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WHO IS A TRUE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST? (PART 2)

We shall be attacked on every point; we shall be tried to the utmost. We do not want to hold our faith simply because it was handed down to us by our fathers. Such a faith will not stand the terrible test that is before us. We want to know why we are Seventh-day Adventists,—what real reason we have for coming out from the world as a separate and distinct people. {RH April 29, 1884, Art. B, par. 4}

Greetings dear friend. You know, one of the main terms of identification we as Seventh-day Adventists readily ascribe to, is that of 'the remnant'. We acknowledge ourselves as the remnant church of Bible prophecy. Yet as we accept this identification, we would have learned in Part 1 of this tract series, that in order to truly be the remnant we must *actively* fulfill the characteristics of the remnant. We can't just say we are the remnant, we must **do** what the remnant does. Only by **believing** and **walking** in the light of the remnant, will God acknowledge us as such a people.

So then, what are the characteristics of the remnant? We find them in the twelfth chapter of the book of Revelation: **Revelation 12:17 (KJV) >>** 17And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

The Bible tells us, dear friend, two characteristics of the remnant. They keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. Now the commandments of God is a truth which covers a deep, broad range of spiritual applications. We should study this together at some appropriate juncture. However, for the purposes of this study we shall seek to understand the other truth mentioned, which is the **testimony of Jesus**. We want to know what it is and what does it mean to **have** the testimony of Jesus...

As the Bible interprets itself, "...line upon line; here a little, and there a little" (Isaiah 28:10), we can find in another portion of Revelation just what the testimony of Jesus is. It's found in Rev. 19:10: **Revelation 19:10 (KJV) >>** 10And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not; I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the

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testimony of Jesus is **the spirit of prophecy**.

We see here then, that the testimony of Jesus the remnant has is also termed the 'spirit of prophecy'. Let's further analyze our Bible line upon line to exactly understand what the spirit of prophecy is. We find such a connection in the book of Acts: **Acts 2:16-17 (KJV) >>** 16But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; 17And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

We now see in more detail that in the last days, the time of the last generation of the church - the remnant - it is the same time that the Lord will pour out His Spirit upon His faithful and they shall prophesy. We should see among the remnant, the gift of the Holy Spirit manifest, instructing them through prophesyings, dreams and visions. This is what we should understand to be the spirit of prophecy or testimony of Jesus.

Now, it would be rather exhaustive to trace the history of the spirit of prophecy in the last days, for more than one has been called to the prophetic office. But what has become abundantly clear, especially to sincere SDAs, is that there was eventually one who was chosen to bear this work as a lifetime ministry. This person was **Sister Ellen G. White (1827-1915)**. She was called during the humble beginnings of the SDA church, when the formative doctrines were being studied from the Bible by fellow pioneers. Read her first-hand testimony:

In the early days of the message, when our numbers were few, we **studied diligently to understand the meaning of many scriptures**. At times it seemed as if no explanation could be given. My mind seemed to be locked to an understanding of the Word; but **when our brethren who had assembled for study, came to a point where they could go no farther, and had recourse to earnest prayer, the Spirit of God would rest upon me, and I would be taken off in vision, and be instructed in regard to the relation of scripture to scripture. These experiences were repeated over and over and over again. Thus many truths of the third angel's message were established, point by point.** {RH, June 14, 1906 par. 18}

My fellow SDA, God fulfilled the spirit of prophecy to the remnant through the ministry of Ellen White. Men have exhausted all the Bible tests to examine her work time and time again - both during her lifetime and even today. The passing of time has only proven more so the faithfulness of her life and the instruction given her of God. As our Lord never contradicts His Word, so has the writings of E. G. White ever upheld the Bible as the ultimate standard of faith and practice (Isaiah 8:20). The testimony which Christ gives to us through her writings, is just as how He gave testimony through the prophets of old (2Peter 1:20,21). References for further reading on the many evidences of this gift are given at the end of this tract.

