

## SEEMINGLY DIFFICULT STATEMENTS of E. G. WHITE



*Seventh-day Adventist leaders and laity will often quote the few Ellen White quotes which state three persons, three dignitaries, three highest powers. And they camp on these statements as if Ellen White had nothing else to say on this subject. They do the same as non-Adventists who do the same on the few quotes concerning 'Hell', 'The Sabbath', 'The Law' etc., and they ignore the vast other Biblical and Spirit of Prophecy quotes which confirm otherwise. But when you read the many other quotes from Ellen White you will clearly see that Ellen White was referring to the Holy Spirit being the 'personality' of Jesus, and NOT a separate literal being.*

*It is with these few statements in the Spirit of Prophecy that people read and then claim that Ellen White (and the pioneers) believed in a Trinity. In this study we will look at these quotes. We have absolutely no quarrels with the statements below, in fact, we agree with them. However, a few mistakes that are often made by Adventists when it comes to Ellen White's writings, is one of neglect. Many have neglected to compile all of her writings on a particular subject before drawing their conclusions about what God was revealing through her. When people do this with the Bible people become very alarmed, and yet, this is what people tend to do with Ellen White's writings. As you will see as you study the documents of this website.*



"I have much written in the diary I have kept in all my journeys that should come before the people if essential, even if I did not write another line, I want that which is deemed worthy to appear, for the Lord had given me much light that I want the people to have; for there is instruction that the Lord has given me for his people. It is a light that they should have, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little. This is now to come before the people, because it has been given to correct specious errors and to specify what is truth. The Lord has revealed many things pointing out the truth, thus saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it." (Ellen G. White, Letter 127, 1910 to W. C. White, November 22<sup>nd</sup> 1910)

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: Isaiah 28:10

"Evil had been accumulating for centuries and could only be restrained and resisted by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power." (Testimonies to Ministers, p. 392).

*In this next statement we will see clearly who the third person is.*

The Spirit was given **as a regenerating agency**, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of man to this satanic captivity was amazing. *Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the third person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fulness of divine power.* It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature.

**Christ has given his Spirit** as **a divine power** to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress **his own character** upon the church.”{E. G. White, *Review and Herald*, May 19, 1904 par. 3}

*So who is the third person of the Godhead?*

*The last three lines of the statement tell us who the third person of the Godhead is, “**Christ has given His Spirit**”. No need for any guess work, the prophet tells us who the third person of the Godhead is. It is Christ’s Spirit, ‘**His Spirit**’. And why would Christ give His Spirit? “...to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church.”*

*The passage also said, “Christ has given **His Spirit** as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church.” DA 671.*

*Now notice this statement, “Christ declared that after his ascension, he would send to his church, as his crowning gift, the Comforter, who was to take his place. This Comforter is the Holy Spirit,--**the soul of his life**, the efficacy of his church, the light and life of the world. With his Spirit Christ sends a reconciling influence and a power that takes away sin.” RH May19, 1904 – (after DA)*

*The Spirit is His life, the prophet calls the Comforter, “**the soul of His life**” and with His Spirit (His life) we receive the power to overcome sin (all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil).*

*And we see complete harmony between SOP and Bible.*

John 14:18 <sup>18</sup> **I** will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

The Spirit is “the mind of the Lord”. Isaiah 40:13; Romans11:34.

The Spirit is the Spirit of God and Christ. Romans 8:9

“The Lord is that Spirit”. 2 Corinthians 3:17.

God sends “forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts” Galatians 4:6.

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"Keep yourselves where the **three great powers of heaven - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit** - can be your efficiency. These powers work with the one who gives himself unreservedly to God. The strength of heaven is at the command of God's believing ones. The man who makes God his trust is barricaded by an impregnable wall." (In Heavenly Places, p. 176).

*From the same book Ellen White talks further about this Spirit.*

Man in the work of saving of the soul, is wholly dependent upon God. He cannot of himself move one step toward Christ unless **the Spirit of God draws him**, and this drawing is ever, and will continue until man grieves the Holy Ghost by his persistent refusal....HP27.2

The Spirit is constantly showing to the soul glimpses of the things of God, and then a divine presence seems to hover near, and if the mind responds, if the door of the heart is opened, **Jesus abides with the human agent....HP27.3**

The truth of God is designed to elevate the receiver, to refine his taste and sanctify his judgment. **No man can be a Christian without having the spirit of Christ; and if he has the spirit of Christ,** it will be manifested in a refined, courteous disposition. His character will be holy, his manners comely, his words without guile. He will cherish the love that is not easily provoked, that suffers long and is kind, that hopes all things and endures all things.... HP 180.3

*You see when we take the overall statements it is absolutely clear who the Holy Spirit is, it is Christ who comes to dwell with us, His own personal presence.*

*Now we will look at some statements from the book Evangelism.*

"There are three living persons of the heavenly trio." (Evangelism, p. 615).

