

Getting Started...

Reviewing God’s Hand –



5 Fingers and 5 Spaces

5 Lines and 5 Spaces

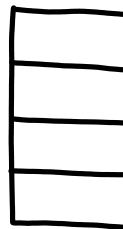
Facts:

- 1) Space between the thumb and forefinger is called the purlicue.
- 2) Space between the fingers is called the interdigital folds.

- 1) The lines we refer to as waymarks.
- 2) The spaces we refer to as dispensations.

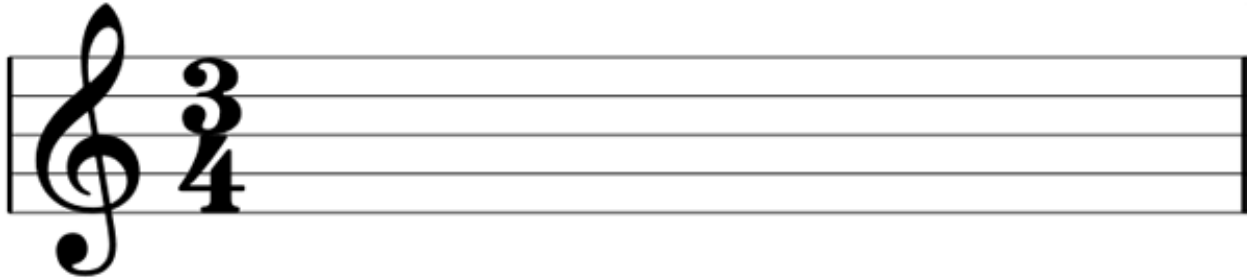
We can rotate our hand in many directions. Try it 😊

What happens if we rotate this? Let's try it 😊



Does this remind you of anything?

How about this?



You are right. This is called **the Staff** in music. It provides the structure and framework for musical notation.

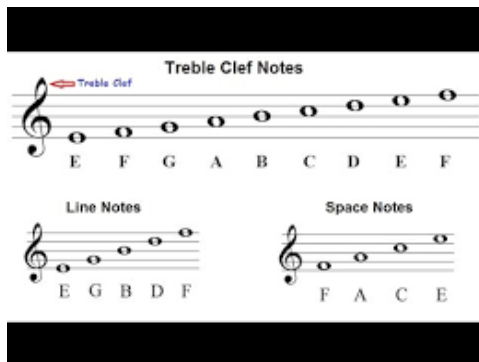
Here the **treble clef** is displayed along with a **time signature** of 3/4 time, indicating that each note—in this case a quarter note (indicated by the 4)—gets one beat and that there will be 3 beats (indicated by the 3) to each **measure** (the name for segments the staff is divided into).

Musical notes are written upon the lines and spaces of the staff to create a piece of music that can be played on a **musical instrument** (or many instruments, as in an **orchestra**) and also **sung** with the voice (or many voices, as in a **choir**).

Do you know the names of the 5 lines and the 5 spaces of the staff?

The 5 lines are E G B D F. The 4 spaces are F A C E.

To help remember them an acronym was made.



However, for our purposes, we will change the acronym:

E – Every	F – Follow
G – Good	A – Always
B – Believer	C – Christ’s
D – Develops	E – Example
F – Faith	
E G B D F	F A C E

Music As A Parable

Opening Prayer –

“The Prayer” – sung by David Archuleta and Nathan Pacheco

Part 1 - Introduction

Today’s study will have us consider:

- a short comparison and contrast of prayer and music, specifically song
- a brief review of the practical steps for being transformed in character
- a few personal lessons I’ve learned from music, and
- “no answering chord” and “no fear.”