The Spirit of Prophecy and True SDAs
Now we have come to the heart of the matter. The Bible

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tells us in Rev. 12:17 that the remnant "**have** the testimony of Jesus". In other words, the remnant **have** the spirit of prophecy. Well, this is very important to being a true SDA. What does it mean to 'have' the spirit of prophecy? Look at the official translation of the "have" in this verse:

G2192 (Mickelson's Enhanced Strong's Greek and Hebrew Dictionaries)

G2192 ἔχω **echo** (ekh'-o) (including an alternate form scheo skheh'-o; (used in certain tenses only)) v.

1. to hold (such as possession, ability, contiguity, relation, or condition)

This word "have" in this passage means to hold, to possess. Even the use of the word 'contiguity' means an intimate, close association. Therefore, SDAs are bidden by scripture to hold the instruction of the spirit of prophecy as being intimately connected with their prosperity as the remnant (2Chronicles 20:20; Hosea 12:13). In other words, those who call themselves SDAs, are acknowledged by God as such **only** if they **believe AND walk** in all the light of the spirit of prophecy. Such are True SDAs. Anything short of this belongs to the False SDAs, called by Christ "the synagogue of Satan", as shown in Part 1 of this tract series. Only the True SDAs who fulfill wholeheartedly the characteristics of Rev. 12:17 can be recognized as the remnant.

The Spirit of Prophecy and False SDAs

Our dear friend, as we look at false SDAs and the spirit of prophecy, what Bible principle do we have to come back to?

Revelation 3:9 (KJV) >> 9Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie...

False SDAs will "say they are Jews" (claim to be the remnant) but they "are not" (are not living) as the spirit of prophecy instructs them to. Whenever such take a course, however slight, to avoid obedience to Christ's testimony through these writings, they are embracing the synagogue of Satan and not the remnant.

The Lord impressed upon Sis. White numerous times that Satan's signal efforts would be to heap scorn upon the God-given testimonies. And this grand design was for the purpose of deceiving many, establishing false SDAs and hindering the closing work:

One thing is certain: **those Seventh-day Adventists who take their stand under Satan's banner will first give up their faith in the warnings and reproofs contained in the Testimonies of God's spirit.** {SpM 305.4}

The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18). **Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony.** {10MR 311.1}

There will be a hatred kindled against the testimonies which is satanic. The workings of Satan will be to **unsettle the faith of the churches in them** for this reason: **Satan cannot have so**

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clear a track to bring in his deceptions and bind up souls in his delusions **if the warnings and reproofs and counsels of the spirit of God are heeded.** {1888 794.1}

Examining Ourselves

Dear friend, we should understand by now that how we treat the spirit of prophecy draws the line between those of us who are true SDAs and those of us who are false. Let us be careful to avoid the many tragic excuses given, especially today, as reason to set aside the spirit of prophecy. Remember this is the work of Satan and his synagogue. Do you fall into any of them?

- × 'I don't need Sis. White's writings; I only need the Bible and the Bible alone.'
- × 'Sis. White was not a theologian. She can be consulted for devotional purposes but not for scriptural teaching.'
- × 'Sis. White was not a historian. There are historical inaccuracies in her writings. She should not be seen as writing literal historical facts, but rather *interpreting* history.'
- × 'Sis. White was not a medical professional. Her counsels on health can be helpful, but cannot be taken as qualified medical advice.'
- × 'Sis. White was not an academic. It is better to take from the general principle of what she said rather than take her words in their strictest literal sense.'
- × 'Sis. White borrowed from the works of others and presented them as original light from God.'
- × 'Sis. White was a product of her times and associations, and her writings reflect those biases.'
- × 'Sis. White's counsel can't be totally followed today as times have changed.'
- × 'I believe that this counsel is Sis. White's opinion, and not the voice of God. She was a fallible mortal.'
- × 'I believe in this counsel of Sis. White, but I don't think that one is as inspired.'
- × 'I understand what she said, but I don't interpret her words that way.'

Dear one, this list of excuses is not exhaustive, but expressive of the major doubt positions held by professed Adventists. Sadly, the fact is there are many - both in leadership and laity of the popular SDA organization - that espouse these cheap views of the spirit of prophecy. But regardless of name or rank, what does Revelation 3:9 call such who do **not believe AND walk** in the light of the spirit of prophecy? Sad, but true - they are called of the synagogue of Satan.

