

Zahakiel: It's time to begin, so I'll ask Pastor to open the study with a prayer.

Pastor Chick: Dear Father in heaven. We come before your presence with thanksgiving with praise and joy knowing that you are the Rock of our salvation, confident that you care for every child of your Creation. May we receive a fresh baptism of Your Spirit just now as we worship You in Spirit and in Truth in Yahshua's holy name, Amen.

Barb: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen.

PETER: Amen

Elyna1: Amen.

Daphna: Amen

Lucan: Amen

Marie-kadeth: Amen

Kimberly: Amen

Zahakiel: Happy Sabbath to everyone. Tonight's study is given the rather unusual name of "The Green Cord and the Golden Sphere."

Anyone who has read deeply of Seventh-day Adventist writings is likely to recognize the first part of that title. Adventists believe in latter-day prophecy. We receive, at His word, Christ's promises to His people concerning the continued guidance that He provides us through His Spirit. Consider the following passage:

"And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him; but ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. "I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you." (John 14:16-18)

And then we read, "Nevertheless [Yahweh] left not Himself without witness, in that He did good, and gave us rain from Heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." (Acts 14:17)

"Surely Yahweh Elohim will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets." (Amos 3:7)

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit." (Joel 2:28, 29)

The Spirit of Yahweh, the Spirit of Truth, the Presence of Christ who comes to us, which bears witness to the Father's glory, and reveals to the faithful what He will do, is poured out upon the faithful. Old and young, male and female, receive this outpouring, and as it happened in the old days, "...it came to pass, that, when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease." (Num 11:25)

I spend some time establishing this firm and, to some of us, familiar foundation, because there are winds of doctrine blowing wildly in the world today, howling across the windows of the Tower of Spiritual Babel. There are self-sent messengers, aglow with the sparks of their own kindling, believing that they are following light from Heaven. There are some who believe that they have been given a special work to do, but the Word from the Savior concerning these last days is not, "Beware those who claim to be prophets;" rather, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." (Mat 7:15)

There is a genuine Spirit of Prophecy in this last generation, and one may know them both by the truth of the doctrine they bear, and by their character, for the false messengers are "ravening wolves," aggressive, hungry for attention, and working toward the destruction of the Good Shepherd's flock. This is a time for the flock of Yahweh to exercise great care when hearing the voices of those who claim to be Yahweh's servants. If they do not speak as the prophets described in the Bible – calling for repentance from sin, pointing forward to a coming judgment, praying for the salvation of Yah's people in unity and faith – surely Yahweh has not sent them.

Sometimes, these prophets will say strange things. No wonder... these chosen messengers have witnessed strange things, and often press against the limits of human language to describe what the physical eye has not yet seen. (Isa 64:4) We read of trees choosing for themselves a king, (Judges 9:8) of stone and timbers crying out, (Hab. 2:11) and of "unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter." (2Cor 12:4)

In the early Adventist Church, Ellen White was such an individual, and in one place she shared a specific aspect of her personal spiritual experience. She wrote of a "green cord" that was given to her by a heavenly being, which, by holding it to her chest and stretching it out, would transport her to the presence of Christ. {Christian Experience and Teachings pgs. 27, 28} A strange symbol, most would probably conclude, and yet she called for repentance from sin, pointed to a coming judgment, and pressed fervently for the salvation of Yah's people in unity and faith. Hers is a testimony worth taking to heart.

Over a century later, we who are Yah's people are not left on our own in this most dangerous generation to fend for ourselves. The light from Heaven's portals has grown brighter, not dimmer, and today there are those in whom the words of Joel are fulfilled.

The Father has shown us many things through His Spirit, and tonight I would like to speak of the means through which he has done so. There are consciences that have been seared by transgression and compromise, so that they cannot tell sin from righteousness, but there are also enlightened consciences with which the Holy Spirit can cooperate in order to perfect the character.

In just the same way, there are imaginations that are so polluted that, as in the days of Noah, "the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." (Gen 6:5)

And on the other hand, there are those whose "mind's eyes" are captive to the Spirit and Character of Christ, so that He may cooperate with them, revealing truth through a sanctified imagination.

Most of the time this word, imagination, is used in the Bible, it is in a negative sense. For example, "But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward." (Jer 7:24)

And then there is this one: "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." (2Cor 10:5)

But the word itself is not a bad one. When we read the Scriptures, and understand what the authors have described, it is in the imagination that we see these things for ourselves. When a brother or sister prays for some matter, it is in the imagination that we form an understanding of what they are saying so that we may agree.

