

## "Fatally Flawed, Fundamental Beliefs"

We have often read 1 Peter 5:8, "**Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:**" His intention is to attack God's people, especially those who comprise the remnant in this final generation, but not so much in the physical sense, but in the spiritual primarily. What does he know about the salvation of man? He knows that if he breathes his last breath with unconfessed, unrepented sin on his record, then Satan has a rightful claim that such a commandment breaker should suffer the same fate as himself. God cannot make exceptions to His written word, for the wages of sin is death. All of our works cannot save us, if we continue in sin. He does not concern himself about most Christians who pin their salvation on a single scripture or two, such as Ephesians 2:8, 9.

Ephesians 2:8, 9 "**For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.**" Surface readers, will read those two verse and believe they do not need to keep the Ten Commandments, because of grace. They conclude that commandment keeping is works and might tend to look down on and pity those who are Sabbath keepers. Such reasoning amuses the great deceiver as those who walk under that banner fail to connect scriptures like:

Ecclesiastes 12:13, "**Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.**" It is the Ten Commandments that are the standard used in the judgment.

They overlook the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:22, 23 where He is describing Christians who are lost, "**Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.**" So, like the Pharisees of Christ's time, they list their accomplishments which they believed earned them salvation. But they learn too late that grace does not excuse disobedience, for the iniquity Jesus has referred to is breaking God's commandments.

Nor do they read in the very last chapter of the final book of the Bible, what entrance into the New Jerusalem city of God is conditional upon doing the commandments. Revelation 22:14 "**Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.**"

As much as God wants to save all Christians, Satan knows that God cannot save any person who goes to their grave breaking any one of God's eternal Ten Commandments, especially the one in which He said "remember" as the first word. They ignore the clear warning of Hosea 4:6, **"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."** When God says, "My people," He also means those who are dutifully keeping the fourth commandment, for Satan is keenly aware of how difficult it is to trip up Sabbath keepers on that part of the Decalogue. His attack must be to get them to break another commandment, in order for his victory over the, so called remnant, to be successful. It is true that God has winked at ignorance in the past, but willful ignorance is inexcusable. As long as a person has the time, opportunity and resources, he is then able to investigate and discover truth. But if he chooses not to investigate presented knowledge pertaining to eternal realities, he or she cannot stand innocent.

No one wants to credit Satan with anything good, but he must get credit for the scope of his deceiving power, as there are an estimated 7.7 billion people in the world and 2.2 billion are professed Christians. 25 million people worship in Seventh-day Adventist churches.

Revelation 12:9 says **"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."**

We are told where Satan will direct his attack in: Revelation 12:17, **"And 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."** We just read that there are an estimated 25 million people worshipping in Seventh-day Adventist churches. Are they safe? Our adversary, according to scripture is at war with the remnant who keep the commandments and have the testimony of Jesus which is the Spirit of Prophecy, according to Rev. 19:10. I would have to conclude, that at this late day in the struggle, only a fractional remnant of that 25 million are safe, but even then they are in perilous waters. This is not the way God wants it to be. Did God warn us of the danger we find ourselves in today?

He did through His prophet in Counsels for the Church (359.4). ***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.*** {CCh 359.4} But it is with a profound sadness, that the reality is that we have forgotten how the Lord led our pioneers and what He taught them. Most of our early pioneers had come out of churches that taught a trinity. Even Ellen White was a

Methodist. But God taught them the eternal truth about the Father as the one true eternal God and Jesus the Son begotten in eternity. They were taught about God's Omnipresent Spirit called the Holy Spirit, which His Son shares with the Father and is Their combined presence in all of the universe. Also, He gave them our foundational doctrines, such as the state of the dead the sanctuary and much more. She also wrote the following;

***“When men come in who would move one pin or pillar from the foundation which God has established by His Holy Spirit, let the aged men who were pioneers in our work speak plainly, and let those who are dead speak also, by the reprinting of their articles in our periodicals. Gather up the rays of divine light that God has given as He has led His people on step by step in the way of truth. This truth will stand the test of time and trial.”*** Ms 62, 1905, p. 6. ("A Warning against False Theories," May 24, 1905.) {1MR 55.1}

She warned that there would be those who will undermining the pillars of our faith. For those of us who have investigated and learned the truth of the pure faith God gave and taught the pioneers. It is a sad thing to witness the church today, saying the pioneers were in error. Then they are actually saying God is in error. Anger fills our souls, but it is a righteous indignation. I produced four studies on "The Pioneers Speak" giving what they wrote and said about the Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Now examine this quote:

***“The truths that have been substantiated by the manifest working of God are to stand fast. Let no one presume to move a pin or a foundation stone from the structure. Those who attempt to undermine the pillars of our faith are among those of whom the Bible says that "in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." Letter 87, 1905, pp. 2, 3. (To Elder and Mrs. S. N. Haskell, February 25, 1905.) {1MR 55.2}***

### **Waymarks Must Be Preserved**

The leadership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has departed from the faith. That is the testimony of Jesus through the prophet. For the most part, they have thrown out the prophet and some foundational doctrines. They declare the pioneers were wrong. These men in high position are deceivers and the blood of many will be on them. True is the word of God in saying that the Laodicean church is wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.