But there is hope for us repentant ones. If we are willing to *have, hold, possess, intimately connect ourselves* with the testimony of Jesus, then we can be God's remnant - the true SDAs! Is that your desire? Then spend time in the testimonies alongside your Bible. It is God Who has established this gift for the remnant, and for every suggestion of Satan the Lord has provided answer from this self-same gift. We pray the inspired counsel from page 5 may be a strengthening for your faith.

May God bless you as you strive to be a **TRUE** Seventh-day Adventist - to have the testimony of Jesus, to follow wholeheartedly the spirit of prophecy!

Inspired Counsel

I recommend to you, dear reader, the Word of God as the rule of your faith and practice. By that Word we are to be judged. God has, in that Word, promised to give visions in the "last days"; not for a new rule of faith, but for the comfort of His people, and to correct those who err from Bible truth. Thus God dealt with Peter when He was about to send him to preach to the Gentiles. (Acts 10.) {EW 78.1}

I took the precious Bible and surrounded it with the several Testimonies for the Church, given for the people of God. Here, said I, the cases of nearly all are met. The sins they are to shun are pointed out. The counsel that they desire can be found here, given for other cases situated similarly to themselves. God has been pleased to give you line upon line and precept upon precept. But there are not many of you that really know what is contained in the Testimonies. You are not familiar with the Scriptures. If you had made God's word your study, with a desire to reach the Bible standard and attain to Christian perfection, you would not have needed the Testimonies. It is because you have neglected to acquaint yourselves with God's inspired Book that He has sought to reach you by simple, direct testimonies, calling your attention to the words of inspiration which you had neglected to obey, and urging you to fashion your lives in accordance with its pure and elevated teachings. {2T 605.1}

The Lord designs to warn you, to reprove, to counsel, through the testimonies given, and to impress your minds with the importance of the truth of His word. The written testimonies are not to give new light, but to impress vividly upon the heart the truths of inspiration already revealed. Man's duty to God and to his fellow man has been distinctly specified in God's word; yet but few of you are obedient to the light given. Additional truth is not brought out; but God has through the Testimonies simplified the great truths already given and in His own chosen way brought them before the people to awaken and impress the mind with them, that all may be left without excuse. {2T 605.2}

I have words of encouragement and counsel for you. Do not be overanxious, but trust in the Lord. Do not trust in the wisdom of those who would advise you to take back that which you have pledged to the cause of God. Be true to the convictions of your own conscience and to your vows. The Bible must be your counselor. Study it, and the testimonies God has given; for they never contradict His Word. When you are convinced that it is your privilege to lay up treasure in heaven by using a portion of your goods to advance the truth, let nothing hinder you from doing it. {Lt106-1907.1}

I am now looking over my diaries and copies of letters written for several years back, commencing before I went to Europe, before you were born. I have the most precious matter to reproduce and place before the people in testimony form. While I am able to do this work, the people must have these things to revive past history, that they may see that there is one straight chain of truth, without one heretical sentence, in that which I have written. This, I am instructed, is to be a living letter to all in regard to my faith. {Lt329a-1905.3}

Weak and trembling, I arose at three o'clock in the morning to write to you. God was speaking through clay. You might say that this communication was only a letter. Yes, it was a letter, but prompted by the Spirit of God, to bring before your minds things that had been shown me. In these letters which I write, in the testimonies I bear, I am presenting to you that which the Lord has presented to me. I do not write one article in the paper expressing merely my own ideas. They are what God has opened before me in vision--the precious rays of light shining from the throne. {5T 67.2}

The enemy has made his masterly efforts to unsettle the faith of our own people in the Testimonies, and when these errors come in they claim to prove all the positions by the Bible, but they misinterpret the Scriptures. They make bold assertions, as did Elder Canright, and misapply the prophecies and the Scriptures to prove falsehood. And, after men have done their work in weakening the confidence of our churches in the Testimonies, they have torn away the barrier, that unbelief in the truth shall become widespread, and there is no voice to be lifted up to stay the force of error. {1888 739.2}

This is just as Satan designed it should be, and those who have been preparing the way for the people to pay no heed to the warnings and reproofs of the testimonies of the Spirit of God will see that a tide of errors of all kinds will spring into life. They will claim Scripture as their evidence, and deceptions of Satan in every form will prevail. {1888 739.3}

