

## Kept By The Word

For the past few weeks, we have been investigating faith. We have been taking studies from the book "Lessons on Faith," and seeing the writings of (primarily) A.T. Jones through the lens of this generation's new light. Hopefully, in addition to being encouraged by the substance of Jones' writings, you have also been noticing something very important; and, in case you have not, I will point it out here.

We have had to change absolutely nothing from this pioneer's writings in order to receive Yah's full blessing from these "old time" sermons. We have not had to cross out any words (as we have done with some hymns inherited from mainstream Adventism). We have not had to explain away any of the author's use of the verses. We have not had to say, "What he MEANS is..." We have not once had to say, "This was acceptable for a time, but Yahweh has since revealed that..."

The reason for this is very simple. Creation Seventh Day Adventists are Adventists of the truest form. We are they who have taken the message delivered unto the saints of generations past, and are taking this message, one last time, to the world that is dead in its trespasses and sins.

One of the things we have been doing to fortify ourselves for this task, as I have said, is looking at the concept of faith. And specifically, we are looking at how that faith relates to the Word of Yahweh. Our past two studies have been called, "Power in The Word" (parts 1 and 2). This week, we will be looking at another study presented in the same book, a short one called "Kept by The Word." We have seen, and will see further, that faith is trust in this Word, in the statements and promises of Yahweh. And for the 144,000, as we have seen in previous studies, it is not enough to merely "trust" in the sense of blindly following and obeying. Such obedience is a virtue for children, but Yahshua has said that He has called us friends, and tells us what the Father says to Him.

This is a high honor indeed, and so we study the Word intensely, to see not only WHAT to believe, but also why we believe it in an intelligent, unshakeable way. When we are settled on the Word of Yahweh, the Scriptures say we shall not waver in our convictions, and we shall not be moved.

We begin, then:

[quote]

In the Christian life everything depends upon the word of God. It is true that God is able and desires to keep us from sinning, but this must be done through His word. So it is written, "By the word of thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer." "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee." This is the way that God has appointed and there is no other way to have this thing accomplished.

[endquote]

We have said that the Victory over sin depends, to a great extent, upon believing it is possible TO overcome sin in just the way the Bible describes. This has truly been our greatest barrier to overcome in speaking to others in Christian churches. People have been taught, for so long, and so intensely, that it is not possible to cease from sin until they receive their new bodies, or until they progress "further" in the faith than even their teachers have ever been able to travel.

This is terribly discouraging, but the way it is “spun” as good news is that the pastors and teachers will take the “silver lining” of this perverted gospel and make it into the main result. What I mean is this: They will teach, “Yes, it is impossible to keep from sinning, but isn’t it wonderful that we have a God who will forgive us despite our constant failures?”

In this way, Yah is made an object of praise, but for the wrong thing. The Scriptures say that He is able to KEEP us from falling, but as Jones writes, “this must be done through His word.” The fact that it is Yahweh in us that brings forth salvation is not a pleasant message to those who are taught from birth that they must struggle and compete to “get ahead in life.” To the carnal mind, it seems very unnatural and uncomfortable. We teach that in order to work, one must learn to rest... and that one must first trust that this is so in order to see it function. This step, this mental “leap,” is the only way to escape from the doctrines of Babylon. We must trust in the word, and then let it do its good work within us.

Continuing:

[quote]

Nor is this way [overcoming sin through the word] appointed merely because He arbitrarily chose that this should be the way and then laid it upon men that this must be the way that they should go. His word is the way of salvation and the way of sanctification (Christian living) because this is the way that the Lord does things, because this is the way that He manifests Himself. It was by His word that He created all things in the beginning. It is by His word that He creates men anew, and it will be by His word that He will recreate this world and all things pertaining to it. “By the word of the Lord were the heavens made and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. . . . For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.” “Being born again. . . by the word of God.” “And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold I make all things new. . . . And he said unto me, It is done.”

It is not only that the worlds were created by the word of God, but they are also sustained by the same word. “By the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water; whereby [by the word of God] the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished. But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store.” So also it is not only that the Christian is created by the word of God, but by that same word He is sustained, nourished, and caused to grow. God holds up “all things” by His powerful word. And the Christian is among this “all things” no less than any or all the worlds.

[endquote]

Last week, I answered a question by email about the name of our Church. It is a question we have been asked before, but answering it always blesses me. The question was, in essence, “If you believe that the name ‘Seventh-day Adventist’ is the name that God has given you through divine inspiration, doesn’t it alter the name to add ‘Creation’ to the front?”

As I responded, the Scriptures tell us that those who have been brought forth from the cursed nation that used to be the people of Yahweh will both keep the cursed name, and receive “another” name in addition. (Isa 35:15) But that is just the theological reason; by that I mean, this is the Scriptural justification. Yahweh, however, always has a very practical reason for whatsoever He does. We know that the name

“Seventh-day Adventist” was given to be an open testimony, a public rebuke to those who had rejected the fourth commandment that indicates the Sabbath of the seventh day of the week.

This is the reason why He gives names, to be a sign of some vital element for salvation in that generation. This is the case all down through the Biblical record. And the addition of the name ‘Creation’ shows that we believe in both the original creation of the world and mankind, and the RE-creation of both the world and mankind. We believe that Yah creates by His word, and just as He made life where there was no life, and light where there was no light, so He creates holiness, sanctification, obedience, agape-love, and all the other elements of the fruit of the spirit where before there were none. In short: by the power of Yah’s word, we see the antitype of the physical creation in our hearts.

