

ELLEN WHITE COMMENTS ON

THE PERSONS OF THE GODHEAD

NOTE. All of the following quotes are taken from the original sources. There are no compilations or revised editions included.

Bible Training School, March 1, 1906, par. 2

The Comforter that Christ promised to send after He ascended to heaven, is the Spirit in all the fullness of the Godhead, making manifest the power of divine grace to all who receive and believe in Christ as a personal Saviour. **There are three living persons of the heavenly trio. In the name of these three powers,--the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized**, and these powers will cooperate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ.

The General Conference Bulletin, April 14, 1901, par. 32

"Looking unto Jesus, not only as our example, but as the author and finisher of our faith. Remember this. **As at our baptism we pledged ourselves to him, and received the ordinance in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, these three great powers of heaven pledged themselves to work in our behalf** , not only to begin, but to finish our faith. I am so glad that we have the promises of God.

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, May 19, 1904, par. 3

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.

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, Feb. 18, 1904, par. 13

When the Christian takes his baptismal vow, divine help is pledged to him. **The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit stand ready to work in his behalf** . God places at his command the resources of heaven, that he may be an overcomer. His own

power is small; but God is omnipotent, and God is his helper. Daily he is to make known his wants at the throne of grace. By faith and trust, by availing himself of the resources provided, he can be more than a conqueror.

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, May 17, 1906, par. 14

We have no time to listen to the suggestions of the foe. At our baptism we pledged ourselves to break all connection with Satan and his agencies, and to put heart and mind and soul into the work of extending the kingdom of God. All heaven is working for this object. **The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are pledged to co-operate with sanctified human instrumentalities**

If we are true to our vow, there is opened to us a door of communication with heaven,--a door that no human hand or satanic agency can close.

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, June 22, 1905, par. 14

Parents, you have a church in your home, and God demands that you bring into this church the grace of heaven, which is beyond computation, and the power of heaven, which is without measure. You can have this grace and this power if you will. But you must educate yourselves in accordance with your baptismal vows. **When you took these vows, you pledged yourself, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, that you would live unto God**, and you have no right to break this pledge.

The help of the three great powers is placed at your disposal

. When in the name of Christ you ask for grace to overcome, it will be given you; for the promise is, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Yes, seek God for aid. If you are in perplexity, do not go to your neighbors. Learn to carry your troubles to God. If you seek, you will find; if you knock, it will be opened unto you. But this means faith, faith, faith. Exercise living faith in Christ, and do not, I beg of you, step aside out of the right way.

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, May 5, 1903, par. 2 and 8

Thus Christ has promised to guide, comfort, and sustain his people. He declares, "I will be with you in your work of persuading men and woman to be my disciples." **The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit have pledged themselves to aid you in your unselfish efforts to turn men from unrighteousness to righteousness**, from darkness to the light of truth.

The coming of the Lord is nearer than when we first believed. What a wonderful thought it is that the great controversy is nearing its end! In the closing work we shall meet with perils that we know not how to deal with; **but let us not forget that the three great powers of heaven are working**, that a divine hand is on the wheel, and that God will bring his purposes to pass. He will gather from the world a people who will serve him in righteousness.

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, May 26, 1904, par. 15

When we submit to the solemn rite of baptism, we testify to angels and to men that we are purged from our old sins, and that henceforth, having died to the world, we will "seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." Let us not forget our baptismal vow. **In the presence of the three highest powers of heaven,--the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,--we have pledged ourselves to do the will of him** who, over the rent sepulcher of Joseph, declared, "I am the resurrection and the life." Christ forgives every penitent sinner, and as the forgiven one, at the time of baptism, rises from the watery grave, he is declared a new creature, whose life is hid with Christ in God. Let us ever remember that it is our high privilege to be purged from our old sins.

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, June 15, 1905, par. 33

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." **What were the words spoken as you took part in the solemn rite of baptism?--"In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."**

You were buried with Christ in baptism, and raised to newness of life. And the three great powers of heaven pledged themselves to co-operate with you in your efforts to live the new life in Christ. Then should we not praise him with every breath?

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, Aug. 12, 1909, par. 3

The Lord has pledged himself to make his name a praise in the earth. What power he has promised to all who will work in co-operation with heaven! **The three highest powers in the universe are pledged to labor with those who will seek to save the lost**

. God wants his people to claim his promised help for the accomplishment of his work in the world. "Harken unto me, my people;" he declares; "and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people. My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust."

Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, Jan. 1, 1881, par. 18

(The New Year)

I appeal to the congregation that regularly assemble at our Tabernacle: Will you not bring in your offerings to life the debt from the Lord's house? I appeal to those who send their children to Battle Creek, where they unite with us in the worship of God: Will you not assist us to lift this debt? I invite all to be especially liberal at this time. Let cheerful freewill-offerings be brought to the Lord, let us consecrate to Him all that we are, and all that we have, and then may we all unite to swell the songs,--

"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, Jan. 7, 1902, par. 7

Christ came to this world and stood before men with the hoarded love of eternity. The whole ocean of divine love was flowing forth from its great center. **The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were working in behalf of man**

. Every power in the heavenly universe was put into activity to carry forward the plan of redemption. The cross of Calvary was erected, and while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. The Just suffered for the unjust, that He might become the justifier of all who believe in Him. He took human nature upon himself, that He might be a partaker with us in all our temptations. He clothed His divinity with humanity, that by enduring the agony of the cross, He might make His soul an offering for sin.

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, Jan. 27, 1903, par. 9

The salvation of human beings is a vast enterprise, that calls into action every attribute of the divine nature. **The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit have pledged themselves to make God's children more than conquerors through him that has loved them.** The Lord is gracious and long-suffering, not willing that any should perish. He has provided power to enable us to be overcomers. How full of comfort and love are the words of Christ to his disciples just before his trial and crucifixion. He was about to leave them, but he did not want them to think that they were to be left helpless orphans. "I go my way to him that sent me," he said, "and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou? But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away:

for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you

. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they believe not on me; of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak**

: and he will show you things to come.

He shall glorify me; for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you

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Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, May 2, 1912, par. 3

It is the glory of the gospel that it is founded on the principles of restoring in the fallen race the divine image. **The Godhead was stirred with pity for the race, and the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit gave themselves to the working out of the plan of redemption**

. In order fully to carry out his plan, it was decided that Christ, the only begotten Son of God, should give himself an offering for sin. And in giving Christ, God gave all the resources of heaven, that nothing might be wanting for the work of man's uplifting. What line can measure the depth of this love? God would make it impossible for man to say that he could have done more.

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, May 30, 1912, par. 16

Let us not be weary in well-doing. Why should we, with such helpers to co-operate with us in fighting the battles of life? **At our baptism we were pledged to the service of God. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we received the holy rite.**

The pledge was a life pledge on the part of heaven if we would comply with the conditions. "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." "In due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, Oct. 26, 1897, par. 9

Christ gave his followers a positive promise that after his ascension he would send them his Spirit. "Go ye therefore," he said, "and teach all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father [a personal God], and of the Son [a personal Prince and Saviour], and of the Holy Ghost [sent from heaven to represent Christ]**

: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

(Brackets are included in original article)

The Signs of the Times, June 19, 1901, par. 4 and 6 and 7.

Our sanctification is the work of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is the fulfilment of the covenant that God has made with those who bind themselves up with Him, to stand with Him, with His Son, and with His Spirit in holy fellowship

. Have you been born again? Have you become a new being in Christ Jesus? Then co-operate with the three great powers of heaven who are working in your behalf. Doing this you will reveal to the world the principles of righteousness.

When you accept Christ, you are in one sense cut away from the world. You are dead to its ambitions, dead to its greed for advantage over your brethren and neighbors. God says, "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, . . . and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." **This is the pledge of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit**; made to you if you will keep your baptismal vow, and touch not the unclean thing. You are to turn aside from all that would pervert the pure, sacred principles of truth. You are to enter into no intrigue. Sharp practise with believers or unbelievers, is an offense in God's sight. It is a sin which places those who commit it in connection with the author of all sin.

Those who come out from the world in spirit and in all practise may regard themselves as sons and daughters of God. They may believe His word as a child believes every word of his parents. Every promise is sure to him that believes. **Those who unite with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who show by their lives that they are no longer following the course they followed before they united with these divine instrumentalities, will receive wisdom from above** . They will not depend upon human wisdom. In order to deal righteously with the world, as members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King, **Christians must feel their need of a power which comes only from the heavenly agencies that have pledged themselves to work in man's behalf.**

The Signs of the Times. May 10, 1905, par. 8

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 man who gives himself

unreservedly to God, heart and soul and mind and strength. "If a man love Me," Christ says, "He will keep My words; and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him." The power that comes with Christ's abiding presence is at the command of His believing ones. The man who makes God his trust is barricaded by an impregnable wall.