Part 2 - Prayer and Song: Comparison and Contrast

<u>Prayer</u>	<u>Song</u>
“breath of the soul” – RH October 30, 1900, Art. A, par. 1 & 2a; MYP 249.3; Ms 61, 1898, par. 4	“communion with heaven in song” – Ms 24, 1898, par. 15
can be expressed in sacred song – YI March 29, 1904, par. 6	“many a song is a prayer” – YI March 29, 1904, par. 6
“an act of worship” – YI March 29, 1904, par. 6; CE 62.4	“an act of worship” – YI March 29, 1904, par. 6; CE 62.4
“imparts an intimate knowledge of His will” – 4T 534.4	“one of the most effective means of impressing the heart with spiritual truth” – YI March 29, 1904, par. 4
“the opening of the heart to God as to a friend” – 4T 533.3	“the heart must feel the spirit of the song, to give it right expression” – CE 62.4
“the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven’s storehouse” – SC 94.2	the song of Moses and the Lamb the 144,000 sing in heaven – GC 648.3
does not continue in heaven (?)	continues in heaven – CCh 172.3

Quotes on “Prayer” Referred To Above –

RH October 30, 1900, Art. A, par. 1 & 2a:

Prayer is the breath of the soul, the channel of all blessings. As, with a realization of the needs of humanity, with a feeling of self-loathing, the repentant soul offers its prayer, God sees its struggles, watches its conflicts, and marks its sincerity. He has His finger upon its pulse, and He takes note of every throb. Not a feeling thrills it, not an emotion agitates it, not a sorrow shades it, not a sin stains it, not a thought or purpose moves it, of which He is not cognizant. That soul was purchased at an infinite cost, and is loved with a devotion that is unalterable. RH October 30, 1900, Art. A, par. 1

Prayer to the Great Physician for the healing of the soul brings the blessing of God. Prayer unites us one to another and to God. Prayer brings Jesus to our side, and gives new strength and fresh grace to the fainting, perplexed soul. RH October 30, 1900, Art. A, par. 2

MYP 249.3, 250.1:

Prayer is the breath of the soul. It is the secret of spiritual power. No other means of grace can be substituted and the health of the soul be preserved. Prayer brings the heart into immediate contact with the Wellspring of life, and strengthens the sinew and muscle of the religious experience. Neglect the exercise of prayer, or engage in prayer spasmodically, now and then, as seems convenient, and you lose your hold on God. The spiritual faculties lose their vitality, the religious experience lacks health and vigor.... MYP 249.3

It is a wonderful thing that we can pray effectually, that unworthy, erring mortals possess the power of offering their requests to God. What higher power can man desire than this—to be linked with the infinite God? Feeble, sinful man has the privilege of speaking to his Maker. We may utter words that reach the throne of the Monarch of the universe. We may speak with Jesus as we walk by the way, and He says, I am at thy right hand. MYP 250.1

Ms 61, 1898 - True Greatness:

13LtMs, Ms 61, 1898, par. 4, 11 & 12 -

Co-laborers with God are to fill the space they occupy in the world with the love of Jesus. The world needs spiritual workers who will plant the seeds of truth in every heart. Then with Job they can say, "The cause which I knew not I searched out." [Job 29:16.] Prayer for the grace and peace of Christ will be as the breath of the soul. This Christ represents as being "instant in prayer." [Romans 12:12.] By this He means that the heart is constantly going out after God, and watching for opportunities of doing good, of speaking to the souls who are ready to die. 13LtMs, Ms 61, 1898, par. 4

[Then the message to the church of Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-5) and some comments by Ellen White below about the Laodicean church.]