Continuing...

[quote]

There can be no question whatever that all the worlds are held up and held in their places by the Lord. But it is not only all the worlds, it is “all things” that are held up and held in place by the Lord. And it is as true of the Christian as it is of any star in the firmament or any world on high. Nor can there be any question that the stars and the worlds are held up and held in their courses by the word of the Lord. And no less than this can there be any question that the Christian is held up and held in his right course by the word of the Lord.

This is to be believed and depended upon by every one who professes the name of Christ. You and I can no more hold ourselves up and in the right way than can the sun or the earth. And as certainly as the worlds are dependent upon His word, so certainly is the Christian to depend upon His word. And when this is so, the Christian is kept in the way of the Lord as certainly and as easily as is any planet in the universe. It is written that He “is able to keep you from falling.” And He says, “I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.” “Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.”

[endquote]

I am certain that, had the Seventh-day Adventist mainstream church (or any OTHER church) not adopted the trinity paradigm, not surrendered its firm stance on righteousness by faith, and stood apart from the power of the state, today there would be a huge church on earth keeping not only the weekly Sabbaths, but living the sanctified life, observing the annual holy days and the monthly New Moons as well. Jones’ words here are those of one who understands the connection between the physical cosmos and the universe that is each human being made in the image of Yahweh.

The sun, moon and stars are, in a very loose sense, our “brothers,” for our Father created them also. They are not living creatures; however, they are subject to the same physical laws that we are, and they are sustained (kept in existence and in their courses) by the same Power that we are. Their obedience, which requires no act of will, ought to be an encouragement for us to intelligently use our wills to remain within the divine path for our lives. This being done, it is as impossible for us to sin (that is, to step outside of that divine path) than it would be for the moon to fall out of its circuit.

Continuing:

[quote]

O struggling, failing Christian, is not that word which holds up great worlds able also to hold up you? Trust that word. Depend implicitly upon it. Rest wholly upon it, and then you will find rest in it. Trust the Lord to hold you up, just as you trust Him to hold up the sun. His word holds up the sun, and His word is over and over to you, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee." "I will uphold thee." I will keep thee, thou art mine. "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." I will never leave thee till I have done that thing which I have spoken to thee of.

[endquote]

Yah has given gifts unto His children. He has given us the gift of faith, and the gift of memory. These two are intimately linked, for there is nothing so sustaining to our faith than to remember the things that Yah has done for us in the past. And inspiration says that there is nothing so disastrous for our faith than forgetting His blessings to us in the days and years during which He has guided us.

When some, studying with us, have confessed to feeling tempted to forsake the promises, we have not flooded them with Bible verses, as I have seen some groups do. This flurry of Scriptures often does more harm than good, for the victim may be made to feel even more guilty that he or she does not already know, and has not already memorized, these "wonderful words." Instead, we have (gently, with all love and charity) placed the responsibility where it truly lies. We have encouraged the struggling ones to do something like taking a blank notebook and searching through the Bible for verses that mean something to THEM. And, having found the promises that speak to their hearts, to write these down and read them as our Father's personal promise. They should read these words as if there were no one else on earth, and the Savior has visited with them individually, speaking these verses. This practical exercise has been a great blessing to these souls, for many reasons.

We conclude:

[quote]

"The word of God is quick ['living,' R. V.] and powerful." "Powerful" means "full of power." the word of God is living and full of power, to do for you, with you, and in you, all that that word says. Believe that word, trust it, for it is the word of the living God. It is the word of the pitying Saviour. "Receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your soul." "I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up." "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." You "are kept by the power of God through faith." The power of God is manifested through His word and therefore it is His powerful word. Faith comes by hearing the word of God; therefore, it is the faithful word, the word full of faith. Therefore when He says, you "are kept by the power of God through faith," it is only saying in another way, You are kept by the word of God, "unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." Believe that word, trust it, and find its keeping power.

[endquote]

One of the most powerful things about the Word of Yahweh is that it is infinitely deep, and yet its blessings can be stated in the simplest possible language. This study is not particularly complex, not at all... and yet it contains the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. We have these things that Yahweh has said

He will do for us: keep us from falling, present us before Himself without spot, make a Way for us to follow perfectly in His path, encourage us when we are tempted, correct us when we cannot clearly see the way ahead, and so forth and so on. The Creation Seventh Day Adventist Church accepts all these things without a shadow of dilution or adulteration... as simply as they can possibly be read and understood. People have asked me, "How do I know I have found the right place spiritually, that my church is the right one – since I DO believe there is only one united, visible Body on earth?" This is one of the key reasons why... because we believe in the power of the Word to keep us. We, its members, are "kept by the word," as the name of this study indicates. I know of NO other religion – Christian or otherwise – that both correctly defines sin AND avoids it entirely as a matter of course. I know of no other organization in Christendom with adherents that actually claim to be KEPT from sin by the Word. Many will say they are forgiven, but none will say that they are first forgiven and then kept. That is a big difference, and one that may be used to try the spirits of these groups, for the Word does not say that we will be kept in a cycle of sin and repentance until the Lord returns. It says we will be kept from falling. This is both the promise we have received, and the invitation we offer to any and all. There is nothing "special" about us as individuals, apart from Christ. It is only in union with Him that we have any worth. And our Savior wishes to be in union with all of those for whom He has died. But when we believe that this is so, that we will be kept from falling by faith in His word... when we receive this promise as if Yahshua Himself had visited us and spoken just these words to use as individuals, then we have the power to overcome all the darkness of this world.

New Moon on Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup>.