



“all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.”

In the last 8 years or so Rudy has been doing number of different jobs for a lady. Her name is Penny. He was working on one of these jobs for her just before Christmas of 2004. Since Penny has no family, we invited her for dinner on Christmas day.

As we were waiting for her arrival the phone rang, and it was a policemen at the other end of the line. We were told that Penny got into an accident and her car was totaled, we needed to come and get her. Needless to say this put the damper on things for that day and for months to come. I am embarrassed to tell you, that I had quite a spiritual struggle with this situation, because we wanted to help this lady, and it turned into a royal mess. I did not understand why something that was supposed to be a blessing for this lonely lady, turned into a series of problems and hardship.

Her car was totaled, but she insisted on having it repaired. It took about 4 months to get her car finally repaired. Meanwhile she had no transportation. 2-3 times a week I took her to run all her errands. Ever since that Christmas day almost every Sabbath she has joined us for lunch. As I spent more and more time with her, I realized that she is showing signs of Alzheimer's disease. I don't want to go into detail, but we went through quite a lot with her in the last 2 years. Her condition deteriorated very quickly it seems.

In February of this year (2006) she got into another accident and her car was totaled again. Penny got wedged between 2 semi-trucks. It was a miracle that she walked away with no injuries.

Lately as she was driving, she got lost a lot of times. In the last 2 months number of times she was picked up by the police, because she was driving around -- got lost and stopped for directions, thinking and insisting that she was in Upstate New York. Couple of times they let me pick her up from the police station and take her home. Then they took her to Life Streams Center in Leesburg, where they kept her for 8 days. As I visited her number of times we talked about her condition and options. On a Thursday night as I visited her she agreed to move closer to our house, so we can be of more help to her. She told me 'I'll do anything, I just want to be in my own home and keep my animals.' Her animals -- a beautiful bird and three cats -- is her life.

Friday when I went to pick her up as Penny came into the lobby where I was waiting for her, I could tell that something was wrong. She looked upset and did not want to look at me. The nurse told her -- Penny here is your ride. She said 'I am not going **with her**, I made arrangement to go home with the bus.' 'There is no bus Penny -- Edith is your ride' said the nurse. It took some convincing and finally she agreed to go with me. It took us about ½ hour to get to her house. We were talking the whole time. I was reassuring her that I will not force her to do anything she does not want to do. Also she was asking me questions like how many animals does she have? How long has she lived in Florida? And a few minutes later she asked me the same questions again. She was not able to process the information I was giving her.

After I dropped her off and as I was driving, I was trying to sort out things in my mind -- what did just happen? All the way home I was going over the events and than a thought hit me, this is how it is when we witness to people. Even though the truth is simple, so a child can understand it, still worldly people have difficulty wrapping their minds around the Plan of Salvation. The Bible says "... **the natural**

man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness to him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

Once again I realized how important it is to pray for those who we witness to. Without the help of the Holy Spirit, they are not able to process God’s message.

We Adventist know that it is our responsibility to take the message to every kindred and nation and we also know that we will have to account for every opportunity that was presented to us for witnessing. So we witness with the intent to get the job done, and fulfill our obligation and when we see no result we shake the dust off from our shoes too quickly. The goal is not to get the job of witnessing done, but to win souls for eternity. **We need to earnestly pray for the salvation of each person before during and after our witnessing.** Worldly people as they are they do not understand spiritual matters, they do not have a desire for spiritual things. **We need to earnestly and persistently pray for these souls, to enable the Holy Spirit to work in their lives.**

This is not the only lesson I learned from this experience with Penny, but once again I was reassured, that “all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.” Now I understand, why Penny had to have an accident on the way to our house that Christmas day. As I stated before, I had quite a hard time with the events at the beginning, but without the accident, I would not have known her condition and her need for help. I also would have missed out on some valuable lessons.

I praise God for the lessons He taught me through these experiences!!! Life experience sticks better than theory learned from books.

Please read the quotes entitled “Spiritual Things Are Spiritually Discerned”

Please share this material with like believers. Let us encourage each other in doing the work. The sooner we fulfill our obligation as God’s Last Day Church, the sooner Jesus can return and take us home!

The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few!