The Saviour's spirit governs His church by the principles of love and truth. Love for one another reveals that the love of God is abiding in the heart. Love of self excludes the love of Christ. Those who live for self are ranged under the head of the Laodicean church who are lukewarm, neither cold nor hot. The ardor of the first love has lapsed into a selfish egotism. The love of Christ in the heart is expressed in the actions. If love for Christ is dull, the love for those for whom Christ has died will degenerate. There may be a wonderful appearance for zeal and ceremonies, but this is the substance of their self-inflated religion. Christ represents them as nauseating to His taste. "Because thou art neither cold nor hot," He says, "I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and in need of nothing: and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich." [Revelation 3:16-18.] 13LtMs, Ms 61, 1898, par. 11

True riches are genuine faith and genuine love. These make the character complete in Christ. If there were more faith, simple, trusting faith in Jesus, there would be love, pure love, which is the gold of Christian character. If the professed followers of Christ all understood His words with a will to practice them, everything would be changed. But men do not possess that life in Christ which would constitute them the light of the world. They are satisfied with a low, common level. There is a want of sensibility with many claiming conversion. They profess to believe the truth, but they do not practice it. 13LtMs, Ms 61, 1898, par. 12

4T 534.4:

Communion with God imparts to the soul an intimate knowledge of His will.... 4T 534.4

4T 533.3:

Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. The eye of faith will discern God very near, and the suppliant may obtain precious evidence of the divine love and care for him.... 4T 533.3

SC 94.2:

Why should the sons and daughters of God be reluctant to pray, when prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence? Without unceasing prayer and diligent watching we are in danger of growing careless and of deviating from the right path. The adversary seeks continually to obstruct the way to the mercy seat, that we may not by earnest supplication and faith obtain grace and power to resist temptation. SC 94.2

Quotes on "Song" Referred to Above –

Ms 24, 1898:

Christ condescended to poverty that He might teach how closely we may walk with God in our daily life. Christ took upon Him human nature that He might be able to sympathize with all hearts. He was capable of sympathizing with all. He could be in the world, engage in toil, bear His part in sustaining the family in their necessity, become accustomed to weariness, and yet show no impatience. His spirit was never so full of worldly cares that He had no time or thought for the heavenly. He could give evidence of His cheerfulness by singing psalms and heavenly songs. The men of Nazareth often heard His voice raised in praise and thanksgiving to God. He often held communion with heaven in song, and all who were associated with Him, who often complained of their weariness of labor, were cheered by the sweet melody that fell from His lips. His praises seemed to drive away the evil angels, and, as incense, fill the room with sweet fragrance. 13LtMs, Ms 24, 1898, par. 15

This, too, had its lesson. It taught that men could commune with God in words of holy song. Christ carried the minds of His hearers away from their earthly exile to their future eternal home. 13L+Ms, Ms 24, 1898, par. 16

YI March 29, 1904, par. 1-7:

The melody of praise is the atmosphere of heaven; and when heaven comes in touch with the earth, there is music and song,—“thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.”
YI March 29, 1904, par. 1

Above the new-created earth, as it lay, fair and unblemished, under the smile of God, “the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.” [Job 38:7.] So human hearts, in sympathy with heaven, have responded to God's goodness in notes of praise. Many of the events of human history have been linked with sacred song. YI March 29, 1904, par. 2

The history of the songs of the Bible is full of suggestion as to the uses and benefits of music and song. Music is often perverted to serve purposes of evil, and it thus becomes one of the most alluring agencies of temptation. But, rightly employed, it is a precious gift of God, designed to uplift the thoughts to high and noble themes, to inspire and elevate the soul. As the children of Israel, journeying through the wilderness, cheered their way by the music of sacred song, so God bids his children today gladden their pilgrim life. There are few means more effective for fixing his word in the memory than repeating them in song. And such song has wonderful power. It has power to subdue rude and uncultivated natures; power to quicken thought and to awaken sympathy, to promote harmony of action, and to banish the gloom and foreboding that destroy courage and weaken effort.
YI March 29, 1904, par. 3

It is one of the most effective means of impressing the heart with spiritual truth. How often to the soul hard-pressed and ready to despair, memory recalls some word of God's—the long-forgotten burden of a childhood song,—and temptations lose their power, and courage and gladness are imparted to other souls! YI March 29, 1904, par. 4

