

LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST PASTORS & LEADERS

by Ervin K. Thomsen, D.Min.

- **Identity** – Who are you?
- **History** – Where have you been?
The processing of your timeline.
What lessons have you learned?
- **Testimony** – What is your personal testimony growing out of the recounting and processing of your past history?
- **Destiny** – What is God’s calling on your life?
- **Intentionality** – How are you going to get there?

© 2011 by Ervin K. Thomsen, info@streamofhealing.org – (909) 499-1049

Equipping Spiritually Healthy Leaders to Lead Spiritually Healthy Churches in the Reaping of the Gospel Harvest

Taking the three angels’ messages as God’s medicine for our own lives.

[The Bible-based experiential applications of this seminar are not replacements or substitutes for the traditional prophetic/historical applications of the three angels’ message].

<p>SPIRITUAL ILLNESS</p> <p>Disappointment Discouragement Disillusionment</p> <p>God often gives His most powerful and hopeful messages to people who have experienced intense disappointments.</p>	<p>The early Christian church had its birth in a disappointment, 31 A.D. <i>“We were hoping it was He who was going to redeem Israel...”</i> (Luke 24:21). God’s cure for this disappointment –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bible study (Luke 24:27) by Jesus.• The opening of their eyes to see Jesus in the Old Testament Scriptures (Luke 24:27).• The opening of their eyes to see Jesus in person (Luke 24:31).• The continual willingness to grow and learn.• An intense desire to share with other disappointed disciples about Jesus <i>“Did not our hearts burn within us...”</i> (Luke 24:32). <p>The Seventh-day Adventist Church had its birth in a disappointment, October 23, 1844. God’s cure for the disappointment –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The opening of their eyes to <i>see Jesus</i> ministering in the Most Holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. The vision of Hiram Edson on the morning of the disappointment.• The opening of their eyes to heavenly realities in Daniel and Revelation, as motivated and amplified through the visions of Ellen G. White, December 1844. This gave hope to the scattered flock.• Bible study and prayer led to seeing their experience of discouragement in the light of Scripture (Revelation 10:9-11).• The continual willingness to grow and learn.• The opening of their eyes to God’s mission for them – <i>“You must prophecy again...”</i> (Revelation 11:11).• The discovery of their <i>mission</i> and <i>message</i> as found in the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14:6-12.
--	---