The Signs of the Times, Aug. 16, 1905, par. 1 and 2

As a Christian submits to the solemn rite of baptism, the three highest powers in the universe,--the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,--place their approval on his act, pledging themselves to exert their power in his behalf as he strives to honor God. He is buried in the likeness of Christ's death, and is raised in the likeness of His resurrection. The Saviour went down into the grave, but He rose from the dead, proclaiming over the rent sepulcher, "I am the Resurrection and the Life."

The three great powers of heaven pledge themselves to furnish the Christian with all the assistance he requires. The Spirit changes the heart of stone to the heart of flesh. And by partaking of the Word of God, Christians obtain an experience that is after the divine similitude. When Christ abides in the heart by faith, the Christian is the temple of God. Christ does not abide in the heart of the sinner, but in the heart of him who is susceptible to the influences of heaven.

The Signs of the Times, March 11, 1903, par. 2

Those who submit to the solemn rite of baptism pledge themselves to devote their lives to God's service; **and the three great powers of heaven, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, pledge themselves to cooperate with them, to work in and through them.** As men and women thus enter into covenant relation with God, they take the name of Christian. Henceforth they are to live the life of Christ. They have been buried with Him, and they are to

"seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God."

The Signs of the Times, Feb. 12, 1902, par. 9

"Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath He quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses." **As you openly renounced sin and Satan, the three great powers of heaven pledged themselves to help you to overcome** . You were raised in newness of life by the power that raised Christ from the dead. You came forth from the watery grave pledged to devote your life to the Master's service. You are henceforth to live a new life, as if reason, knowledge, affection, speech, property, and all else you have, had been anew entrusted to you, with a distinct intimation from heaven that they are to be used for God. You are to live a life of cross-bearing and self-denial, a life bound up with the life of Christ.

(Australasian) Union Conference Record, April 1, 1901, par. 10

The Godhead was stirred with pity for the race, and the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit gave themselves to the working out of the plan of redemption. In order to fully carry out this plan, it was decided that Christ, the only begotten Son of God, should give Himself an offering for sin. What line can measure the depth of this love?

(Australasian) Union Conference Record, Oct. 7, 1907, par. 12 and 9.

Study the whole of this chapter of Colossians carefully and prayerfully. **Bear in mind that they are addressed who have been buried by baptism in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost** . If you will ever remember that you are dead to worldly interests and attractions, and have risen to seek those things which are above, **these heavenly powers are pledged to give you power to walk with Him in newness of life.**

Those who have by baptism given to God a pledge of their faith in Christ, and their death to the old life of sin, have entered into covenant relation with God. **The three powers of the Godhead, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, are pledged to be their strength and their efficiency in their new life in Christ Jesus**

The Signs of the Times, Dec. 18, 1901, par. 10.

Before the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the professing Christian pledges himself to overcome pride, covetousness, unbelief. And as he seeks to fulfil this pledge, he grows in self-distrust, placing entire dependence on God. He realizes what it means to be a child of God. He knows that the cleansing blood of Christ secures for him pardon and peace. In spirituality he grows like the lofty cedar. Daily he holds communion with God, and he is mighty in the knowledge of the Scriptures. His fellowship is with the Father and the Son, and he learns more and still more of the divine will. Filled with a constantly increasing love for God and his fellow-men, he bears a powerful testimony for the Master.

The Signs of the Times, May 10, 1910, par. 11.

Those who proclaim the third angel's message, must put on the whole armor of God, that they may stand boldly at their post in the face of detraction and falsehood, fighting the good fight of faith. They are to resist the enemy with the word, "It is written." **They are to keep themselves where the three great powers of heaven -- the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit -- can be their 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.

(Australasian) Union Conference Record, June 1, 1904, par. 5.

Christ has promised to guide, comfort, and sustain His people. He declares, "I will be with you in your work of persuading men and women to be My disciples." **The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit have pledged themselves to aid you in your unselfish efforts to turn men from unrighteousness to righteousness** , from darkness to the light of truth.