Of the sanctified mind it is written:

"O Yahweh, God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this forever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and prepare their heart unto Thee." (1Chron 29:18)

Paul lays out the problem in his indictment against idolatry down through the ages, writing, "...when they knew Yahweh, they glorified him not as Yahweh, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." (Rom 1:21)

Satan has taken a most powerful tool, and turned it largely to his purposes, so that those who fell under his power "became vain" in their use of it.

The Bible tells us, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked," (Jer 17:9) and yet it is in the heart that Yah places His Law, (Isa 51:7) and it is the heart that is turned back to the Father in the spiritual fulfillment of the latter-day Elijah prophecy. (Mal 4:6)

We are created in our Heavenly Father's image, and just as He first forms reality in His mind before speaking it into being, (Rom 4:17, Psalm 33:9) so we first form our words and deeds in our minds, and then bring them out into the world. "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good, and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil; for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh." (Luke 6:45)

Those who are Yah's have treasures in their "hearts." They have sanctified imaginations, and through this, Yah speaks to them, giving them a vision of things to come, of who they are, of excellence. It is in the holy imagination that we see the next rung on the "ladder" of perfection that Paul describes, saying, "...forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before." (Phil 3:13) Paul is not, here, seeing physical "things," but he speaks of sanctification, of stepping into increased light regarding the nature of righteousness.

But to be clear, I am not indicating that every "vision" that a prophet describes in the Scriptures or thereafter is one that exists only in the mind. Those with the gift of prophecy may be "taken in vision." In the Book of Revelation, for example, John writes, "After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in Heaven, and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, 'Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.' And immediately I was in the spirit; and behold, a Throne was set in Heaven, and One sat on the Throne." (Rev 4:1, 2)

There is no doubt that John is describing witnessing heavenly, spiritual things as naturally and distinctly as one might behold an earthly scene. The most dramatic knowledge that Yah wishes to convey often arrives in the form of either a manifestation of His power that everyone can witness (such as at Sinai), or a vision that takes the prophet out of his present perceptions and into a viewpoint of the past or future.

At times, however, inspiration comes by means of impressions on the conscience or the imagination. The servant of Yah may "perceive" a matter, just as Yahshua often read the hearts of those around Him. The servant of Yah may come to a realization, or visualize some truth, by the work of the Spirit directly on the mind, and not the senses.

Why is this important for the saints to know in this generation?

In order for Joel's prophecy to be fulfilled, the people of Yah must have sanctified imaginations. The prophecy does not indicate that only a few will receive the outpouring that causes dreams and visions... but it is a widespread experience. In order for this to come upon Yah's people, their minds, as their consciences, must be attuned to the principles of Heaven, so that the opposite of this verse may be true for each of us: "...every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." (Gen 6:5)

Just as the heart of the natural man is "desperately wicked," but the heart of the saint is dedicated to the Savior, so the imagination of the natural man is corrupted, and the means of Satan's power over him... but the imagination of the saint is an open channel to light from the Throne. Thus, the saints must understand, and fulfill, the words of inspiration:

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." (1Cor 10:31)

"...be filled with the Spirit, speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." (Eph 5:18, 19)

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Rom 12:2)

All these verses are about the mind, and specifically about the imagination... either training it by thinking on spiritual things, or using it to the glory of Yah. I began by speaking of Ellen White's "green cord," and I will share with you something from my own experience of a similar nature.

Inspiration tells us that the presence of Christ surrounds the saint, protecting him from temptations, from demonic attacks, and from harm. This protection is perfect, for only those things specifically determined to be beneficial to our growth are allowed through.

When I am troubled by tempting thoughts, of sorrow, of anxiety, of evil imaginings, I push them away from me, and in my mind, I see them repelled, pushed back. At such a time, I envision the presence of Yah as a golden ball of light surrounding my body, so that these thoughts I have pushed away are unable to return.

Adriel7777: Amen

Zahakiel: While the will pushed them away, for by grace I can choose what to cherish and what to reject, I am unable to "keep" myself in holiness by my own power. It is Yah that keeps His people from falling; (Jude 1:24) thus, it is Christ's light,

His golden and perfect all-encompassing shield, that prevents the temptations from returning. The more terrible the temptation, the brighter the golden light, for "...where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." (Rom 5:20)

Adriel7777: Amen!

Zahakiel: No matter the nature or intensity of the temptation, it fades away to nothingness outside of the golden sphere, and I rejoice. A moment later, it is usually forgotten entirely, even the memory of it destroyed.