<p style="text-align: center;">God’s cure for disappointment: the courage to hope again.</p> <p>The Seventh-day Adventist church became a world-wide movement through the three angels’ messages as God’s medicine for their disappointment and discouragement. We have gone <i>far and wide</i> into the world with these messages – now it is time to go <i>deep</i> to let these messages change our lives from the inside out.</p> <p>The book of Revelation was written to give hope to the early Christians who faced disappointments and debilitating discouragement.</p>	<p>More than 150 years after the great disappointment, Adventists are now faced with another series of disappointments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Disappointment with Jesus</u> – He has not returned in His 2nd coming, and we are still here. • <u>Disappointment with our church</u> – “if we know so much Bible truth, why is there so much conflict within our church?” So many have tremendous assurance that I am a member of the right church, but very little assurance that God personally loves them and that their sins are forgiven. • <u>Disappointment with ourselves</u> – “if I believe in such a perfect doctrinal package, why do I still have so little assurance of salvation? If we have so much truth, why can’t we get along with each other?” <p>We may <i>neuter</i> the three angels’ messages...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when we merely cherish them as ways to impress others with our orthodoxy and doctrinal correctness. • when we major in talking to ourselves about ourselves—“we have the truth,” “we are right,” “aren’t we wonderful?” [denominational pride] – while we fail to notice the intoxicating effects of the sin-disease in our own lives. • when we have more to say about the beast than about the Lamb. • when the results of our evangelism becomes a means to boost our self-worth and thereby to enhance our identity. • when we focus only on the <i>convenient truths</i> of the three angels’ messages. <p>When we preach <i>and</i> practice the <i>undiluted</i> three angels’ messages, here are some possible possible results.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We would major in making prominent the great center of attraction, Jesus Christ. Thus we would have more to say about the Lamb than about the beast. 2. We would humbly continue to search the Scriptures so that the Holy Spirit could expose our own dysfunctions and sinful strategies. 3. We would take the three angels’ messages as God’s medicine for our own lives before giving these messages to others. 4. Just as God used disappointment to stretch the early Advent believers, could He not also use whatever disappointment you may be facing to stretch you that you may know that He still has a magnificent purpose for your life? <p>We can powerfully amplify the proclamation of the three angels’ messages by bearing authentic personal testimonies to the power of the Lamb in overcoming any possible viruses of both Babylon and the beast.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">IDENTITY</p> <p>The roots of our identity are found in God’s covenant, the everlasting gospel, where our names were inscribed in the Lamb’s book of life before the foundation of the world.</p> <p>One of the main tasks of Adventist leaders will be to will assist others in discovering the dignity of their true identity in Jesus Christ.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GOD’S COVENANT APPEAL The 1st angel’s Message – the Everlasting Gospel</p> <p>The foundation for spiritual health is found in the everlasting gospel, God’s covenant offer of salvation through the redeeming work of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>The 1st angel’s message is God’s prescription for salvation: You don’t have to work to earn your salvation, because salvation is His gift to you. The <i>everlasting gospel</i> is His commitment, based on the intention of His loving heart before the world began, to save all who will come to Him trusting in the sufficiency Christ’s death as full atonement for their sins.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>False identity</u>: What you <i>do</i> determines who you are. <u>True identity</u>: Who you <i>are</i> determines what you do.</p> <p>A solid self-worth is based on your identity in Christ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>False self-worth</u>: Your performance + the opinions of others about that performance. • <u>True self-worth</u>: What God says about you, based on <i>creation</i> and <i>redemption</i>. • “<i>Christ paid an infinite price for us, and according to the price paid He desires</i>”