The value of song as a means of education should never be lost sight of. Let there be singing in the home, of songs that are sweet and pure, and there will be fewer words of censure, and more of cheerfulness and hope and joy. Let there be singing

in the schools, and the pupils will be drawn closer to God, to their teachers, and to one another. YI March 29, 1904, par. 5

*As a part of religious service, **singing is as much an act of worship as is prayer.** Indeed, **many a song is prayer.** If the child is taught to realize this, he will think more of the meaning of the words he sings, and will be more susceptible to their power. YI March 29, 1904, par. 6*

*As our Redeemer leads us to the threshold of the Infinite, flushed with the glory of God, we may catch the themes of praise and thanksgiving from the heavenly choir round about the throne; and as the echo of the angels' song is awakened in our earthly homes, hearts will be drawn closer to the heavenly singers. **Heaven's communion begins on earth. We learn here its keynote.** YI March 29, 1904, par. 7 [See Luke 17:20, 21.]*

CE 62.4:

*Music forms a part of God's worship in the courts above, and we should endeavor, in our **songs of praise**, to approach as nearly as possible to **the harmony of the heavenly choirs.** The proper training of the voice is an important feature in education, and should not be neglected. Singing, as a part of religious service, is as much an act of worship as is prayer. The heart must feel the spirit of the song, to give it right expression. CE 62.4*

GC 648.3:

And they sing "a new song" before the throne, a song which no man can learn save the hundred and forty and four thousand. It is the song of Moses and the Lamb—a song of deliverance. None but the hundred and forty-four thousand can learn that song; for it is the song of their experience—an experience such as no other company have ever had. GC 648.3

CCh 172.3:

*I have been shown the order, **the perfect order, of heaven**, and have been enraptured as I listened to **the perfect music** there. After coming out of vision, the singing here has sounded very harsh and discordant. I have seen companies of angels, who stood in a hollow square, everyone having a harp of gold. At the end of*

the harp was an instrument to turn to set the harp or change the tunes. Their fingers did not sweep over the strings carelessly, but they touched different strings to produce different sounds. There is one angel who always leads, who first touches the harp and strikes the note, then all join in the rich, perfect music of heaven. It cannot be described. It is melody, heavenly, divine, while from every countenance beams the image of Jesus, shining with glory unspeakable. CCh 172.3

Scriptures –

Psalm 100:1-5 – A Psalm of praise. Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Isaiah 35:10, R.V. – The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads: they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. [Compare Isaiah 51:11.]

Zephaniah 3:17 – The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

Ephesians 5:19 – Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

Colossians 3:16 – Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

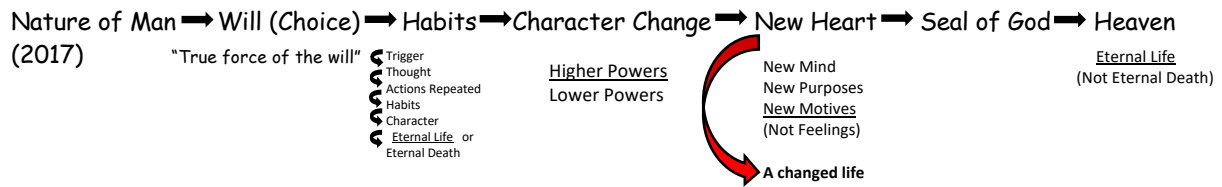
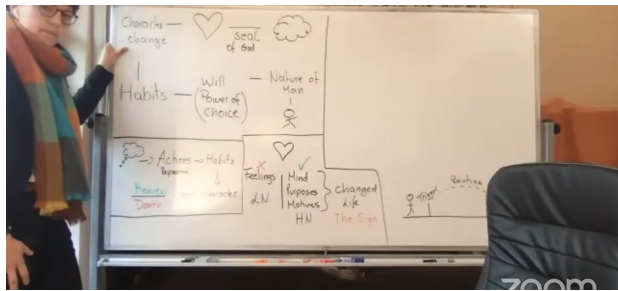
Part 3 - Practical Steps for Being Transformed in Character in Brief

What are God's requirements and expectations of us? How does our character get transformed? What are the practical steps involved?