Spiritual things are spiritually discerned

“But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness to him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” 1 Corinthians 2:14

“Brother Eldridge, I have so longed to see you in a position where you would appreciate a living connection with God. I have longed to see my dear sister's son there also. I have prayed for you both with unutterable longings of soul in your behalf. But while thus praying for you, I heard the words, as if a voice were speaking to me, **‘They can not see what you see. They do not estimate eternal things according to their rich value. Spiritual things are spiritually discerned.** You have communicated these things to them and to others. The articles in which you presented the truth that God had revealed to you have been placed in the hands of human agents to decide upon their character and value. This should not be done. **Their minds and hearts must be refined, their perceptions spiritualized and ennobled, before they can appreciate the precious jewels of truth,** or appreciate the work God has given you. Your heart is sad and grieved, but no longer deceive yourself, or expect that men or women will value the light that God has given them from His own holiness, until they shall open their hearts to Jesus. **‘Lean on me’,** He says, **‘trust in me; I will never fail you, I will be to you a present help in every time of need.’**”

The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials -PG- 1115

“We long to see all who have not discerned the light to discern truth and righteousness and keep gathering and cherishing every divine ray of light. The grace of God is needed to give to every soul who asks of God a deep and increasing interest in the knowledge of His Word. Spiritual things are spiritually understood by cultivating the habit of deep attention. We are to dig for the truth as for hidden treasures. That which once possessed no special interest will open to the mind of the diligent seeker and the hidden pearls of truth will reward his faith.”

The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials -PG- 873

“Spiritual things are spiritually discerned. **The living stones in the temple of God do not attract the man of the world.** He does not understand their position in the building, and sees nothing in them that he appreciates. He sees talent and sharpness of character and begrudges every particle of it. Whatever the Christian may do religiously, conscientiously, for Christ's sake, is not understood or appreciated because the world know not the power of the truth, and know not the Lord or Jesus Christ.”

The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials -PG- 928

“Spiritual things are spiritually discerned. **The carnal mind cannot comprehend these mysteries. . . .** The worldly-wise have attempted to explain upon scientific principles the influence of the Spirit of God upon the heart. The least advance in this direction will lead the soul into the mazes of skepticism. The religion of the Bible is simply the mystery of godliness; no human mind can fully understand it, and **it is utterly incomprehensible to the unregenerate heart.**”

The Faith I Live By -PG- 54

“There must be a power working from within, a new life from above, before men can be changed from sin to holiness. That power is Christ. **His grace alone can quicken the lifeless faculties of the soul, and attract it to God, to holiness. . . .** The idea that it is necessary only to develop the good that exists in

man by nature, is a fatal deception. 'The natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness to him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.' 1 Cor. 2:14. . . . Of Christ it is written, 'In Him was life; and the life was the light of men' -- the only 'name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.' John 1:4; Acts 4:12. . . ."

The Faith I Live By -PG- 96

"The jewels of truth lie scattered over the field of revelation; but they have been buried beneath human traditions, beneath the sayings and commandments of men, and the wisdom from heaven has been practically ignored; for Satan has succeeded in making the world believe that the words and achievements of men are of great consequence. The Lord God, the Creator of the worlds, at infinite cost has given the gospel to the world. Through this divine agent, glad, refreshing springs of heavenly comfort and abiding consolation have been opened for those who will come to the fountain of life. There are veins of truth yet to be discovered; but spiritual things are spiritually discerned. **Minds beclouded with evil cannot appreciate the value of the truth as it is in Jesus. When iniquity is cherished, men do not feel the necessity of making diligent effort, with prayer and reflection, to understand what they must know or lose heaven.** They have so long been under the shadow of the enemy, that they view the truth as men behold objects through a smoked and imperfect glass; for all things are dark and perverted in their eyes. Their spiritual vision is feeble and untrustworthy; for they look upon the shadow, and turn away from the light."