<p>Our identity in Jesus Christ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> determines what we do debunks the lies of Satan. provides the programming for our lives (image, name, and number). enhances our spiritual health. develops inside of us an immunity to all of Satan's deceptions. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>us to value ourselves.”</i> EGW</p> <p>Because of Christ's death at Calvary's cross, you have been given a secure new identity in Him. Therefore, you will be able to declare the following incontrovertible facts about your identity with positive assurance –</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><i>“Because of Christ's redemption, I am a new creation of infinite worth. I am deeply loved, I am completely forgiven, I am fully pleasing, I am totally accepted by God. I am absolutely complete in Christ.”</i> (Robert McGhee)</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><u><i>The gospel is all about Jesus Christ:</i></u> <i>I believe in Jesus Christ, Who is the FULFILLMENT of God's promises to me, Who is the MESSIAH, the Son of God, my Savior, Who LIVED for me, Who DIED for me, Who AROSE from the dead for me, Who ASCENDED to intercede for me, and Who shall RETURN for me, and I am HIS forever.</i> (James Ayars).</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><i>“Because of Christ's redemption, I am a new creation of infinite worth. I am deeply loved, I am completely forgiven, I am fully pleasing, I am totally accepted by God. I am absolutely complete in Christ.”</i> (Robert McGhee)</p>	<p><u><i>The gospel is all about Jesus Christ:</i></u> <i>I believe in Jesus Christ, Who is the FULFILLMENT of God's promises to me, Who is the MESSIAH, the Son of God, my Savior, Who LIVED for me, Who DIED for me, Who AROSE from the dead for me, Who ASCENDED to intercede for me, and Who shall RETURN for me, and I am HIS forever.</i> (James Ayars).</p>
<p><i>“Because of Christ's redemption, I am a new creation of infinite worth. I am deeply loved, I am completely forgiven, I am fully pleasing, I am totally accepted by God. I am absolutely complete in Christ.”</i> (Robert McGhee)</p>	<p><u><i>The gospel is all about Jesus Christ:</i></u> <i>I believe in Jesus Christ, Who is the FULFILLMENT of God's promises to me, Who is the MESSIAH, the Son of God, my Savior, Who LIVED for me, Who DIED for me, Who AROSE from the dead for me, Who ASCENDED to intercede for me, and Who shall RETURN for me, and I am HIS forever.</i> (James Ayars).</p>		
<p>Our identity resides in God's covenant election of us</p>	<p>The covenant tells us that long before the cross was erected on Calvary's hill, a cross was already erected God's heart.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covenant salvation – salvation is God's gift to me received by faith. Contract salvation – by my own works I can bargain for God's favor. Covenant salvation – <i>God help the helpless.</i> This gives us solid assurance of salvation, and develops in us the <i>fruit of the Spirit.</i> Contract salvation - <i>God helps those who help themselves.</i> This develops in us the <i>works of the flesh</i> as we 'try harder.' 		
<p>The attacks of Satan on your <u>identity</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your identity is like the <u>operating</u> system of a computer. Satan wants that operating system to crash. Continually, he attempts to invade the <i>root sectors</i> of our identity with his lies. Replacing the lies of Satan with the truths of the gospel will securely guard us against all the lies of the enemy. Your spiritual <u>immune</u> system is found in your identity. Destroy this immune system and your life is open to all the attacks of the viruses of the enemy. 		
<p>Protecting your identity</p> <p>Spiritually healthy people will possess a solid sense of their personal identity as found in a covenant relationship with God, initiated by God Himself. This secure personal identity is found in these responses to God's covenant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Fear God</i> – <i>Give Him glory.</i> <i>The hour of His judgment</i> 	<p>Enhancing spiritual health. These responses to the everlasting gospel will enhance our spiritual health and increase our immunity against all of Satan's lies and devices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Fear God</i> – for the fear of God is a healthy fear that guards us against all unhealthy fears that would damage our lives and steal our joy. The 'fear of God' overcomes all other fears, including fear of punishment, fear of failure, fear of the judgment, and fear of the future. The fear of God also protects us against any fears that would set us up for the allurements of god-replacing idolatries, because we do not believe that our God is big enough to handle our lives. Faith is the refusal to let fear program our lives. What is your fear? When your fear becomes, in your mind, too big for God to handle, you set yourself up for idolatry, seeking a replacement-god who can control your life according to <i>your</i> wishes. When a fear becomes that great you have made that fear greater than God. You have reduced the size of your god, and that makes you a child of a lesser god. Such fears will eventually set you up for the deceptions of both Babylon and the beast. <i>Give glory to Him</i> for glorifying Him is God's antidote to pride and self-sufficiency which is the root problem of Babylon-like self-focused attempts to make our lives work <i>without</i> God. God is most glorified when we are most satisfied in Him. 		

