventist Home*, pp. 73, 74.

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Dressing Up

ELI TENORIO DA SILVA

A little girl heard her mother and some friends talking about Christ's second coming. After a while her mother noticed the girl's absence and went searching for the little girl. She was found on the second floor of the house looking through the window.

When asked what she was doing, she answered: "Oh, Mommy, I heard you saying that Jesus might come today and I want to be the first one to see him. I took a shower and put on your clean dress."

Have you ever seen a child putting on his or her parents' clothes or shoes? Many of us even have pictures of our children doing that. We find it so cute to see them trying to look like us. I have always enjoyed seeing children doing that; it is really cute to see a baby tottering in his father's shoes; it is as if he wanted to say: "I want to be like my daddy."

As I was thinking today about how God wants to see us imitating His character, I am sure he enjoys seeing us trying to put on His spiritual clothes.

In Ephesians 6:11 God tells us to put on His whole armor that we may be able to stand against the devil's schemes. Daily we have to face the schemes of the enemy wherever we go. At school, at work, and even in church he works to make us focus on the wrong things and get us discouraged. As the Bible says, we are living in perilous times (2 Timothy 3:1).

Jesus promised: "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you" (Luke 10:19).

This power is available to you and me through the study of God's Word and morning and evening worship. These are moments for us to bring to our life this power, which will enable us to see Jesus walking with us all through the day.

May God help us to dress His raiment every morning, so that by His grace we may enjoy the blessing of wearing it throughout the day. Like the little girl, we should be found wearing a clean dress and be ready to meet Jesus. 

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OTHER SHEEP

*“Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold:
them also must I bring, and they shall hear my voice;
and there shall be one fold, an one shepherd” (John 10:16)*



Yet other sheep—our folded flocks are lying
Safe sheltered, tended, watched with loving care;
While lambs there be upon the hilltop dying,
Preying of night-wolf and the frosty air.

Yet other sheep—the Shepherd's feet are bleeding;
The dews of night are beaded on His brow,
Long time He sought us, and tonight He's pleading
That we will seek His other wanderers now.

Yet other sheep—in lands beyond the ocean—
By superstition and by want oppressed;
He bids us, from the nations in commotion
Gather the children in His arms to rest.

Yet other sheep—we hear the Saviour calling—
We hear the children shouting in their glee;
Can we not spread His blessed accents, falling
In liquid sweetness, “Bid them come to Me?”

Still other sheep—within the heavenly regions
Are many mansions glorious and fair,
Wherein to house the countless, rescued legions,
When we have led them to the Shepherd's care.

So shall we help to fill the earth with glory;
So to this wondrous world bring heaven down;
So swell the chorus of our dear Lord's story;
So multiply the jewels in His crown.

So when around His throne through countless ages
High heaven its endless festival doth keep;
Amid the prophets, patriarchs, and sages,
We'll hail with rapture all those “other sheep.”

—Anonymous