“**The Restorer of Paths to Dwell In**” – Chapter 8 – Fundamental Principles

Note- Anytime you see GPS it means “God’s Prophet Says”

**“… and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.” Isaiah 58:12**

I say patience and courage for God is taking charge of His movement in this final generation, specifically to right the wrongs that have changed the Seventh-day Adventist Church from what it was in our pioneer’s day. You have opportunity to be among those who will be part of the solution, or you can choose to oppose the God you profess to serve.

As we begin today Let us invite God’s presence … Father, Satan is angry. He has worked long and hard to get our denomination to the sorry point of apostasy we find it in today. But there are those of us who want the faith of our pioneers restored. We invite your presence as we examine things that the enemy of souls does not want us to know, in Jesus name, AMEN.

Each day of our series “The Restorer of Paths to Dwell In,” we begin with this quote: ***“The greatest want of the world is the want of men,--men who will not be bought or sold; men who in their inmost souls are true and honest; men who do not fear to call sin by its right name; men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole; men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.”--***Education, p. 57. (1903) {CM 54.4} How will you stand my brother … my sister? Will you stand for the right though the heavens fall?

Right now it is very important to read this statement before today’s study:

***“In reviewing our past history, having traveled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what God has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.”*** {CET 204.1} (Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White)

We have our Bibles and we have the testimony of Jesus, we have our marching orders for this final generation which is to spread throughout the world, the everlasting gospel contained in the three angel’s messages. In these ten decades that have followed the death of Ellen White, Satan has been working to change our religion into an empty shell of what it used to be. But God has given us a command in Isaiah 58:1 **“Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.”** The “my people” that we are to show their transgression are those who adhere to a counterfeit Sabbath. But we are also to show the house of Jacob their transgression and we are to cry aloud and spare not. The house of Jacob is the Seventh-day Adventist Church and what is the specific transgression that we are to show them that they are committing? It is the breaking of the first commandment, **“Thou shalt have no other gods before me,”** and the breaking of the 9th Commandment, **“Thou shalt not bear false witness.”** The Trinity doctrine is a false witness with a counterfeit god.

In the last 7 chapters we have learned that the Father and Jesus the begotten Son of God are the only two Divine Beings in the Godhead and it is only their omnipresent Holy Spirit that is the third person of the Godhead. That was the belief and teaching of our pioneers. Then when one takes that omnipresent Spirit of the Father and the Son and says it is the working of a non-existent third god called “God the Holy Spirit,” that a person with such a belief is breaking the first commandment. The steps that Satan has taken to get us to this point have been subtle but extremely effective.

Isaiah 58:12 is for us today, **“And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.”** Herein lies a fourfold God given responsibility that those who hear the voice of God will fulfill. 1. Build the old waste places; 2. Raise up the foundations of many generations; 3. Be the repairers of the breach made in the Ten Commandments and 4. Be the restorers of paths to dwell in.” Well how can we be the restorers if we are not familiar with the paths to dwell in?

Today’s study is more about our history, as that is an area that too many Adventists are too weak in. Just before we go there, here is something few Adventists are aware of.

There is a verse in the Bible that has been inserted into the text, whether by ignorance or by design, it has no business being there. That verse is 1 John 5:7, which reads, **“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”** 1 John 5:7 describes a Triune God.

Ellen White never once quoted it and a great majority of Bible Commentaries tell us that this verse has no legitimate place in the Scriptures. We read in the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary the following:

“The passage as given in the KJV is in none of the 112 Greek MS earlier than the 15th and the 16th centuries. The disputed words found their way into the KJV by way of the Greek text of Erasmus (see Vol. V, p. 141). It is said that Erasmus offered to include the disputed words in his Greek Testament if he were shown even one Greek MS that contained them. A library in Dublin produced such a MS (known as 34), and Erasmus included the passage in his text. It is now believed that the later editions of the Vulgate acquired the passage by the mistake of a scribe who included an exegetical marginal comment in the Bible text that he was copying. The disputed words have been widely used in support of the doctrine of the Trinity, but, in view of such overwhelming evidence against their authenticity, their support is valueless and should not be used. In spite of their appearance in the Vulgate. A Catholic Commentary on Holy Scripture freely admits regarding these words: “It is now generally held that this passage, called the Comma Johanneum, is a gloss that crept into the text of the Old Latin and Vulgate at an early date, but found its way into the Greek text only in the 15th and 16th centuries” (Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1951, p. 1186) Except for the New King James Version, most other versions do not have a trinitarian rendering.