<p>The judgment teaches about the high value God has placed on us by holding us accountable for our conduct.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Worship</i> is an affirmation of our dignity and identity as found in the worship of God as Creator. <i>Worship Him</i> as Creator to protect yourself against Satan’s attempt to steal your identity. • Thus understood, the Sabbath is truly a celebration of both our identity and dignity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Worship Him</i> – for the genuine worship of the Lamb is the best protection against the worship of the beast, which is any substitute for the saving work of Jesus Christ. This includes all do-it-yourself methods of salvation. Genuine worship is the heaven-designed way whereby God supplies your life with the sufficiency of His resources as you serve Him with your praises. The security of our identity is found in the worship of <i>one God only</i>. <p>Let worship become...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the realization of our original identity. • our participation in Christ’s history. • the receiving of the benefits of Christ’s victory. • the realization of genuine self-worth derived from Christ’s worth – “<i>Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.</i>” • our joyful satisfaction with the sufficiency of our God. • our joyful witness to others about delight in our God. To magnify the Lord is to brag about Him.
<p>Because of Christ’s redemptive work, God now gives us a new history.</p>	<p><i>A new history</i>, because with His precious blood He blots out our <i>old history</i> with all the sins of our past, and then He gives us a <i>new history</i> based on the accomplishments of Jesus Christ. Through baptism we are dead, buried, risen, and ascended with Christ. Our identity is anchored in our legal position in Christ, being seated with Him in heavenly places, and it is so secure that the enemy cannot touch it.</p>
<h2 style="text-align: center;">HISTORY</h2> <p>God wants to equip us to become spiritually healthy leaders by doing an honest assessment of our individual timelines.</p> <p>As we recall our personal timelines, God wants us to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acknowledge and confess personal wrongs and sins. • recall painful experiences, woundedness, and brokenness, and ask for God’s healing of these through identification with the Christ’s sufferings at the cross. • process all such personal pain through the principles of Luke 4:18,18 in order to experience freedom from the bondage of our past. 	<p style="text-align: center;">WARNING ABOUT COVENANT VIOLATIONS – The sin disease of Babylon – The covetous desires of our hearts seeking fulfillment in relationships and activities that cannot satisfy</p> <p>The 2nd angel’s message, Babylon is fallen! is God’s assessment and judgment on the sin disease: the abuse of love, love which has to be “bought and sold.” A Babylon-like style of living breaks the covenant of her heavenly husband, Jesus Christ, by looking for love in the wrong places. Salvation and spiritual health can only be restored when you come out the bondage of...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all God-replacing idolatries by which we seek to make a name for ourselves in order be the managers of our own lives. • any sin that takes away our freedom to be all that God wants us to be (bitterness, unforgiveness, self-pity et cetera) • our dependence (intoxication/addiction) on possessions, people, places, position and power to satisfy our deepest needs. <p>We damage our identity in Christ when we depend on our idols and idolatrous strategies to cover and compensate for the pain of our past woundedness. Detect where you have become addicted to idols (especially religious ones) in order to escape pain and find a sense of personal significance.</p> <p>Protection against the sin disease of Babylon. Rest in the security of God’s love, because the power of His love overcomes fears of rejection and liberates you from the bondage of looking for love in the wrong places. Herein is found the cure for the sin-disease of Babylon. Detect the traits of Babylon in your own life (or church): Pride, self-centeredness, the idolatry of spiritual adultery – looking for love and personal significance in all the wrong places. A sense of personal significance should only come from the cross.</p>