Ezekiel 11:19 – And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:

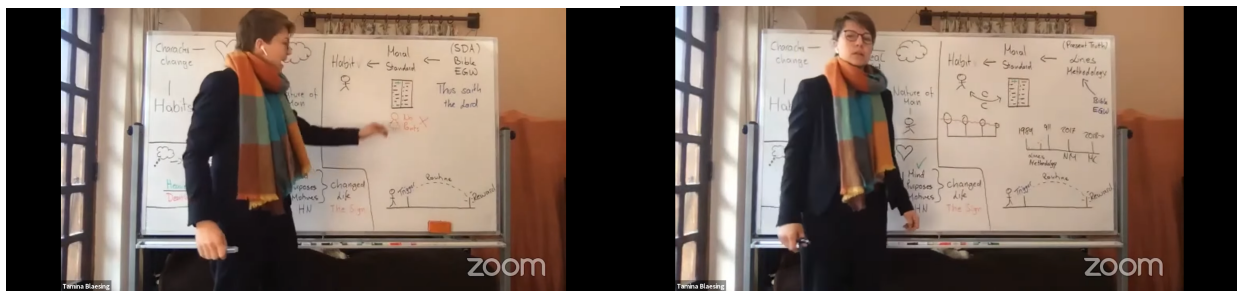
Ezekiel 36:26 – A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

A Quick Reminder –



MYP 72.1:

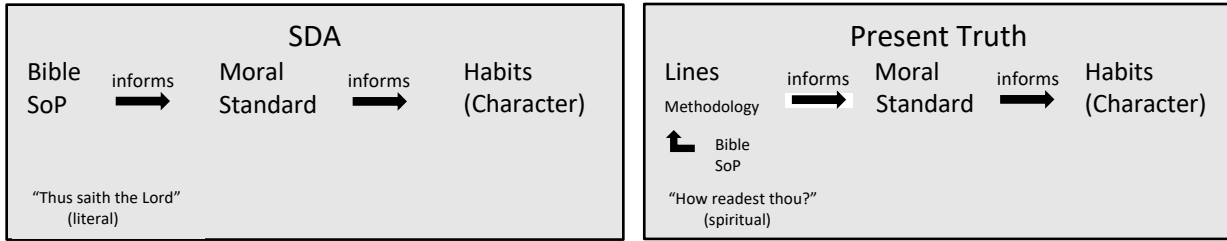
When Jesus speaks of the new heart, He means the mind, the life, the whole being. To have a change of heart is to withdraw the affections from the world, and fasten them upon Christ. To have a new heart is to have a new mind, new purposes, new motives. What is the sign of a new heart? A changed life. There is a daily, hourly dying to selfishness and pride. MYP 72.1



We are to compare our lives with the Moral Standard.

2 Corinthians 13:5 – Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

We have a “living message,” a “living testimony.” [We serve a living God.] The Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy are not “dead letters” if read correctly and brought into the practical life. The spiritual “How readest thou?” (reading correctly—lines and methodology) supplants the literal “Thus saith the Lord” (literally, as the Bible and SoP read).



COL 332.3-333.1:

A character formed according to the divine likeness is the only treasure that we can take from this world to the next. Those who are under the instruction of Christ in this world will take every divine attainment with them to the heavenly mansions. And in heaven we are continually to improve. How important, then, is the development of character in this life. COL 332.3

The heavenly intelligences will work with the human agent who seeks with determined faith that perfection of character which will reach out to perfection in action. To everyone engaged in this work Christ says, I am at your right hand to help you. COL 332.4

As the will of man co-operates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings. COL 333.1

COL 335.1:

Self-discipline must be practiced by everyone who would be a worker for God. This will accomplish more than eloquence or the most brilliant talents. An ordinary mind, well disciplined, will accomplish more and higher work than will the most highly educated mind and the greatest talents without self-control. COL 335.1

