

These Perilous Times

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What Do God's People Believe? Part XVII

Before Jesus ascended to heaven He made several promises that were recorded in the Bible by His Spirit-inspired writers. ¹

He stated that He would not leave His disciples comfortless while awaiting His second coming. ²

We will receive the Holy Spirit when we repent, are obedient, and are baptized. ³

Jesus is preparing a place for us in heaven. ⁴ He will come back with the clouds, in the same manner in which He left. We will also be endowed with the Holy Spirit for witnessing in His behalf. ⁵

What does this mean for us?

¹ II Tim 3:16; I Pet. 1:19-21

² John 14:16-18

³ Acts 2:38; 5:32

⁴ John 14:1-3

⁵ Acts 1:8-11; Rev. 1:7

Obvious Signs Do Tell the Season

As we anticipate the end time we are witnessing the most horrific global atrocities known to the human race! We need to respond to Christ's call, "to come out of darkness into His marvelous light..."

While we await Christ's return we are not to be indolent. We must be proclaiming the Three Angels' Messages with urgency, but we need to be spiritually gifted for the task! God has indeed promised to gift every believer for His service with different gifts and talents by the same Holy Spirit!

We are to use these gifts and talents to prepare a "remnant people" for His Second Coming.⁶

A Divine Provision

"Nineteen centuries ago after establishing His church on earth, Jesus returned to heaven. The disciples watched him ascend with anxious hearts {Luke 24:50, 51; Acts 1:9}.

⁶ Rev. 12:17; Matt. 28:18-20; Rev. 14:6-12

Would they be able to represent Him correctly? Could they successfully carry out the work He had left for them to do? Did they have the talents necessary for carrying the gospel to the world? ⁷

Seventh-day Adventist Believe ...

17. Spiritual Gifts and Ministries

“God bestows upon all members of His church in every age spiritual gifts, which each member is to employ in loving ministry for the common good of the church and of humanity.

*Given by the agency of the Holy Spirit, who apportions to each member as **He wills**, the gifts provides all abilities and ministries needed by the church to fulfill its divinely ordained functions.*

*According to the scriptures, these gifts include such ministries as *faith, healing, prophecy, proclamation, teaching, administration, reconciliation, compassion, and self-sacrificing service and charity for the help and encouragement of people.**

⁷ We Believe, “Signs of the Times Magazine-Special Edition,” pp. 20, 21.

Some members are called of God and endowed by the Spirit for functions recognized by the church in pastoral, evangelistic, apostolic, and teaching ministries particularly needed to equip the members for service, to build up the church to spiritual maturity, and to foster unity of the faith and the knowledge of God.

When members employ these gifts as faithful stewards of God's varied grace, **the church is protected from the destructive influence of false doctrine, grows with a growth that is from God, and is built up in faith and love,**⁸ {Rom. 12:4-8; I Cor. 12:9-11, 27, 28; Eph. 4:8. 11-16; Acts 6:1-7; I Tim. 3:1-13; I Pet. 4:10, 11 Emphasis supplied}.



⁸ Seventh-day Adventists Believe, "A Biblical Exposition of Fundamental Beliefs," 2005, pp. 237-245.