<p>Detect the assaults of the enemy on your identity as your discern where the Babylon virus has infected your life.</p> <p>Idolatry is an assault on God’s identity which damages His glory.</p> <p>When we damage God’s identity, we thereby also damage our own identity.</p>	<p>The Babylon – beast connection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Babylon</u>’s appeal is the seduction of making us believe the lie that we can obtain satisfaction of our greatest needs through our own attempts at <i>do-it-yourself religion</i>. At Mt. Sinai, the covetous spirit of discontent with God led to the making of a golden calf. Question: what is your personal golden calf, sacred cow, hobby horse on which you depend for personal significance and self-worth? Idolatry is to lie about God – that He is not enough for us. • <u>The Beast</u>: Once we yield our thinking processes to the seductions of Babylon, we will look for an idol (a beast) for the outworking of our idolatrous and god-replacing pursuits. Our embrace of the seductions of Babylon always leads to making of our own man-made beasts, who now control us and terrorize others. We want to control our lives through idolatry, and instead our idols now control us.
<p>Detect in your timeline the assaults of the enemy on your identity as your discern where the Babylon virus has expressed itself in beastlike conduct.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WARNINGS ABOUT COVENANT VIOLATIONS –</p> <p>The sin-disease of beast worship – trusting in false christis who cannot save.</p> <p>The 3rd angel’s message: Do not worship the beast! God’s description of the sin disease of beast worship. When you worship the beast (any substitute or replacement for the sufficiency of the saving work of Jesus Christ) you will damage your own life and the lives of others with the result of such misplaced allegiances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may use the methods of the beast to do the work of the Lamb. • You may try to fill your cup of personal significance by methods that damage yourself and others – force, fear, anger, threats, coercion, manipulation, intimidation – all methods of control. <p>The cure for the ‘beast’ disease: The worship Jesus Christ, the all-sufficient Lamb of God, to meet your every need. Contentment with Christ and His salvation is the only sure way to protect yourself against the deceptions of both ‘Babylon’ and the ‘beast.’ Christ’s sufficiency overcomes feelings of shame and inadequacy.</p>
<p>The everlasting gospel as applied to personal living according to the model of Luke 4:16-18, and Isaiah 61:1-4.</p>	<p><u>Jesus’ Prescription to bring healing to all our brokenness:</u> <i>“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised”</i> (Luke 4:18, 19).</p> <p><u>The gospel</u> –The Good news that Jesus offers you abundant life to set you free from all past woundedness, brokenness, unforgiveness, and bitterness arising from your own sins or the sins of others.</p> <p><u>The poor</u> - the helpless, those without resources, those are at the end of their ropes, facing impossibilities whose self-fix methods have not worked.</p> <p><u>Heal the brokenhearted.</u> Jesus can heal your wounds. He has experienced everything you go through, being touched with the feelings of our infirmities. He can replace cherished inner lies with His truths in our inward parts. The healing He offers is substantial and permanent (John 8:32,36).</p> <p><u>Proclaim liberty to the captives.</u> You can make a jailbreak through the forgiving and healing power of Jesus. Lies of Satan that have held you captive can be removed. Your entire life can be reprogrammed.</p> <p><u>Recovery of sight for the blind:</u> Your blind spots are removed. You see God, yourself and others from a new perspective. You see God working out good in the midst of pain. (Romans 8:28).</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">History</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.”</i> Ellen G. White</p> <p><u>Continue the processing of all personal pain</u> and sin according to the principles of Luke 4:18,19 in order to experience freedom from the bondage of our past through Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Detect where both the principles of Babylon and the beast have been operational in your life.</p> <p>Discover where sin has been hiding behind a façade of personal woundedness, amplified by a victim mentality.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>We nurse our wounds, we curse our wounds, we rehearse our wounds, but we cannot reverse our wounds until we give them to Jesus to let Him heal them.</i></p> <p>To” come out Babylon” is far more than to give up our membership in other churches and have membership in the remnant church.</p> <p>To come out of Babylon is to experience come out of bondage and to experience genuine freedom in Jesus Christ.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Set at liberty the oppressed! You can be free!</u></p> <p>The song of Moses and the Lamb (Revelation 15:1-4) has its Old Testament roots in Deuteronomy 31:14 – 32:43, the covenant song written by Moses, in which God instructed him to record the timeline and history of the Israelites in their wilderness wanderings. Afterward Moses placed the words of this song in a scroll <u>beside</u> the ark of the covenant. When this covenant scroll was found under the reign of good King Josiah, it led to revival. Start rehearsing this song in <i>advance</i> of singing it on the sea of glass. Since the lyrics of this song consist in a processing the events of your own personal experience, here are some suggestions you may find helpful.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Start writing a timeline of your own life – from your earliest memories until now. 2. In what ways do you sense God’s leading through everything – both the good and bad? Were there times when He seemed to be absent? 3. Recall your negative and painful experiences. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas where you may still harbor resentment, bitterness, and unforgiveness toward others. And then get on with the work of forgiving others, as well as confessing your own wrongdoings toward others. 4. Write out whatever lessons you have learned from your painful experiences. Also write out those special areas where God is still working on you. 5. Discover where you have pursued with a whoring heart the attractions of Babylon – designer deities made in the image of the unfulfilled covetous expectations of your own heart. God wants you to dismiss the harem, and to love Him only. 6. Discern and discard all <i>false christs</i> of your own making in which you have trusted. A false christ may not be an object or a person, but a way of thinking the displaces Jesus Christ to the 2nd place in your worship. 7. Give your life to Jesus Christ as you trust that every sin is covered by the blood of the Lamb, and that the only sure basis for your salvation is found in His covenant faithfulness. <i>Faithful is He who promised it, and who will also do it</i> (Hebrews 10:23). 8. Visualize through your sanctified imagination that you are standing there before the throne singing the song of Moses and the Song of the Lamb, and thank Him in advance for the assurance found in His word that you will be there. 9. Believe that God will even now use this processing of your own experiences to lead others to salvation in Jesus Christ. Consider the possibilities that God will powerfully use you like never before, and that through this process you will develop a powerful personal testimony to lead others to Him. The story of the woman at the well shows that God often uses the healing of our personal pain as the basis of our witness for Him. <i>“Our confession of His faithfulness is Heaven’s chosen agency for revealing Christ to the world”</i> (EGW – DA347). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>To come out of Babylon</u> is to let go of all bondage and addictions to our idols, and to experience genuine freedom in Jesus Christ. • <u>To overcome the beast</u> is to discover our true identity in Christ’s redemptive work on the cross and in the heavenly sanctuary, as we let go of all the lies of Satan that have become strongholds, damaging our lives. We worship Jesus Christ as the only authorized and anointed Savior there is, trusting that He is sufficient for all our needs (Philippians 4:13, 19).
---	--