MYP 73.3 - The Sanctified Life - True Conversion:

There are those who listen to the truth, and are convinced that they have been living in opposition to Christ. They are condemned, and they repent of their transgressions. Relying upon the merits of Christ, exercising true faith in Him, they receive pardon for sin. As they cease to do evil and learn to do well, they grow in grace and in the knowledge of God. They see that they must sacrifice in order to separate from the world; and, after counting the cost, they look upon all as loss if

they may but win Christ. They have enlisted in Christ's army. The warfare is before them, and they enter it bravely and cheerfully, fighting against their natural inclinations and selfish desires, bringing the will into subjection to the will of Christ. Daily they seek the Lord for grace to obey Him, and they are strengthened and helped. This is true conversion. In humble, grateful dependence he who has been given a new heart relies upon the help of Christ. He reveals in his life the fruit of righteousness. He once loved himself. Worldly pleasure was his delight. Now his idol is dethroned, and God reigns supreme. The sins he once loved he now hates. Firmly and resolutely he follows in the path of holiness.—The Youth's Instructor, September 26, 1901. MYP 73.3

Part 4 – Some Lessons I've Learned From Music

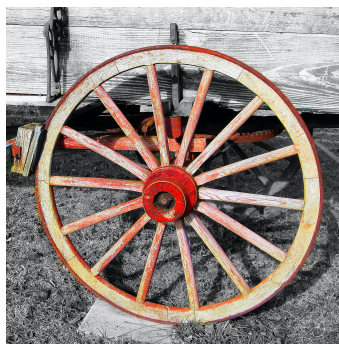
- My meltdown last Sunday – music was the catalyst – a release (music is an emotive medium)
- Fear/anxiousness (deep-rooted) are to be removed – the deep recesses of our hearts are where Jesus wants to reach and purge all that is dross, healing the heart completely, so there will be no vestige of anything Satan can use to separate us from God, “no answering chord”
- “Inherited and cultivated tendencies” – I shared this phrase with my guitar instructor and she understood it immediately

Job 23:10 – But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

DA 296.2:

*The apostles differed widely in habits and disposition. There were the publican, Levi-Matthew, and the fiery zealot Simon, the uncompromising hater of the authority of Rome; the generous, impulsive Peter, and the mean-spirited Judas; Thomas, truehearted, yet timid and fearful, Philip, slow of heart, and inclined to doubt, and the ambitious, outspoken sons of Zebedee, with their brethren. These were brought together, with their different faults, all with **inherited and cultivated tendencies** [i.e., habits] to evil; but in and through Christ they were to dwell in **the family of God**, learning to become one in faith, in doctrine, in spirit. They would have their tests, their grievances, their differences of opinion; but while Christ was abiding in the heart, there could be no dissension. **His love would lead to love for one another**; the lessons of the Master would lead to the **harmonizing of all differences, bringing the disciples into unity, till they would be***

of one mind and one judgment. Christ is the great center, and they would approach one another just in proportion as they approached the center. DA 296.2



Like the spokes of a wagon wheel represent us and the hub in the centre represents Jesus, we become more like Jesus the closer we get to the Centre, while at the same time we also get closer to each other—coming into unity, being of “one mind and one judgment.”

Ephesians 2:4-6 - But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Wisdom from my guitar instructor:

- “No one knows the future”
- 3 steps:
 - 1) Focus on one note (no anxiousness for what’s coming)
 - 2) Play it
 - 3) Listen and enjoy!
- One day at a time – “live in the now” [Cesar Milan—the “Dog Whisperer” on Nat Geo: dogs live in the “now” and are teachable/trainable and hold no grudges; an anxious or vicious dog has picked up from the owner’s vibe, so the problem is with the owner in 99.9% of cases, not the dog; Elder Parminder Biant, paraphrased, November 2021—we deal with the immediate present and let God reveal what’s next in His time and order]

Matt 6:34 – Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Part 5 – “No Answering Chord” and “No Fear”

Most of us will be familiar with the following sayings (or idioms):

- something “tugging at my heart-strings”
- being “in harmony”
- being “on the same wavelength” [e.g., sound wave]
- “march to the beat of your own drum”
- that “strikes a chord.”