"We need to realize that the Holy Spirit, who is as much a person as God is a person, is walking through these grounds. The Holy Spirit has a personality, else He could not bear witness to our spirits and with our spirits that we are the children of God. He must also be a divine person, else He could not search out the secrets which lie hidden in the mind of God. 'For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.'" (Evangelism, pp. 616, 617).

*Now let us look at that statement in its full context (which is hidden from the reader in the book of Evangelism).*

**"The Lord** says this because **He** knows it is for our good. **He** would build a wall around us, to keep us from transgression, so that **His** blessing and love may be bestowed on us in rich measure. This is the reason we have established a school here. The Lord instructed us that this was the place in which we should locate, and we have had every reason to think that we are in the right place. We have been brought together as a school, *and we need to realize that the Holy Spirit, who is as much a person as God is a person, is walking through these grounds, unseen by human eyes; that the Lord God is our Keeper and Helper. He hears every word we utter* and knows every thought of the mind." {E. G. White, *Sermons and Talks Volume Two*, pp. 136, 137} {Also appearing in *Manuscript Releases Vol. 7*, p. 299}

*Let us now examine the statement carefully in its full context. Mrs. White is not talking of more than one individual, for she is using the singular pronoun "He" all through. If she were talking of more than one she would have used "they" rather than "He." Therefore, she is talking only of one person; "The Lord." It is "The Lord" who is our keeper, not someone else. The Lord is the one who hears every word. It is the Lord who is "unseen by human eyes". And even though He is there by His Holy Spirit yet He is as much a real person as if He were here physically! This is the meaning of that statement. His personal presence is His person, which is as much a person as He is a person.*

*As can be plainly seen, the statement appearing in Evangelism was doctored (altered) by the editors to suit their own thinking. In 1946 the editors and compilers of Evangelism (compiled by LeRoy E. Froom and friends) selected a number of E. G. White statements on the Godhead (about 6-8) which seemed to imply that she was teaching the trinity doctrine.*

*Remember, the book Evangelism by Ellen White is a compilation with subheadings she did not supply. They are supplied by LeRoy Froom and friends, such as the use of the word "Trinity." She never used the word in all her writings. It was LeRoy Froom who supplied the word trinity in the subheadings of the book Evangelism, as well as the carefully "selected" (and edited) quotes by Ellen White on the Godhead.*

*The prophet is not speaking about another co-eternal, co-equal being called the Holy Spirit. She is reminding the students that they must regard the Lord God as being personally with them in Spirit, although He could not be seen.*

*Now let us compare more quotes from the Spirit of Prophecy (the key) here a little and there a little*

**"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." Christ is not here referring to his doctrine, but to his person, the divinity of his character.**" {E. G. White, *Review and Herald*, April 5, 1906 par. 12}

*How plain! When Christ speaks of the Spirit He is referring "to His person" (not to a different person other than Himself). This is why it is as much a person as God is a person, for it is His very own person!*

**"Christ walks unseen through our streets. With messages of mercy He comes to our homes. With all who are seeking to minister in His name, He waits to co-operate. He is in the midst of us, to heal and to bless, if we will receive Him."** {E. G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 107}

**"Remember that Jesus is beside you wherever you go, noting your actions and listening to your words. Would you be ashamed to hear his voice speaking to you, and to know that he hears your conversation?"** {E. G. White, *The Youth's Instructor*, February 4, 1897 par. 3}

*Who walks unseen in our streets? Who is it that listens to our words and hears our conversation? Why, it is Jesus who is beside us. But, how is He beside us?*

**"That Christ should manifest Himself to them, and yet be invisible to the world, was a mystery to the disciples. They could not understand the words of Christ in their spiritual sense. They were thinking of the outward, visible manifestation. They could not take in the fact that they could have the presence of Christ with them, and yet He be unseen by the world. They did not understand the meaning of a spiritual manifestation."** {E. G. White, *The Southern Work*, September 13, 1898 par. 2}

**"By the Spirit the Father and the Son will come and make their abode with you."** {E. G. White, *Bible Echo and Signs of the Times*, January 15, 1893 par. 8}

**"The Lord Jesus standing by the side of the canvasser, walking with them, is the chief worker. If we recognize Christ as the One who is with us to prepare the way, the Holy Spirit by our side will make impressions in just the lines needed."** {E. G. White, *Colporteur Ministry*, p. 107}

*Therefore, we rightly conclude that the Holy Spirit is the unseen personal presence of the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is the unseen person of Christ.*

“There will be those once united with us in the faith who will search for **new, strange doctrines**, for something odd and sensational to present to the people.