<p>Detect the presence of the Babylon and the beast viruses in own life and in your local congregation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The Babylon virus</u> – James 4:1-4 “Where do wars and fights come from among you...You adulterers and adulteresses...” • <u>Beastlike behaviors</u> – Galatians 4:15 “But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another.”
	<p><u>Your timeline reveals...</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your identity • your priorities • your values – what have you learned? • the position of God in your life? • if your life is in alignment with God’s purposes?
<p>DESTINY</p> <p>In the light of your identity and the processing of your past history, what is God’s calling for your life?</p>	<p>An understanding of your secure Biblical <u>identity</u>, accompanied by an honest processing of the events of your <u>history</u> will result in a dynamic refocusing on God’s <u>destiny</u> for your life in order that the rest of your life will be your best life.</p>
<p>Your new life will now become a living and joyful testimony growing out the presence of these covenant blessings in your life:</p> <p><i>Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.</i></p>	<p>The Results of Covenant Salvation – The Evidences of Spiritual Health</p> <p>You will experience the joy of these covenant blessings in your life -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The patience of the saints</i> – remaining faithful to Jesus in spite of adversities, irritations and trials, as you learn to accept difficult situations and people without giving God a deadline to remove them. You can confidently trust Him because He works all things together for good to those who love Him (Romans 8:28). <u>You will be able to witness to others about God’s faithfulness to you in spite of personal adversities.</u> You are now so secure in your God-given identity, that your identity is no longer based on what others think about you or how they treat you. You will find opportunities to teach others how to be overcomers through the everlasting gospel. Every gathering of Christians together can become heaven-designed opportunities for mutual ministry in exhorting and encouraging one another. * * * * * • <i>Keeping the commandments of God</i> – because you see in them God’s principles for <u>protecting your identity</u> and His gift of salvation to you provided through His everlasting covenant. Such commandment-keeping will be the joyful expression of those who find their personal identity in the worship of <i>one</i> God, receiving His image, His name, and His number. You will keep the commandments, not as a list of rules by which to earn salvation, but as a testimony to His love and covenant faithfulness. Such commandment-keeping declares that His commandments are not burdensome. <p><u>You will be able to witness to others about the joy of your identity in Jesus Christ</u>, as found in the first four of the Ten Commandments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Accept God’s identity.</u> “I am the Lord...” • <u>Accept your own identity in God.</u> “...your God.” • <u>Acknowledge the origins of your identity.</u> “...who brought you out of Egypt.” The deliverance from Egypt was based on God’s covenant promises. Behind the deliverance from Egyptian bondage stands the everlasting covenant initiated by God and His Son, who before the foundation of the world clasped hands in holy covenant and thus took the initiative to save you. • <u>Find your identity in ONE God only.</u> “You shall have no other gods before me.” One God is all you need. Don’t weaken His power by worshiping other