Right now we need to examine the Fundamental Principles of our pioneers while Ellen White was alive, then we will look at the fundamental beliefs of 1931 where subtle change began. We will then look at the 1981 Fundamental beliefs which propelled us into the Omega of Apostasy. Satan has tried to bring in every possible belief that is a mixture of truth with deadly error. That is today, and it was no different in Ellen White’s day.

Listen carefully now to God’s prophet, 10MR 45.1,

***“This manner of working is making my burden heavier than God ever designed it to be. This painful experience makes my heart ache. I am instructed to say to those who endeavor to tear down the foundation that has made us Seventh-day Adventists:”*** (Let me stop right here for a moment. She said that there will be those who will attempt to tear down the foundation that has made us Seventh-day Adventists, and in Isaiah 58:12 we are commanded to raise up the foundations of many generations.) Continuing, ***I am instructed to say to those who endeavor to tear down the foundation that has made us Seventh-day Adventists: We are God's commandment-keeping people. For the past fifty years every phase of heresy has been brought to bear upon us, to becloud our minds regarding the teaching of the Word--especially concerning the ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, and the message of heaven for these last days, as given by the angels of the fourteenth chapter of Revelation. Messages of every order and kind have been urged upon Seventh-day Adventists, to take the place of the truth which, point by point, has been sought out by prayerful study, and testified to by the miracle-working power of the Lord. But the waymarks which have made us what we are, are to be preserved, and they will be preserved, as God has signified through His Word and the testimonies of His Spirit. He calls upon us to hold firmly, with the grip of faith, to the fundamental principles that are based upon unquestionable authority.”*** {10MR 45.1}

This is the testimony of Jesus and therefore it is Jesus who through His prophet is telling us to hold firmly, with the grip of faith, tothe fundamental principles that are based upon unquestionable authority.”

Here are the first two published Fundamental Principles in 1872, taught and practiced by Seventh-day Adventists:

Fundamental Principle **-I- That there is one God, a personal, spiritual being, the creator of all things, omnipotent, omniscient, and eternal, infinite in wisdom, holiness, justice, goodness, truth, and mercy; unchangeable, and everywhere present by his representative, the Holy Spirit.** Ps. 139:7. {1872, FP1872 4.2} So this first principle that we are to hold firmly, with the grip of faith is about God the Father who is the source of all creation. all powerful, all knowing, eternal, meaning He had no beginning, whose wisdom is infinite, is holy, just, good, merciful, unchangeable, and by His omnipresence His Spirit is everywhere present.

Fundamental Principle **-II- That there is one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Eternal Father, the one by whom God created all things, and by whom they do consist; that he took on him the nature of the seed of Abraham for the redemption of our fallen race; that he dwelt among men full of grace and truth, lived our example, died our sacrifice, was raised for our justification, ascended on high to be our only mediator in the sanctuary in Heaven, where, with his own blood he makes atonement for our sins; which atonement so far from being made on the cross, which was but the offering of the sacrifice, is the very last portion of his work as priest, according to the example of the Levitical priesthood, which foreshadowed and prefigured the ministry of our Lord in Heaven.** See Lev. 16; Heb. 8:4, 5; 9:6, 7; etc. {1872, FP1872 4.3} So this second Fundamental Principle that we are to hold firmly, with the grip of faith is about Jesus the Son of the eternal Father. It does not say that Jesus is the eternal God because at a point in time so far back in eternity He was begotten of the Father and was of the same substance, however the personality of Jesus had a beginning. The Father appointed His Son to be creator of all things.

Those are the only two fundamental principles pertaining to the Godhead in 1872. The other 23 of 25 Fundamental Principles were regarding doctrines such as baptism, the sanctuary, the second coming, etc. In that first one it states clearly that there is one God and in the second one there is one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the eternal Father. No mention of a third God the Holy Spirit. It does say in the first one that the Father is everywhere present by his representative, the Holy Spirit. That speaks to the Father’s omnipresence.