They will bring in all conceivable fallacies, **and will present them as coming from Mrs. White**, that they may beguile souls.” {E. G. White, *Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 41}

*Who has a right to meddle with the words of the inspired Messenger? Why should the editors of Evangelism feel a need to place a full stop where the prophet places a comma and continues her explanation? Why should they thus cut up this sentence? Anyone reading the whole paragraph should know the answer.*

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"The Holy Spirit is a person; for He beareth witness with our spirits that we are the children of God. . . At such times we believe and are sure that we are the children of God... 'We have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in God, and God in him.'" (Manuscript Releases, vol. 20, pp. 68,69).

*For many, this statement is one of the strongest evidences that the Holy Spirit is a being just as the Father and the Son are personal Beings, but a careful analysis will prove to us that this statement actually rejects such an idea.*

*Ellen White says that “the Holy Spirit is a person” and that He “has a personality.” Why? What is the evidence that the Holy Spirit is “a person” and that “He has a personality”?*

*Because He “bears witness”. In other words, if the Spirit is not a person and has no personality, he could not bear witness. An impersonal power or energy cannot bear witness. Only something that is personal and that has a personality can bring an effective witness. She says this very clear: “The Holy Spirit has a personality; else He could not bear witness”. Now read the quotation carefully and notice that the Holy Spirit is not alone when He bears witness but our own spirit is bearing witness together with him – ” for He beareth witness with our spirits”.*

*What then is our spirit? Following the context of the statement mentioned above, only a person can bear witness. If the Holy Spirit is “a person” and “has a personality” because he bears witness, then our spirit is also “a person” and “has a personality” because it bears witness together with the Holy Spirit! But is my spirit some other being than I? Certainly not! It is a part of me, my inner nature, my person, and my character. The same is true in the understanding of the Holy Spirit. It is not another being, but God Himself. Sister White says this very clearly:*

“In giving us **His Spirit**, **God gives us Himself**, making **Himself** a fountain of divine influences, to give health and life to the world.” (7T 273)

*The last part of the statement says that the Spirit “must also be a divine person, else He could not search out the secrets which lie hidden in the mind of God.”*



*The key for this quotation is the verse from 1 Cor. 2:11 which sister White quoted: “For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.”*

*According to the words of Paul, the man and his spirit are comparable to God and His Spirit.*

*What is true about the human spirit for the man is the same as God’s Spirit is to Himself. As the human spirit is not a different individual than the man himself, the same the Spirit of God is not another person than Himself. Otherwise, the verse would make sense.*

*The following statement is from “Education”, page 131:*

“The greatness of God is to us incomprehensible. “The Lord’s throne is in heaven” (Psalm 11:4); **yet by His Spirit He is everywhere present**. He has an intimate knowledge of, and a personal interest in, all the works of His hand.



"For ages prayers had been offered for the fulfillment of God's promise to impart His Spirit, . . . He determined to give His representative, **the third person of the Godhead**. This gift could not be excelled. He would give all gifts in one, and therefore the divine Spirit, that converting, enlightening, and sanctifying power, would be His donation. . . . It came with a fullness and power, as if for ages it had been restrained but was now being poured forth upon the church . . . ." (My Life Today, p. 36).

