

## Thoughts on Ministry of Healing

### (34) True Education a Missionary Training (pages 395-406)

#### Summary:

True education is training for missionary work, which Ellen White defines as to be representatives of God, to reveal His Spirit, to manifest His character, and to do His work of service in the world. One can be a missionary in common tasks in one's homeland as well as pioneering far from home.

#### Thoughts:

This chapter is part of a series on parenting and child training principles. Although not directly stated, the focus in this chapter seems to be on the age of responsibility (roughly teen years, perhaps through high school).

True education prepares people for missionary work. Such work can be performed in the circle of the home, in common vocations, as teachers of the gospel and also in heathen lands. (395)

Youth stand at a parting of the ways. Whether their lives are a blessing or a curse is often decided in the teen years. The job of parents is not to repress youthful activity but to guide it in the right direction. We need to surround them with the kinds of influences that will cause them to choose a life of service rather than self-indulgence. Life is full of opportunity, but once lost, those opportunities are often gone forever. (396-397)

The ideal is for youth to excel in all things that are unselfish, high and noble. Christ is the pattern. So education needs to engage the whole person with the highest science being that of saving souls. True education directs the attention away from money, fame and power to things of true worth. (398-402)

Two important principles of education are 1) learning by imparting and 2) guarding the youthful associations to preserve them from harmful companionships. The latter principle is supported by Bible texts such as John 17:14; Rom 12:2; 2 Cor 6:14-18. Rightly handled, godly education can mold the entire fabric of society. (402-406)

Family life has changed a great deal in the last hundred years. In many ways the implementation of the above is much more difficult than when Ellen White wrote, and also more needed. Were she alive today it is likely she would advise parents to limit exposure to media as a main source of outside influences, even when the children are home-schooled.

#### Quotable Quotes:

“True education is missionary training. Every son and daughter of God is called to be a missionary; we are called to the service of God and our fellow men; and to fit us for this service should be the object of our education.” (395)

“Let the youth be impressed with the thought that they are not their own. They belong to Christ. They are the purchase of His blood, the claim of His love. They live because He keeps them by His power. Their time, their strength, their capabilities are His, to be developed, to be trained, to be used for Him.” (396-397)

“Life is mysterious and sacred. It is the manifestation of God Himself, the source of all

life. Precious are its opportunities, and earnestly should they be improved. Once lost, they are gone forever.” (397)

“God looks into the tiny seed that He Himself has formed, and sees wrapped within it the beautiful flower, the shrub, or the lofty, wide-spreading tree. So does He see the possibilities in every human being. We are here for a purpose. God has given us His plan for our life, and He desires us to reach the highest standard of development.” (397)

“It should be their (youth) ambition to excel in all things that are unselfish, high, and noble. Let them look to Christ as the pattern after which they are to be fashioned. The holy ambition that He revealed in His life they are to cherish--an ambition to make the world better for their having lived in it. This is the work to which they are called.” (398)

“Education is not complete unless the body, the mind, and the heart are equally educated. The character must receive proper discipline for its fullest and highest development. All the faculties of mind and body are to be developed and rightly trained. It is a duty to cultivate and to exercise every power that will render us more efficient workers for God.” (398)

“With the people of that age the value of things was estimated by outward show. As religion had declined in power, it had increased in pomp. The educators of the time sought to command respect by display and ostentation. To all this the life of Jesus presented a marked contrast. His life demonstrated the worthlessness of those things that men regarded as life's great essentials.” (400)

“Every child and every youth should have a knowledge of himself. He should understand the physical habitation that God has given him, and the laws by which it is kept in health. All should be thoroughly grounded in the common branches of education. And they should have industrial training that will make them men and women of practical ability, fitted for the duties of everyday life. To this should be added training and practical experience in various lines of missionary effort.” (402)

“As youth learn, let them impart their knowledge. It is thus that their minds will acquire discipline and power. It is the use they make of knowledge that determines the value of their education. To spend a long time in study, with no effort to impart what is gained, often proves a hindrance rather than a help to real development.” (402)

“Throughout the world, society is in disorder, and a thorough transformation is needed. The education given to the youth is to mold the whole social fabric.”

### **Tweets of Healing:**

Every son and daughter of God is called to be a missionary. (395)

Whether people's lives are a blessing or a curse is often decided in the teen years. (396-397)

Life is full of opportunity, but once lost those opportunities are often gone forever. (396-397)

Education is not complete unless the body, the mind, and the heart are equally educated. (398)

True education includes the whole being. (398)

True education directs the attention away from money, fame and power to things of true worth. (398-402)

Every child and every youth should have a knowledge of himself. (402)

It is not until they teach what they have learned that youthful minds acquire discipline

and power. (402)

The education given to youth molds the entire fabric of society. (406)