

A Continuing Quest for Truth

by Ellen G. White

Combined by Dr. Fritz Guy

"For sixty years I have been in communication with heavenly messengers, and I have been constantly learning in reference to divine things..." *Selected Messages*, 3 vols. (Washington, DC: Review & Herald, 1980), 3:71.

". . . . Whenever the people of God are growing in grace, they will be constantly obtaining a clearer understanding of His Word. They will discern new light and beauty in its sacred truths. This has been true in the history of the church in all ages, and thus it will continue to the end. But as real spiritual life declines, it has ever been the tendency to cease to advance in the knowledge of the truth. Men rest satisfied with the light already received from God's Word, and discourage any further investigation of the Scriptures. They become conservative, and seek to avoid discussion.

"The fact that there is no controversy or agitation among God's people should not be regarded as conclusive evidence that they are holding fast to sound doctrine. When no new questions are started by investigation of the Scriptures, when no difference of opinion arises which will set men to searching the Bible for themselves, to make sure that they have the truth, there will be many now, as in ancient times, who will hold to tradition, and worship they know not what. . . .

"When God's people are at ease and satisfied with their present enlightenment, we may be sure that He will not favor them. It is His will that they should be ever moving forward to receive the increased and ever-increasing light which is shining on them. The present attitude of the church is not pleasing to God. There has come in a self-confidence that has led them to feel no necessity for more truth and greater light. . . . God wills that a voice shall be heard arousing His people to action."

"The Mysteries of the bible a Proof of its Inspiration," *Testimonies for the Church*, 9 vols. (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press, 1948), 5:706-9 (1889).

". . . . We do not claim that in the doctrines sought out by those who have studied the word of truth, there may not be some error, for no man that lives is infallible; but if God has sent light, we want it; and God has sent light, and let every man be careful how he treats it."

"Open the Heart to Light," *Adventist Review and Sabbath herald*, March 25, 1890, 177. Parts of this article were reprinted in *Counsels to Writers and Editors* (Nashville: Southern, 1946), 33-34, 41-42, but not the sentence quoted here.

". . . . Let no one come to the conclusion that there is no more truth to be revealed. The diligent, prayerful seeker for truth will find precious rays of light yet to shine forth from the word of God. Many gems are yet scattered that are to be gathered together to become the property of the remnant people of God."

Counsels on Sabbath School Work (Battle Creek, MI.: Review and Herald, 1892), 34; repr. *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, 35.

"Long-cherished opinions must not be regarded as infallible. . . . However long men may have entertained certain views, if they are not clearly sustained by the written word, they should be discarded. Those who sincerely desire truth will not be reluctant to lay open their positions for investigation and criticism, and will not be annoyed if their opinions and ideas are crossed. . . .

"We have many lessons to learn, and many, many to unlearn. God and heaven alone are infallible. Those who think that they will never have to give up a cherished view, never have occasion to change an opinion, will be disappointed."

"Search the Scriptures," *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, July 26, 1892, 465; repr. *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, 36-37; and, in part, in *Selected Messages from the Writings of Ellen G. White*, 3 vols. (Washington, DC: Review and Herald, 1958-80), 1:37.

"There is no excuse for anyone in taking the position that there is no more truth to be revealed, and that all our expositions of Scripture are without an error. The fact that certain doctrines have been held as truth for many years by our people is not a proof that our ideas are infallible. Age will not make error into truth, and truth can afford to be fair. No true doctrine will lose anything by close investigation."

"Christ Our Hope," *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, Dec. 20, 1892, 785; repr. *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, 35.

"There, immortal minds will contemplate with never failing delight the wonders of creative power, the mysteries of redeeming love. . . . Every faculty will be developed, every capacity increased. The acquirement of knowledge will not weary the mind or exhaust the energies. There the grandest enterprises may be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations reached, the highest ambitions realized; and still there will be new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of mind and soul and body.

"All the treasures of the universe will be open to the study of God's redeemed. . . .

"And the years of eternity, as they roll, will bring richer and still more glorious revelations of God and of Christ. As knowledge is progressive, so will love, reverence, and happiness increase. The more [the redeemed] learn of God, the greater will be their admiration of His character."

The Great Controversy Between Christ and Satan (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press, 1911), 677-78; see also *Education* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press, 1903), 305.