	<p>gods. He is BIG enough to handle anything.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Protect your identity.</u> “You shall not make unto you any graven image...you shall not bow down yourself to them or serve them.” Do not invent and worship any substitutes for God, custom-designed in the image of your own unmet covetous expectations. • <u>Know the security of your identity:</u> “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.” Do not play God by trying to make a name for yourself, but rather, avail yourself of the sufficiency and security of God as revealed in His many glorious names. • <u>Celebrate your identity.</u> “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy...the seventh day [the number] is the Sabbath of the Lord your God.” Celebrate on this day His rating of the completeness of your identity in Him as a perfect ‘7.’ Because of the sufficiency and fullness of Christ’s redemptive work you are a new creation of infinite worth, deeply loved, completely forgiven, fully pleasing and totally accepted by Christ. In Him you are complete (Colossians 2:10). <p style="text-align: center;">* * * * *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The faith of Jesus</i> – as you confess that your salvation does not rest on your performance of the terms of a contract, but is solely based on fully trusting in Christ’s covenant faithfulness. “Faithful is He who calls you, who will also do it” (1 Thessalonians 5:24). <p><u>Engage in those spiritual disciples</u>, endorsed in Scripture and the writings of EGW, designed to strengthen faith in God’s promises. Learn to visualize by the “eye of faith” the outworking of God’s promises. Thus you will be able to mentor others about a living, vital relationship with Jesus Christ.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Your Personal Testimony</p> <p>You will express your individuality as you enter into these God-designed activities for the building up of His kingdom.</p>	<p><u>The Power of Your Personal Testimony:</u> “We are to acknowledge His grace as made known through the holy men of old; but that which will be most effectual is the <i>testimony of our own experience</i>. We are witnesses for God as we reveal in ourselves the working of a power that is divine. Every individual has a life distinct from all others, and an experience differing essentially from theirs. God desires that our praise shall ascend to Him, <i>marked by our own individuality</i>. These precious acknowledgments to the praise of the glory of His grace, when supported by a Christlike life, have an irresistible power, that works for the salvation of souls.”- <i>The Desire of Ages</i>, p. 347.</p> <p>“He has made us kings and priests to His God and Father” (Revelation 1:6).</p> <p>God has set before us opportunities to become <u>spiritual leaders</u> of His people.</p> <p><u>Definition:</u> A spiritual leader is any person who positively influences others to become disciples of Jesus Christ.</p> <p><u>What is a spiritual need?</u> It is any human need for which we point individuals to the resources of the Lord Jesus Christ in heavenly places as we become intercessors in directing people to those resources.</p> <p>We learn to engage in God’s work according to the model of Jesus’ prayer in John chapter 17.</p> <p>“I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given me to do” (John 17:4).</p> <p>“I in them, and you in Me, that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have set Me, and have loved them as You have loved me” (John 17:22).</p> <p>The test of Christian leadership is not doctrinal uniformity, but love for one another and unity in Jesus Christ. “We cannot then take a position that the unity of the church consists in viewing every text of Scripture in the very same light. (<i>1IMR</i> 265). “The most convincing argument we can give to the world of Christ’s mission is to be found in perfect unity...In proportion to our unity with Christ will be our power to save souls (<i>Our High Calling</i>, p. 170).</p>