

How to Radically Improve Your Walk With God

“I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you.’ Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but followed the counsels and the dictates of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward.

In days of antiquity, when God saw that his people needed to radically improve their walk with him, what did He do? He sent them prophets:

Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have even sent to you all My servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them. (Jeremiah 7:23–25 NKJV)

The Bible repeats this idea multiple times, see Jeremiah 26, 29, 35, 44!

One of the most common ways in the Bible you see God providing a way for his people to radically improve their walk with Him, is by sending a prophet. The prophet is sent not to invent new truth that contradicts old truth, but to make old truth more plain to understand.

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.” (Acts 2:17 NKJV)

So we see this is not just an Old Testament phenomena. It says that specifically in the last days, God will give those who follow him prophetic instruction!

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a **perfect** man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11–13 NKJV)

“Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers” (Acts 13:1 NKJV)

“Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.” (Acts 21:9–10 NKJV)

the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 1:5–7 NKJV)

“Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” (1 Thessalonians 5:20–21 KJV)

“Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.” (2 Chronicles 20:20 NKJV)

And regarding God’s final followers on earth, the Bible shows us that they will have been blessed with the Spirit of Prophecy.

“And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” “For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” (Revelation 12:17; 19:10 NKJV)

Yet at the same time, we must remember that there are also going to be many false prophets at the end of time, and we need to know how to discern between the true gift and the false one!

““Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.”

(Matthew 7:15 NKJV)

“Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.” (1 John 4:1 NLT-SE)

How can we tell a false prophet from a true? Here are four simple yet accurate tests:

1. A true prophet will have Visions/Dreams:

“Then He said, “Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream.”

(Numbers 12:6 NKJV)

2. They are accurate 100% of the time:

“As for the prophet who prophesies of peace, when the word of the prophet comes to pass, the prophet will be known as one whom the LORD has truly sent.”

(Jeremiah 28:9 NKJV)

Understand that there are circumstances where God may change the outcome of an uttered prophecy based on human repentance or rebellion. Consider Jonah. He preached that after 40 days Nineveh would be destroyed. But it wasn't destroyed at that time. Did that mean he was a false prophet? No it showed the truth that some prophecies hinge on people's decisions. God spared Nineveh because the people repented! The truth is explained here:

“If I announce that a certain nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down, and destroyed, but then that nation renounces its evil ways, I will not destroy it as I had planned. And if I announce that I will plant and build up a certain nation or kingdom, but then that nation turns to evil and refuses to obey me, I will not bless it as I said I would.”(Jeremiah 18:7–10 NLT-SE)

3. Always agree with the Bible:

“To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”

(Isaiah 8:20 NKJV)

4. They Confess Christ:

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.”

(1 John 4:1–3 NKJV)

I would like to introduce you to someone today, probably one of the most humble people I've ever known of, who I believe was blessed with the gift of prophecy, and whose Bible Studies and writings about Jesus have touched my life more than anything else I have ever experienced beyond reading the Bible itself. Her books, which are really Bible studies, have radically Improved my walk with God in every way and my appreciation for his Word. In fact, it is because of her writings pointing me to Jesus and the Bible that I'm here giving this Bible seminar today. Her name was Ellen White.

Ellen White wrote:

“The Word of God is the great detector of error; to it we believe everything must be brought. The Bible must be our standard for every doctrine. We must study it reverentially. We are to receive no one's opinion without comparing it with the Scriptures. Here is divine authority, which is supreme in matters of faith. It is the Word of the living God that is to decide all controversies.” Christ Triumphant p 331

Ellen Gould White had a great life goal: to introduce people to Jesus. She encouraged people to read and follow their Bibles. Most of what she wrote were essentially Bible studies. She was born November 26, 1827. According to one researcher, she is the third most translated author in history, and the most translated American author, male or

female. As far as we know, she wrote and published more books, and in more languages, which circulate to a greater extent than the written works of any woman in history.

At the time of her death Ellen White's literary productions totaled approximately 100,000 pages, 27 million words: 50 books; 5,000 periodical articles in the journals of the church; more than 200 tracts and pamphlets; approximately 35,000 typewritten pages of manuscript documents and letters; 2,000 handwritten letters and diary materials comprising, when copied, another 15,000 typewritten pages.

On September 25, 1997, Paul Harvey, the popular radio personality, announced on his nationally syndicated program:

“Women have been honored on American postage stamps for more than 100 years, starting with one woman who was not an American, Queen Isabella, in 1893. Since then, 86 women have been honored, ranging from Martha Washington to Marilyn Monroe. Also many women authors like Louisa May Alcott, Emily Dickenson, Willa Cather, and Rachel Carson. But I can name an American woman author who has never been honored thus, though her writings have been translated into 148 languages. More than Marx or Tolstoy, more than Agatha Christie, more than William Shakespeare. Only now is the world coming to appreciate her recommended prescription for optimum spiritual and physical health. Ellen White: You don't know her? Get to know her!”