Now, I am not suggesting that this is the only or best way to see these promises fulfilled. Mrs. White did not say that everyone should imagine a green cord whenever they wished to enter Christ's presence, but she wrote of her experience for a reason. It is important that everyone "sees" the promises of Yah fulfilled toward them in a meaningful, personal way, and cherishes these visions in their sanctified imaginations.

Naraiel: Amen

Zahakiel: If the promises of our Father remain only words on a page, or even only loose thoughts in our heads, they cannot take root in the personality. The seed that does not put down roots eventually withers... the promise that is not embraced loses its strength. In such a mind, old thoughts and temptations return, old habits rise again, commitments once made are laid aside, and joy departs.

If any seem to struggle with recurring trials, temptations that they cannot seem to escape forever, or dark thoughts that continually trouble them, it is because they are not "seeing" the promises of Yah in their minds, nor believing the visions that Yah is opening up before them.

James gives us the progression from temptation to sin: "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." (James 1:14, 15)

It is Satan, using the carnal imagination, who draws away and entices. It is Satan who uses the mind, to whatsoever degree he is permitted, to show the human the pleasures his flesh desires, just as He did with Christ in the wilderness at the beginning of His earthly ministry. And yet how did the Savior counter the Enemy?

He said, "...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of Yah." (Mat 4:4)

He said, "...Thou shalt not tempt Yahweh thy Almighty." (Mat 4:7)

He said, "Get thee hence, Satan; for it is written, 'Thou shalt worship Yahweh thy Almighty, and Him only shalt thou serve.'" (Mat 4:10)

The mind of Christ, which we have received from Him, is filled with the words of the Father. It knows what is written, and what has been shown. It tells Satan "Get thee hence," "Go away," because it knows what it "looks like" to be a servant of Yah, to humbly submit to His will, and to walk the narrow path. The sanctified imagination sees these things, and by faith it comes to pass as he has fore-seen.

When we read that this path, this way, is "strait and narrow," just so, with symbols and with parables, with rich food for the mind, the Savior taught those around Him to see what the Heavenly life looks like to spiritual eyesight. This very eyesight is ours when we accept Him, so that the thoughts that come to us from the world, and the Enemy, are repelled by the will, and restrained by the presence of Christ that dwells in and around His people.

Adriel7777: Amen

Zahakiel: The only possible result of bearing this sanctified vision, and the fullness of this mind of Christ, is complete and total victory over sin, for no temptation ever goes further than a thought. The imagination cannot be "drawn away... and enticed."

This, then, is the instruction of the Word: Feed the mind and the imagination with "it is written," and the spirit of thanksgiving. Exercise the imagination with thoughts of holiness, and in contemplating the words of the prophets. Envision the promises of Yah as they are fulfilled in your life, and so prevent the Devil from troubling you, for he cannot survive in the Atmosphere of Heaven that we are privileged to call our home. "See" yourself walking on streets of gold, and there you surely are.

There are prophets among Yah's people, and perhaps some yet to be revealed... and when the thoughts of the imaginations of the hearts of Yah's people are righteous continually, aggressively and actively holy, then shall the fullness of the Latter Rain be made visible in the earth.

Just as the Great Flood of Noah's day fell in response to man's corrupt imagination, so shall the holy downpour of the Spirit descend in its completeness in response to the saints' visions of righteousness. In that day, when the "mind of Christ" is perfected in His people, then shall the Judgment of the Living be complete, and the Son of Yahweh will lay aside His priestly garments, and come again as King.

Are there any comments or questions about the study tonight?

Adriel7777: Amen. C

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Adriel7777: I praise Yah for this inspired, inspiring, powerful, beautiful study. I read something from EGW many years ago, that said something to the effect of... When we understand righteousness by faith as it is in Jesus, then Satan will lose his power over us. (I have tried to find that quote again, but have not – I will continue to look for it.) I remember wanting to understand, so Satan's power could be broken over me. Not long after I started studying with CSDA I realized that this was the Church teaching that truth, so Satan's power remains broken over us... To me this study is how to apply that belief, and my spirit resonates with what you shared as experienced by you. Hallelujah! End. 😊

Zahakiel: Thank you for sharing that. Are there any others?

Lucan: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Lucan: I am reminded of a few things by this study. One is Peter in the boat; he saw Yahshua walking on the water, visualized himself doing it enough to ask, and then it was so. He saw himself sinking beneath the waves enough to watch them, and it was so. He saw himself being helped enough to ask for it, and it was so. I also see some relation here to the "vision of excellence" idea that Pastor has preached on. I suppose there may be other such "visions;" vision of success, of victory, of failure, of rejection.