Fundamentals of Christian Education -PG- 188

"Paul writes to his Corinthian brethren: 'Ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are yet not carnal, and walk as men?' It is impossible for minds distracted by envy and strife to comprehend the deep spiritual truths of God's word. 'The natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness to him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.' **We cannot rightly understand or appreciate divine revelation without the aid of that Spirit by whom the word was given.**"

Testimonies for the Church Volume Five -PG- 241

"'But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness to him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Cor. 2:14. All that leading scientific minds may conjecture aside from Christ, the Light of the world, is as chaff compared to the wheat. Christ is grieved that so few understand the science of oneness with Himself. **Minds that are not under the divine guidance cannot understand the science of redemption.** The mystery of godliness is found only in the believing soul who is divested of self. He is greatest in the kingdom of heaven who will become teachable as a little child."

This Day with God -PG- 231

"It is frequently more essential than many realize, that early associations should be broken up, in order that those who are to speak 'in Christ's stead,' may stand in a position where God can educate and qualify them for His great work. Kindred and friends often have an influence which God sees will greatly interfere with the instructions He designs to give His servants. Suggestions will be made by those who are not in close connection with Heaven that will, if heeded, turn aside from their holy work those who should be light-bearers to the world. Before God can use him, Abraham must be separated from his former associations, that he may not be controlled by human influence, or rely upon human aid. Now that he has become connected with God, this man must henceforth dwell among strangers. His character must be peculiar, differing from all the world. He could not even explain his course of action so as to be understood by his friends; for they were idolaters. **Spiritual things must be spiritually discerned; therefore his motives and his actions were beyond the comprehension of his kindred and friends.**"

Gospel Workers -PG- 23-24

"We have a message to bear to the world. 'We have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Ghost teaches:

comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness to him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.' It is for the interest of all to know this great lesson. We are to work vigilantly in prospect of the solemn event of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ; and if we are waiting and watching and working, we shall speak sound words among those who, like ourselves, are waiting and watching. There is work to be done. The piles of rubbish that have been accumulating need to be removed. How? 'Cleanse yourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and of the spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord.' Cultivate personal piety. God would have us inquire, 'Who has known the mind of the Lord?' that He may instruct us, and that we may be able to say, 'We have the mind of Christ.' Then all the rubbish of evil words will be removed. **May the Lord imbue us with His Spirit, and touch our lips with a burning coal from the altar. Earnestly, vigilantly watching and waiting and working, we are to be, 'not slothful in business, fervent in spirit serving the Lord.'**" The Gospel Herald -DT- 09-01-1900

"Christians who connect themselves with worldly associations are injuring themselves as well as misleading others. Those who fear God can not choose the ungodly for companions, and remain themselves unharmed. In worldly societies they are brought under the influence of worldly principles and customs, and through the power of association and habit the mind becomes more and more conformed to the worldling's standard. Their love for God grows cold, and they have no desire for communion with Him. They become spiritually blind. They can see no particular difference between the transgressor of God's law and those who fear God and keep His commandments. They call evil good and good evil. The brightness of eternal realities fades away. **The truth may be presented in ever so forcible a manner, but they do not hunger for the bread of life, nor thirst for the waters of salvation.** They are drinking at broken cisterns, which can hold no water. O, it is an easy thing, by association with the world, to catch the spirit of the world, to be molded by a false view of things, so that the preciousness of Jesus and the truth is not discerned! **And just to the degree that the spirit of the world dwells in the heart, to just that degree will it control the life.**" Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 08-25-1910

"It had been Paul's work to instruct the Corinthian converts in the rudiments, the very alphabet, of the Christian faith. He had been obliged to instruct them as those who were ignorant of the operations of divine power upon the heart. At that time they were unable to comprehend the mysteries of salvation; for 'the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness to him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.' Paul had endeavored to sow the seed, which others must water. Those who followed him must carry forward the work from the point where he had left it, giving spiritual light and knowledge in due season, as the church was able to bear it." Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 08-17-1911

"Nicodemus said to Him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter a second time into his mother's womb, and be born?' He revealed the fact, as do many, when the cutting truth is brought home to the conscience, that the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God. **There is nothing in them that responds to spiritual things; for spiritual things are spiritually discerned.** But although Nicodemus did not comprehend His words, Jesus did not become impatient or discouraged, but sought to make more plain His statement of truth: In solemn, quiet dignity, Jesus repeated His words in a manner that would convince him of their divine truth, 'Verily, verily, I say to you, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus says to Him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say to you, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said to you, All of you must be born again. The wind blows where it decides, and you hear the sound thereof, but can not tell whence it comes, and where it goes: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.'" Sabbath-School Worker -DT- 08-01-1892

