

## Thoughts on Ministry of Healing

### (40) Help in Daily Living (pages 469-482)

#### Summary:

The main point of this chapter is that spiritual development is about the integration of inner and outer faithfulness to God. God uses trials to foster this integration and prepare people for greater service.

#### Thoughts:

Chapters 40-43 are among the most fruitful and inspiring of all of Ellen White's writings. It tells us that the entire goal of Jesus' ministry was to incline the hearts of others toward God. The concept of character is a strong unifying theme throughout chapters 36-43.

To convince others of the grace of God we need to know its power in our own hearts and lives. The strongest argument in favor of the gospel is a loving and lovable Christian. (469-470)

God uses trials and obstacles to develop these qualities in us. So it is crucial not to wish for different circumstances but to accept the circumstances in which we find ourselves and apply ourselves to the tasks at hand. (470-473)

In the future life we will understand all the seemingly unanswered prayers and disappointed hopes. The life of Moses is a good example. (473-476)

God esteems people more on the basis of their humility, purity of motive and beauty of character than on their talents, bustle and self-importance. (477-478)

A major theme of this chapter is that God uses suffering to develop beautiful qualities of character in us. These thoughts can be quite encouraging, as finding meaning in suffering helps people to deal with it. But it may be fair to ask the question, *Is God's plan for each person as detailed and direct as the chapter seems to suggest? Or is God's plan for each person more open-ended?* Adventists have tended away from views of God that suggest every detail of our lives being overseen and controlled by Him. We have focused more on human freedom and the difference people can make in the fulfillment of God's goals for the world. The book of Job also tells us that some tragedies are so great that they may not seem to have a teaching purpose. So the thoughts in this chapter, as in many others, need to be applied in the context of "all other things being equal."

#### Quotable Quotes:

"It is our own character and experience that determine our influence upon others. In order to convince others of the power of Christ's grace, we must know its power in our own hearts and lives. The gospel we present for the saving of souls must be the gospel by which our own souls are saved. Only through a living faith in Christ as a personal Saviour is it possible to make our influence felt in a skeptical world." (469-470)

"By the power of His grace manifested in the transformation of character the world is to be convinced that God has sent His Son as its Redeemer. No other influence that can surround the human soul has such power as the influence of an unselfish life." (470)

"To live such a life, to exert such an influence, costs at every step effort, self-sacrifice, discipline. It is because they do not understand this that many are so easily discouraged in the Christian life. Many who sincerely consecrate their lives to God's service are surprised and

disappointed to find themselves, as never before, confronted by obstacles and beset by trials and perplexities. . . . Like Israel of old they question, 'If God is leading us, why do all these things come upon us?'" (470)

"It is because God is leading them that these things come upon them. . . . He who reads the hearts of men knows their characters better than they themselves know them. He sees that some have powers and susceptibilities which, rightly directed, might be used in the advancement of His work. In His providence He brings these persons into different positions and varied circumstances that they may discover in their character the defects which have been concealed from their own knowledge. He gives them opportunity to correct these defects and to fit themselves for His service." (471)

"Let us remember that while the work we have to do may not be our choice, it is to be accepted as God's choice for us. Whether pleasing or unpleasing, we are to do the duty that lies nearest." (472-473)

"In the future life the mysteries that here have annoyed and disappointed us will be made plain. We shall see that our seemingly unanswered prayers and disappointed hopes have been among our greatest blessings." (474)

"The Lord has no place in His work for those who have a greater desire to win the crown than to bear the cross. He wants men who are more intent upon doing their duty than upon receiving their reward--men who are more solicitous for principle than for promotion." (476-477)

"Not by their wealth, their education, or their position does God estimate men. He estimates them by their purity of motive and their beauty of character. He looks to see how much of His Spirit they possess and how much of His likeness their life reveals. To be great in God's kingdom is to be as a little child in humility, in simplicity of faith, and in purity of love." (477-478)

"Of all the gifts that heaven can bestow upon men, fellowship with Christ in His sufferings is the most weighty trust and the highest honor. Not Enoch, who was translated to heaven, not Elijah, who ascended in a chariot of fire, was greater or more honored than John the Baptist, who perished alone in the dungeon." (478)

"Too many, in planning for a brilliant future, make an utter failure. Let God plan for you. As a little child, trust to the guidance of Him who will "keep the feet of His saints." 1 Samuel 2:9. God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him." (479)

"Many who profess to be Christ's followers have an anxious, troubled heart because they are afraid to trust themselves with God. They do not make a complete surrender to Him, for they shrink from the consequences that such a surrender may involve. Unless they do make this surrender they cannot find peace." (480-481)

"Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish and a plain path before their feet." (481)

### **Tweets of Healing:**

There is an eloquence far more powerful than the eloquence of words in the quiet, consistent life of a pure, true Christian. (469)

What a man is has more influence than what he says. (469)

It is our own character and experience that determine our influence upon others. (469)

In order to convince others of the power of Christ's grace, we must know its power in our own hearts and lives. (469)

The gospel we present for the saving of souls must be the gospel by which our own souls are saved. (469)

Only through a living faith in Christ as a personal Saviour is it possible to make our influence felt in a skeptical world. (469)

The strongest argument in favor of the gospel is a loving and lovable Christian. (470)

Trials and obstacles are the Lord's chosen methods of discipline and His appointed conditions of success. (471)

The fact that we are called upon to endure trial shows that Jesus sees in us something precious which He desires to develop. (471)

Let us remember that while the work we have to do may not be our choice, it is to be accepted as God's choice for us. (472)

Often our plans fail that God's plans for us may succeed. (473)

In the future life we will understand all the seemingly unanswered prayers and disappointed hopes. (473-476)

The Lord has no place in His work for those who have a greater desire to win the crown than to bear the cross. (476)

Not by their wealth, education, or position does God estimate people but by their purity of motive and beauty of character. (477-478)

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Of all the gifts that heaven can bestow, fellowship with Christ in His sufferings is the most weighty trust and highest honor. (478)

Too many, in planning for a brilliant future, make an utter failure. Let God plan for you. (479)

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Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us of which we know nothing. (481)

The faithful discharge of today's duties is the best preparation for tomorrow's trials. (481)

The only way for the church to approach homosexuals is from a standpoint of common brokenness, not out of a sense of superiority.