So let's look at some Biblical tests of a true prophet and see if you should “Get to know Ellen White” like Paul Harvey recommended!

1. A true prophet will have Visions/Dreams:

- Ellen White had over 2000 visions and dreams during her life of ministry.

2. They are accurate 100% of the time:

- During her lifetime Ellen White did make some remarkable predictions, although that was not a primary focus of her ministry.
- One of the most startling may be the 1906 San Francisco/Oakland earthquake. Having received warnings of impending judgment upon the city for many years prior, she had her final and most detailed vision regarding its destruction on April 16, 1906. She saw houses “shaken like a reed in the wind” and buildings falling to the ground. “Pleasure resorts, theaters, hotels, and homes of the wealthy were shaken and shattered. Many lives were blotted out of existence, and the air was filled with the shrieks of the injured and the terrified. ... It seemed that the forbearance of God was exhausted, and the judgment day had come.” Historical accounts reveal that two days later there was no sign of impending doom until 5:12 a.m., when the San Andreas fault slipped over nearly 270 miles, crumbling the very foundations of the city. In its wake, the quake left 490 city blocks in a state of total devastation and more than 225,000 homeless people, along with over 800 dead and 1,500 injured. Several insurance companies went bankrupt trying to meet the claims.
- She was shown that smoking was a poison during a time when physicians were prescribing cigarettes for their supposed “health benefits”.
- She gave warnings regarding the Civil War and its disastrous slaughter years in advance.

3. Always agree with the Bible:

- Each of her books has literally hundreds of scriptural references. The Scripture Index to 77 of her principal books, not counting periodical articles, contains approximately 30,000 references. In some areas, her writings provide additional detail for present-day application. This is done in such a way as to reinforce, rather than detract from, the message of Scripture.

4. They Confess Christ:

- **Ellen White professes Christ, uplifts Christ, and urges others to know Christ in ways I have never heard anyone else do. Several of her most beloved books are specifically about Christ. Christ's Object Lessons, The Desire Of Ages, Thoughts From the Mount of Blessings, Ministry of Healing, etc.**

I would just suggest to you, in Paul Harvey's words, "get to know Ellen White". Test her! Prove all things, hold fast that which is good, the Bible says. See if reading her scripture commentaries and Bible Studies doesn't radically improve your walk with God, as much as it has improved mine.

IMPORTANT! There is NO doctrine of the Seventh-day Adventist church that is based on Ellen White. The church's doctrines are based on the BIBLE ALONE! But if one believes in the Bible, they have to believe in the gift of the testimony of Jesus to his people at the end of time! (See Rev 12:17 and 19:10)

In closing I just wanted to share with you three of my favorite paragraphs that Ellen White wrote. They are beautiful, meaningful, and they point me to Jesus and the Bible:

And to all, the pitying Saviour's answer is, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." It is faith that connects us with heaven, and brings us strength for coping with the powers of darkness. In Christ, God has provided means for subduing every sinful trait, and resisting every temptation, however strong. But many feel that they lack faith, and therefore they remain away from Christ. Let these souls, in their helpless unworthiness, cast themselves upon the mercy of their compassionate Saviour. Look not to self, but to Christ. He who healed the sick and cast out demons when He walked among men is the same mighty Redeemer today. Faith comes by the word of God. Then grasp His promise, "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out." John 6:37. Cast yourself at His feet with the cry, "Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief." You can never perish while you do this—never. Desire of Ages 429.1

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. 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. "Unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake." Philippians 1:29. And 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. Desire of Ages 224.5

Through all our trials we have a never-failing Helper. He does not leave us alone to struggle with temptation, to battle with evil, and be finally crushed with burdens and sorrow. Though now He is hidden from mortal sight, the ear of faith can hear His voice saying, Fear not; I am with you. "I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore." Revelation 1:18. I have endured your sorrows, experienced your struggles, encountered your temptations. I know your tears; I also have wept. The griefs that lie too deep to be breathed into any human ear, I know. Think not that you are desolate and forsaken. Though your pain touch no responsive chord in any heart on earth, look unto Me, and live. "The mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but My kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of My peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee." Isaiah 54:10. ...Reader, He loves you. Heaven itself can bestow nothing greater, nothing better. Therefore trust. Desire of Ages 483.3

On August 23, 1915, there appeared in The New York Independent (a prestigious monthly journal published in New York) an editorial entitled: "An American Prophetess."

"She showed no spiritual pride and she sought no filthy lucre. She lived the life and did the work of a worthy prophetess, the most admirable of the American succession."