“Jesus saw that, however deeply rooted were the principles that were set in opposition to the principles He proclaimed, yet they were delusion and falsehood, and had originated in the enemy of all righteousness. Jesus said to the people, ‘**Every one who is of the truth hears my voice.**’ Christ was the embodiment of truth and holiness. He it was Who had stood in the councils of God, and dwelt in the innermost sanctuary of the Eternal. He knew whereof He spoke. He was presenting to them the truth of the highest order, revealing to men the infinite mind, giving to men the words of eternal life. He was revealing to them the character of the Father, **but the men who stood high in knowledge and position, who claimed to possess superior spiritual understanding, failed to comprehend the knowledge that Jesus came to impart. They failed to grasp with their human understanding that which had been from everlasting, and was known to the Father and to the Son. Spiritual things are spiritually discerned, and, lacking the Spirit of God, they were left in the blindness of darkness. Refusing the light of heaven,** ‘because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful,’ they ‘became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.’”

The Signs of the Times -DT- 04-25-1895

“The great reason why the church has not more efficiency and power is that its members love the world. They reject the Spirit of God, and fill their hearts with idols. They love the world, and the things of the world, and of all such the words of inspiration declare, ‘**If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**’ They are not, as was Christ, in the world but not of the world. **The Lord can not manifest Himself to professed Christians who love the world; for spiritual things are spiritually discerned.**”

The Signs of the Times -DT- 01-20-1898

“When he (Paul) came to them they had no experimental knowledge of the way of salvation, and he was obliged to present the truth in its simplest form. **Their carnal minds could not discern the sacred revealings of God; they were strangers to the manifestations of divine grace.** Paul had spoken to them as those who were ignorant of the operations of that grace upon the heart. **They were carnal-minded, and the apostle was aware that they could not comprehend the mysteries of salvation; for spiritual things must be spiritually discerned.** He knew that many of his hearers were proud believers in human theories, and reasoners of false theologies, groping with blind eyes in the book of nature for a contradiction of the spiritual and immortal life revealed in the Book of God.”

Redemption: or the Teachings of Paul, and his Mission to the Gentiles -PG- 71

“It is said that Wilberforce once took the great statesman Pitt to hear the celebrated Mr. Scott preach. The preacher's theme was the way by which a sinner can be saved, and it was presented with great plainness, fervor, and earnestness. At the close of the service Pitt was asked what he thought of the sermon. He replied, ‘I did not know what he was aiming at.’ Spiritual things are spiritually discerned. The things of the Spirit, the preaching of the cross, are ‘to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.’”

Manuscript Releases Volume Sixteen -PG- 232

“Oh, that self may be subdued in each one of us who profess to believe in Jesus! Oh, that pride may be laid in the dust! Oh, that we may more fully reflect the image of Jesus! **As never before we should pray not only that laborers may be sent forth into the great harvest field, but that we may have a clear conception of truth, so that when the messengers of truth shall come we may accept the message and respect the messenger.** Oh, that darkness may not settle upon any soul, but that the illuminating Spirit of Christ shall fall upon His people. Spiritual things are spiritually discerned, and the glory of our Redeemer is His character; this we must behold with spiritual vision. I would pray as did the apostle, ‘**that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints**’ [Eph. 1:17,18].”

Manuscript Releases Volume Fifteen -PG- 90



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Directions:

- ❖ Print pages 1 & 2 on 24lb white paper.
- ❖ Print pages 3 - 6 back to back on white paper
- ❖ Print page 7 or 8 on a 4.25" x 9.5" envelope (depending on the type of printer you have, page 7 if envelope loads on the right side of the printer, or page 8 if printer loads envelope in the center)
- ❖ Fold appeal in 3 even sections (Z-Fold -- artwork out on top section)
- ❖ Fold set of quotes in 3 even sections (Z-Fold --artwork out on top section)
- ❖ Place 1 appeal, 1 set of quotes in each envelope.
- ❖ PLEASE!!! Hand out and/or mail to all church members, Christian family members and friends!
- ❖