*Now let’s read this paragraph in full and read what it says correctly.*

During the Jewish economy the influence of **God's Spirit** had been seen in a marked manner, but not in full. For ages prayers had been offered for the fulfillment of God's promise to impart **His Spirit**, and not one of these earnest supplications had been forgotten. Christ determined that when He ascended from this earth He would bestow a gift on those who had believed on Him and those who should believe on Him. What gift could He bestow rich enough to signalize and grace His ascension to the mediatorial throne? It must be worthy of His greatness and His royalty. He determined to give His representative, the third person of the Godhead. This gift could not be excelled. He would give all gifts in one, and therefore the divine Spirit, that converting, enlightening, and sanctifying power, would be His donation. . . . It came with a fullness and power, as if for ages it had been restrained, but was now being poured forth upon the church. . . . Believers were reconverted. Sinners united with Christians seeking the pearl of great price. . . . Every Christian saw in his brother the divine similitude of benevolence and love. One interest prevailed. One object swallowed up all others. Every pulse beat in healthy concert. The only ambition of the believers was to see who could reveal most perfectly the likeness of Christ's character, who could do the most for the enlargement of His kingdom. The Holy Spirit was sent as the most priceless treasure man could receive. - My Life Today, p. 36.

*Here we see it speaks of **God’s Spirit**, **His Spirit**, not God the Holy Spirit or a third person.*

*Summing up all the above quotes did Ellen White call the Spirit of Christ a person?*

*Below Ellen White states that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ and that His own Spirit represents Himself in the world. Therefore, the quote after is also saying that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus Christ which she calls a person.*

“When trials overshadow the soul, remember the words of **CHRIST**, remember that **HE** is an unseen presence in the **PERSON of the Holy Spirit**,” — (Ellen G. White, DG 185.2, 1897)

“Lift up **CHRIST** in His power in the **Person of the Holy Spirit**. He is waiting for them to open the door and admit Him.” — (Ellen G. White, Lt59, March 29, 1899)

*Who is it that stands at the door – Christ:*

Revelation 3:20 <sup>20</sup> Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

“**CHRIST has left HIS Holy Spirit to be HIS representative in the world**, to give celestial aid to every hungering, thirsting soul.” — (Ellen G. White, Lt84, October 22, 1895)

“**JESUS** is present in the **PERSON** of His representative, the **Holy Spirit**, reviving the hearts of the humble and contrite ones.” — (Ellen G. White, 12MR 145.2, 1898)

*Here we see confirmed, Ellen White calls the Spirit of Christ a person, so it is not a third being but the Spirit of the Father that the source of all things that channels through His Son to us. And when she refers to the third person it is indeed the Spirit of Christ that she is referring to, not as a personal being that we can see and touch does He now dwell with us but closer even than that, He dwells within us by His Spirit which is Holy because He is Holy.*

Romans 8:9 <sup>9</sup> But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

The Holy Spirit is a free, working, independent agency....The Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts that He [Jesus] could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people. The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. . . The Desire of Ages, Page 671

*We read [that] those who received the holy impartation of the Spirit ten days after Christ ascended, prayed and removed everything they supposed would be an hindrance. One subject of earnest seeking and hunger was above every other—to be a converted instrumentality endowed with the Spirit of Christ, [so] that they would never misrepresent Him. The whole multitude who believed was of one heart and of one mind, and then the Spirit of Christ could run from heart to heart and assimilate the human agency to become a partaker of the divine nature, to escape all the corruptions that are in the world through lust. The impartation of the Holy Spirit was not hindered, and wherever they went souls were added to the church of such as should be saved. The Gospel was carried everywhere.*

Let all now understand the representation given by Christ, “He shall not speak of himself”—He shall testify of Me; He shall glorify Me. As the Saviour came to glorify the Father by demonstrating His infinite love in all His works, so the demonstration of the Spirit came to glorify Christ by demonstrating [that] “I and My Father are one.”

This the true disciples of Christ will do—to so assimilate themselves to Christ that in His disciples should be manifest His great love to the world in [the] expression of their oneness in and through Christ. (E G. White Ms 151, 1906)

And, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.” Here is the great work to be done. There is God's plan. Every fitting, holy agency is to bear a message in the Bible words: “And the **Spirit** and the bride say, Come.” Every consecrated plan is to [be] put into action to do this great and grand work. **Christ, angels, and consecrated, converted workers** are combined in the work of giving this last message of mercy to the world. (E G. White Ms 151, 1906)

*To those who are earnestly seeking the truth it is clear who E G. White speaks of in regards to three persons etc. When you go by the weight of evidence and examine her and other pioneers writings it is abundantly clear who the Holy Spirit is, there can be no doubt that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God coming through His Son Jesus Christ and hence the Holy Spirit can be called the Spirit of Christ. As Ellen White said:*

**“The Holy Spirit, which proceeds from the only begotten Son of God, binds the human agent, body, soul, and spirit, to the perfect, divine-human nature of Christ.” — (Ellen G. White, Review and Herald, April 5, 1906)**