The Holy Ghost is the Author of the Scriptures and of the spirit of prophecy. These are not to be twisted and turned to mean what man may want them to mean, to carry out man's ideas and sentiments, to carry forward man's schemes at all hazards. {Lt92-1900.12}

Sister White is not the originator of these books. They contain the instruction that during her life-work God has been giving her. They contain the precious, comforting light that God has graciously given his servant to be given to the world. From their pages this light is to shine into the hearts of men and women, leading them to the Saviour. The Lord has declared that these books are to be scattered throughout the world. {RH, January 20, 1903 par. 8}

That which I have written in regard to health was not taken from books or papers. As I related to others the things which I had been shown, the question was asked, "Have you seen the paper, The Laws of Life or the Water Cure Journal?" I told them no, I had not seen either of the papers. Said they, "What you have seen agrees very much with much of their teachings." I talked freely with Dr. Lay and many others upon the things which had been shown me in reference to health. I had never seen a paper treating upon health. {Ms7-1867.6}

After the vision was given me, my husband was aroused upon the health questions. He obtained books upon our eastern journey, but I would not read them. My view was clear, and I did not want to read anything until I had fully completed my books. My views were written independent of books or of the opinions of others. {Ms7-1867.7}

The book *Great Controversy* I appreciate above silver or gold, and I greatly desire that it shall come before the people. While writing the manuscript of *Great Controversy*, I was often conscious of the presence of the angels of God. And many times the scenes about which I was writing were presented to me anew in visions of the night, so that they were fresh and vivid in my mind. {Lt56-1911.2}

While at ----, the Lord came to me in the night season and spoke precious words of encouragement concerning my work, repeating the same message that had been given me several times before. With regard to those who have turned from the light sent them, He said: "In slighting and rejecting the testimony that I have given you to bear, it is not you, but Me, your Lord, that they have slighted." {5T 688.2}

God is either teaching His church, reproofing their wrongs and strengthening their faith, or He is not. This work is of God, or it is not. God does nothing in partnership with Satan. My work for the past thirty years bears the stamp of God or the stamp of the enemy. There is no halfway work in the matter. The Testimonies are of the Spirit of God, or of the devil. In arraying yourself against the servants of God you are doing a work

either for God or for the devil. "By their fruits ye shall know them." What stamp does your work bear? It will pay to look critically at the result of your course. {4T 229.2}

Yet now when I send you a testimony of warning and reproof, many of you declare it to be merely the opinion of Sister White. You have thereby insulted the Spirit of God. You know how the Lord has manifested Himself through the spirit of prophecy. Past, present, and future have passed before me. I have been shown faces that I had never seen, and years afterward I knew them when I saw them. I have been aroused from my sleep with a vivid sense of subjects previously presented to my mind; and I have written, at midnight, letters that have gone across the continent and, arriving at a crisis, have saved great disaster to the cause of God. This has been my work for many years. A power has impelled me to reprove and rebuke wrongs that I had not thought of. Is this work of the last thirty-six years from above or from beneath? {5T 64.3}

My brethren, beware of the evil heart of unbelief. The word of God is plain and close in its restrictions; it interferes with your selfish indulgence; therefore you do not obey it. The testimonies of His Spirit call your attention to the Scriptures, point out your defects of character, and rebuke your sins; therefore you do not heed them. And to justify your carnal, ease-loving course you begin to doubt whether the testimonies are from God. If you would obey their teachings you would be assured of their divine origin. Remember, your unbelief does not affect their truthfulness. If they are from God they will stand. Those who seek to lessen the faith of God's people in these testimonies, which have been in the church for the last thirty-six years, are fighting against God. It is not the instrument whom you slight and insult, but God, who has spoken to you in these warnings and reproofs. {5T 234.3}