We know Satan can suggest the false ones to "annoy the best of men..." And as we have taught, it is not enough to reject the false... It must be replaced with the true... Then, "by beholding we become changed..."

Adriel7777: Amen

Naraiel: C.

Lucan: I am also reminded of some of our baptismal exams in years past. There were a number among whom it was very evident that they had the right "head knowledge," but not the experience. Recitation of the beliefs, the right verses, etc. These had certainly "studied," and had "devotions," and done much "worship..." But, when the Word is simply memorized, it fails to bring forth fruit... I think there are several important messages in this study, and especially for those seeking baptism. It is something of a "how-to" on reading for principle. <End.>

Zahakiel: Thank you for that, yes.

Adriel7777: Amen

Zahakiel: The example of Peter is a perfect illustration of what is seen in the mind's eye preceding the reality caused by faith's expectation. And the "vision of excellence" is indeed a reference to that idea Pastor introduced some time ago... and that needs

to be revisited as we move forward. For the rest of what you commented, I can only add, Amen.

Zahakiel: Go ahead, Giselle.

Naraiel: C. When I was with Maria, I had several opportunities to talk to her about envisioning herself in Yah's promises, to envision herself as a mother in Israel, even envision herself as Deborah. I told her to use her imagination to envision herself in Yah's promises, and imagine what would Yahshua do and say in my place? This certainly requires imagination 😊, based on what we have already read about him.

Also, it comes to mind something that happens with computers. When you delete things, those erased files go to some kind of junk, but can still be restored, if the person choose to accept them again. But files that have been renamed with another name, or replaced with other content, can't really be found 😊 in the computer. It is really the true way to delete files, to replace them with others.

Adriel7777: Amen!

Zahakiel: Thank you for that interesting parable 😊 and I think it's quite accurate.

Zahakiel: Are there any others?

Lucan: C

Elyna1: Amen.

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Lucan: Well, Sis. Giselle's comment reminded me of another thing... 😊 That is the "What would Jesus do," or equivalent... I often have found that saying a bit trite; most do not have a clear idea of how, exactly, Yahshua would handle a specific situation they are facing...

I recall viewing a video sermon in Guys that was very impactful to me. I forget which sermon it was, but, the participants all listed out various traits they would like in a friend, or significant other, etc. And once the board was full of all these traits ("kind," "punctual," "thoughtful," etc.) the thrust was that, by understanding the words enough to use them, there is a concept in the mind that matches them. We have some idea of "kindness" if we know the word, even though that idea may not match up yet with the fullness of kindness, or what another person, or other language, would see the concept as. But, by having it, it is ours - we can apply that in every situation, because Yahshua has placed it within us, and we know and have it. I have found that to be very useful. One may not know "what Yahshua would do" in this situation, but they can know what "patience" looks like in the situation, or "thankfulness," etc. The specific characteristics are of great value. <End.>

Adriel7777: Amen

Naraiel: yes.

Zahakiel: Right... I think I remember that sermon, or one very like it. Any others?

PETER: C.

Zahakiel: Go ahead, Peter.

PETER: Just adding to what Sis Naraiel said about the computer... One can choose to delete or do a factory reset of the pc. One you cannot go back, but the other one can do so. Christ dwelling in us is the factory reset. We all have to make a choice if we want to hang on to the old files in the deleted folder. Or let The Saviour do a complete reset of our lives. It will only get better when we allow Him to. End

Pastor Chick: C

Zahakiel: Thank you for adding that.
Go ahead, Pastor.

Adriel7777: Amen

Pastor Chick: In reality, all of the records are there until the "blotting out" during the final phase of the investigative judgment. Since 1988, the living have been standing in that investigation and, sins (deleted files, etc.) are being blotted from the record... it is a life and death matter... for some, the name is blotted out of the book of life. Let us not be wiped from the sacred Book. END.

Adriel7777: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen

Are there any others with thoughts to add? If not, then I'll ask Bro. Luke to offer the closing prayer.

Lucan: Dear heavenly Father. We thank you for the gift of your Son. We thank you for His sacrifice, His current ministry on our behalf, and His life lived within. We are blessed to receive every perfect gift from your Throne. We ask that you continue to provide all our needs, knowing that you long to provide beyond our requests. May your Spirit pour upon us, as we seek to share the vision of your Kingdom with those we encounter. In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.

Gloria Bailey: Amen.

Zahakiel: Amen.

Adriel7777: Amen!

Elyna1: Amen.

Daphna: Amen

PETER: Amen

Naraiel: Amen

Peter_Jr_18: Amen.

Barb: Amen

Pastor Chick: Amen

Kimberly: Amen.