In the 1889 Fundamental Principles the first principle pertaining to the Father and His omnipresent Holy Spirit was unchanged. There was slight changes in Principle #2 pertaining to Jesus Christ which gave more clarification without changing His responsibilities. It reads thus:

Fundamental Principle **II. That there is one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Eternal Father, the one by whom he created all things, and by whom they do consist; that he took on him the nature of the seed of Abraham for the redemption of our fallen race; that he dwelt among men, full of grace and truth, lived our example, died our sacrifice, was raised for our justification, ascended on high to be our only mediator in the sanctuary in heaven, where, through the merits of his shed blood, he secures the pardon and forgiveness of the sins of all those who penitently come to him; and as the closing portion of his work as priest, before he takes his throne as king, he will make the great atonement for the sins of all such, and their sins will then be blotted out (Acts 3:19) and borne away from the sanctuary, as shown in the service of the Levitical priesthood, which foreshadowed and prefigured the ministry of our Lord in heaven.** See Lev. 16; Heb. 8:4, 5; 9:6, 7; etc. 1 {1889, FP1889 147.3}

In the 1889 Fundamental Principles as well as in the 1872 Fundamental Principles, there is no mention of a third Divine Being called “God the Holy Spirit.” For that matter there is no mention of “God the Son.” This is important because you will not find the word structure “God the Son,” in the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy. He is fully God but He is the begotten Son of God and as E. J. Waggoner wrote in ST Apr. 8, 1889. He wrote: ***“While both are of the same nature, the Father is first in point of time. He is also greater in that He had no beginning, while Christ’s personality had a beginning.”***

So the pioneers and Ellen White lived by the Fundamental Principles that God led them to establish with His blessings. We too therefore are to hold firmly, with the grip of faith, tothe fundamental principles that are based upon unquestionable authority. No changes were made in the fundamental principles until 16 years after Ellen White’s death. One seemingly small thing was the word “Principles” was changed to “Beliefs.” Why do you think Satan would have manipulated this change? Could it be that future Adventists would not connect this quote, “***He calls upon us to hold firmly, with the grip of faith, to the fundamental principles that are based upon unquestionable authority,”*** with the 1872 and 1889 Fundamental Principles I and II. Then when they read the quote, “***The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error.”*** {1SM 204.2} they could not make the connection.

While Sister White was alive, there was nothing said about the Godhead being co-equal or co-eternal. We will see shortly that the three God, co-equal, co-eternal scenario evolved over the five decades from the 1931 issuance of the Fundamental Beliefs.

Now let us look at the 1931 Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists. For the most part the denomination had not changed much from the historic Adventism of the pioneers, however with subtle changes Satan was using his influence. In the 1931 issue, the first Fundamental Belief pertained to the Holy Scriptures, which was the third Fundamental Principle in the 1872 and 1889 year books.

 The second Fundamental belief of the 1931 year book is the first mention of a Trinity.

**2. That the Godhead, or Trinity, consists of the Eternal Father, a personal, spiritual Being, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, infinite in wisdom and love; the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Eternal Father, through whom all things were created and through whom the salvation of the redeemed hosts will be accomplished; the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Godhead, the great regenerating power in the work of redemption.** Matt. 28:19. {1931, FB1931 377.3} Just like ancient Israel wanting to be like the other countries in their governments, so Adventists wanted to be more like their Protestant counterparts in terminology. The word Trinity is not found in the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy.

 Although the word Trinity is not in the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy, it has its origin in Paganism and Catholicism, it has been used here for the first time, inserted into the Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists, but was done so under prior protest.

Something else to note, although Sister White has stated that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead, this is the first implication that the Holy Spirit is a third Being. The fact that it states, regarding the Father, that He is “a personal, spiritual Being, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient …” Since His omnipresence is His Holy Spirit, the wording implies that the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct being.

Notice the wording in the 1872 and 1889:

1. That there is one God, a personal, spiritual being, the creator of all things omnipotent, omniscient, and eternal; infinite in wisdom, holiness, justice, goodness, truth, and mercy; unchangeable, and everywhere present by his representative, the Holy Spirit.