A wealth of moral influence has been brought to us in the last half century. Through his Holy Spirit the voice of God has come to us continually in warning and instruction, to confirm the faith of the believers in the spirit of prophecy. Repeatedly the word has come, Write the things that I have given you to confirm the faith of my people in the position they have taken. Time and trial have not made void the instruction given, but through years of suffering and self-sacrifice have established the truth of the testimony given. The instruction that was given in the early days of the message is to be held as safe instruction to follow in these its closing days. Those who are indifferent to this light and instruction must not expect to escape the snares which we have been plainly told will cause the rejecters of light to stumble, and fall, and be snared, and be taken. {RH, July 18, 1907 par. 13}

The church has turned back from following Christ her Leader and is steadily retreating toward Egypt. Yet few are alarmed or astonished at their want of spiritual power. Doubt, and even disbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God, is leavening our churches everywhere. Satan would have it thus. Ministers who preach self instead of Christ would have it thus. The testimonies are unread and unappreciated. God has spoken to you. Light has been shining from His word and from the testimonies, and both have been slighted and disregarded. The result is apparent in the lack of purity and devotion and earnest faith among us. {5T 217.2}

It is Satan's plan to weaken the faith of God's people in the Testimonies. Next follows skepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the pillars of our position, then doubt as to the Holy Scriptures, and then the downward march to perdition. When the Testimonies, which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable and ends in destruction. {4T 211.1}

I have been shown that the spirit of the world is fast leavening the church. You are following the same path as did ancient Israel. There is the same falling away from your holy calling as God's peculiar people. You are having fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. Your concord with unbelievers has provoked the Lord's displeasure. You know not the things that belong to your peace, and they are fast being hid from your eyes. Your neglect to follow the light will place you in a more unfavorable position than the Jews upon whom Christ pronounced a woe. {5T 75.3}

I have been shown that unbelief in the testimonies has been steadily increasing as the people backslide from God. It is all through our ranks, all over the field. But few know what our churches are to experience. I saw that at present we are under divine forbearance, but no one can say how long this will continue. No one knows how great the mercy that has been exercised toward us. But few are heartily devoted to God. There are only a few who, like the stars in a tempestuous night, shine here and there among the clouds. {5T 76.1}

Many of our people are lukewarm. They occupy the position of Meroz, neither for nor against, neither cold nor hot. They hear the words of Christ, but do them not. If they remain in this state, He will reject them with abhorrence. Many of those who have had great light, great opportunities, and every spiritual advantage praise Christ and the world with the same breath. They bow themselves before God and mammon. They make merry with the children of the world, and yet claim to be blessed with the children of God. They wish to have Christ as their Saviour, but will not bear the cross and wear His yoke. May the Lord have mercy upon you; for if you go on in this way, nothing but evil can be prophesied concerning you. {5T 76.3}

The patience of God has an object, but you are defeating it. He is allowing a state of things to come that you would fain see counteracted by and by, but it will be too late. God commanded Elijah to anoint the cruel and deceitful Hazael king over Syria, that he might be a scourge to idolatrous Israel. Who knows whether God will not give you up to the deceptions you love? Who knows but that the preachers who are faithful, firm, and true may be the last who shall offer the gospel of peace to our unthankful churches? It may be that the destroyers are already training under the hand of Satan and only wait the departure of a few more standard-bearers to take their places, and with the voice of the false prophet cry, "Peace, peace," when the Lord hath not spoken peace. I seldom weep, but now I find my eyes blinded with tears; they are falling upon my paper as I write. It may be that ere long all prophesyings among us will be at an end, and the voice which has stirred the people may no longer disturb their carnal slumbers. {5T 77.1}

References Key:

REF. CODE	PUBLICATION NAME
RH	The Review and Herald
SpM	Spalding and Magan Collection
MR	Manuscript Releases (Volume Number precedes)
EW	Early Writings
T	Testimonies for the Church (Volume Number precedes)
Lt, Ms	Letter, Manuscript (Number-Year follows)
1888	The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials

- Further Reading:
- ✧ *The Great Second Advent Movement: Its Rise and Progress. Chapter XIII - Tokens of Divine Guidance.* John Loughborough.
 - ✧ *Heavenly Visions. Pgs. 27-76.* John Loughborough.
 - ✧ *The Visions of Mrs. E.G. White.* Uriah Smith.
 - ✧ *The Spirit of Prophecy in the Advent Movement.* William Spicer.