Now let's talk about the title of this study, "**Fatally Flawed, Fundamental Beliefs.**" But first we will look at an extremely important quote from God's prophet and then we will look at the Fundamental Principles that God gave to our pioneers.

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, to the fundamental principles that are based upon unquestionable authority.*** And just so there would be no mistake as to what fundamental principles this quote applied to, God would not let the beliefs of Adventists be called fundamental principles after the death of His prophet. Today the beliefs of Adventist are called fundamental beliefs.

We need only look at number 1 and number 2 from the 1872. Fundamental Principle # 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."*** 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 representative, which is His omnipresence, His Spirit is everywhere present.

Fundamental Principle #2: **“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 Fundamental Principle. it states clearly that there is one God. and in the second one, that there is one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the eternal Father. No mention of a third god called God the Holy Spirit. It does say in the Fundamental Principle number one that the Father is everywhere present by his representative, the Holy Spirit. That speaks to the Father’s omnipresence.

Now we are ready to look at the **Fatally Flawed Fundamental Beliefs**. We start with the Fundamental Belief #2 which pertains to the trinity and reads as follows:

“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.”

We do not need to go any further than the first sentence of FUNDAMENTAL BELIEF #2, because that is where the heresy lies: There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a **unity of three co-eternal Persons**. This is saying whether the Triune belief is believed, or the three separate and distinct god scenario that God is three Beings that are co-eternal. Well what does co-eternal mean? It means that all three gods always were, and none preceded or came after the other two. That would also mean that there can be no true Father-Son relationship, since they are equal in existence. They further state that all three are role playing and that the Father-Son is really only a metaphor. (According to the BRI – Angel Rodriguez). I for one am ashamed that I once believed and taught such dribble and have sorely repented of that error.

Trinitarians also teach that the three gods are co-equal. But that would make Fundamental Belief #3 wrong which says the Father is sovereign, which means a supreme ruler, so how can they be co-equal? Scripture tells us in John 14:28: **“... I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.”**

This proves the power of Satan in influencing finite minds in changing our religion, while the watchmen slept.

#### FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS #4

"God the eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ."

#### FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS #5

God the eternal Spirit was active with the Father and the Son in Creation, incarnation, and redemption.

#### FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS #4 & #5

God the eternal Son and God the eternal Spirit are two phrases that cannot be found in all of the Bible, nor can they be found in any of Sister White's writings. They are Trinitarian phrases, used solely by Trinitarians. No Trinitarians wrote a word of Scripture and Ellen White was a non-Trinitarian to her death in 1915. The pioneers soundly rejected the trinity. They believed the Father alone is the one true God that has always been, and that Jesus His Son was born or begotten in eternity and His personality had beginning of days.

Now why do I say the Fundamental Beliefs are *Fatally Flawed*? Do you recall my saying that Satan cannot trip up Adventists on breaking the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment? He wouldn't waste his time as such a plan would be counter-productive. He had to engineer a brilliant, but subtle plan to cause the remnant people to transgress another commandment. With the passing of time, he needed to get the denomination to reject the teachings of God to the pioneers regarding the Father as the One true eternal God, which is biblical, and in its place, put three co-eternal, co-equal gods, which violently breaks the first commandment. Sixty-five years after Sister White went to her non-trinitarian grave, His plan was put into effect in Dallas, Texas in 1980, when misguided Adventists voted in the trinity doctrine. There were Caleb and Joshua protesters, but their group was so small that they had little to no affect. In that sixty-five year period, an enormous number of SDA's had joined the church, having come from churches that were Trinitarian. Most of those who held to the non-trinitarian beliefs of the pioneers were no longer alive. Satan said in Isaiah 14:14 **"I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High."** Satan knows there is only two Beings in the Godhead, and he also knew that if finite man would willingly believe in a third god, apart from God the Father and His begotten Son Jesus. He knew he could claim that recognition and any worship directed to that false god.

The first commandment does not say, "Thou shalt have no other gods before us." It says **"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."** That is singular and applies only to the One True Eternal God the Father. If your probation ends as a Trinitarian, then your probation would end as a first commandment breaker, and Revelation 22:14 would NOT apply to you. Satan would love for you to believe that this is an irrelevant side issue. Well he once convinced the whole world that Noah was delusional. Listen to this final two quotes from the Spirit of Prophecy:

***"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}

***“No line of truth that has made the Seventh-day Adventist people what they are, is to be weakened. We have the old landmarks of truth, experience, and duty, and we are to stand firmly in defense of our principles, in full view of the world.”***--Testimonies, Vol. 6, p. 17. {CW 52.3}

AMEN. Richard C. Vaughn