You see the Omnipresence of His Spirit is stated as everywhere present by his representative, the Holy Spirit. A seemingly small subtle change but big as far as influencing future thinking.

The third Fundamental Belief of the 1931 Year Book regarding Christ is as follows:

**3. That Jesus Christ is very God, being of the same nature and essence as the Eternal Father. While retaining His divine nature He took upon Himself the nature of the human family, lived on the earth as a man, exemplified in His life as our Example the principles of righteousness, attested His relationship to God by many mighty miracles, died for our sins on the cross, was raised from the dead, and ascended to the Father, where He ever lives to make intercession for us.** John 1:1, 14; Heb. 2:9-18; 8:1, 2; 4:14-16; 7:25. {1931, FB1931 377.4}

This statement is acceptable in that it says He is of the same “nature and essence;” Sister White says “substance.” His begotten status is still intact. It does not say co-equal or co-eternal and therefore has not strayed from the historic perspective. However Satan would work to make those blatantly offensive changes in subsequent decades.

Regarding the 1942, 1955 and the 1975 Yearbooks, these already mentioned portions of the Fundamental Beliefs remained for the most part unchanged.

At the 1980 General Conference session in Dallas the dramatic changes to the Fundamental Beliefs were voted in, under much protest, and were published in the 1981 Year Book. The First Belief pertained to the Holy Scriptures and is fine as written.

The second belief pertains to the Trinity and says the following: **"There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons. God is immortal, all-powerful, all-knowing, above all, and ever present. He is infinite and beyond human comprehension, yet known through His self-revelation. He is forever worthy of worship, adoration, and service by the whole creation.”** (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:46; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 Tim. 17; Rev. 14:7.) {1981, FB1981 5.5}

This is a significant departure from the Fundamental Principles that God led the pioneers to establish with His blessings which we therefore were to hold firmly, with the grip of faith. Wherein the Father was the only eternal One who had no beginning, in 1981 we now have three co-eternal Beings.

The third 1981 belief is pertaining to God the Eternal Father;

The fourth pertaining to God the eternal Son;

The fifth pertaining to God the Holy Spirit.

Three Gods which are called the Trinity. Some Adventists believe in the Catholic view of a three in one, while others believe in the Tritheism view, three distinct and separate Gods. Satan really doesn’t care which of the two views you believe, just as long as you accept the Seventh-day Adventist church that he has crafted for this time. A church that has literally done away with the First commandment with a third god, as the Papacy did away with the fourth commandment. God’s command is to cry aloud and spare not and I for one can do no less.

How could this have happened? We have the answer in AA580.1 GPS ***“But after a time the zeal of the believers began to wane, and their love for God and for one another grew less. Coldness crept into the church. Some forgot the wonderful manner in which they had received the truth. One by one the old standard-bearers fell at their post. Some of the younger workers, who might have shared the burdens of these pioneers, and thus have been prepared for wise leadership, had become weary of oft-repeated truths. In their desire for something novel and startling, they attempted to introduce new phases of doctrine, more pleasing to many minds, but not in harmony with the fundamental principles of the gospel. In their self-confidence and spiritual blindness they failed to discern that these sophistries would cause many to question the experiences of the past, and would thus lead to confusion and unbelief.”***{AA 580.1} Even though this was describing a time in the early Christian church, it perfectly describes the Laodicean church and the cause of the apostasy. What has been, will be. Nothing new under the sun.

We read this from CCh 326.7 GPS, ***“I beseech those who are laboring for God not to accept the spurious for the genuine. Let not human reason be placed where divine, sanctifying truth should be. Christ is waiting to kindle faith and love in the hearts of His people. Let not erroneous theories receive countenance from the people who ought to be standing firm on the platform of eternal truth. God calls upon us to hold firmly to the fundamental principles that are based upon unquestionable authority.”*** {CCh 326.7}

We will continue with still much more in chapter 9, God willing.

Let us pray … “Eternal Father forgive us for our spiritual blindness, anoint our eyes with spiritual eye salve that we may see. In Jesus name, AMEN