The imagery of music fits the responses of our heart well.

harmonic(s) – the purest form of a note, making a clear, ringing sound (also called “chiming”), produced by the vibration of a string in an exact fraction of its length (1/2, 1/3, 1/5, for example). Whenever you play a note on the guitar (or any string instrument), you create multiple pitches. The main pitch the ear hears is the fundamental, while the less audible pitches that sound above the fundamental are called overtones. When you play harmonics, the overtones sound louder than the fundamental pitch. Playing a harmonic note isolates each individual overtone of the note, allowing the overtones to be heard above the fundamental and, thus, harmonics are **amplified overtones**. For example, for a right-handed guitarist to play H. 12 (harmonic at 12th fret, the midway point of the guitar string, dividing the string in half), they place a finger of the left hand very lightly across the strings (for instance, the first three treble strings) right above the 12th fret (no pressing down), as the right hand plays those strings together. (A recording of H. 12 on classical guitar was played.)

How do we respond—to the sublime beauty still yet visible in nature? to a harmonious piece of music, artfully performed? to the entreaties and convicting voice of the Spirit of God? to others who treat us well or not so well? In every situation, our heart will respond, either vibrating in unison or repulsing and rejecting. Our choices will decide our destiny.

“Answering Chord” –

8T 312.1-4, 314.1, 2:

Far more than we do, we need to understand the issues at stake in the conflict in which we are engaged. We need to understand more fully the value of the truths that God has given for this time and the danger of allowing our minds to be diverted from them by the great deceiver. 8T 312.1

The infinite value of the sacrifice required for our redemption reveals the fact that sin is a tremendous evil. Through sin the whole human organism is deranged, the mind is perverted, the imagination corrupted. Sin has degraded the faculties of the soul. Temptations from without find an answering chord within the heart, and the feet turn imperceptibly toward evil. 8T 312.2

As the sacrifice in our behalf was complete, so our restoration from the defilement of sin is to be complete.... The life of Christ was a perfect fulfillment of every precept of the law. He said, “I have kept My Father’s commandments.” John 15:10. His life is our standard of obedience and service. 8T 312.3

God alone can renew the heart. "It is God who worketh in you both to will and to work, for His good pleasure." But we are bidden: "Work out your own salvation." Philippians 2:13, 12, A. R. V... 8T 312.4

*There is a science of Christianity to be mastered,—a science as much deeper, broader, higher than any human science as the heavens are higher than the earth. The mind is to be disciplined, educated, trained; for we are to do **service for God** in ways that are not in harmony with inborn inclination. There are **hereditary and cultivated tendencies** to evil that must be overcome. Often the training and education of a lifetime must be discarded, that one may become a learner in the school of Christ. Our hearts must be educated to become steadfast in God. We are to form **habits of thought** that will enable us to resist temptation. We must learn to look upward. The principles of the word of God—principles that are as high as heaven, and that compass eternity—we are to understand in their bearing upon our daily life. Every act, every word, every thought, is to be **in accord with these principles.** 8T 314.1*

*The precious graces of the Holy Spirit are not developed in a moment. Courage, fortitude, meekness, faith, unwavering trust in God's power to save, are acquired by the experience of years. By a life of holy endeavor and firm adherence to the right the children of God are to **seal their destiny.** 8T 314.2*

To the wooing of God and to all that reflects Him, we hope to always have “an answering chord.” To the allurements of the world and what represents Satan’s characteristics, we hope to have “no answering chord.”

Romans 10:10 – For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Ed 231.2:

*In all true teaching the personal element is essential. Christ in His teaching dealt with men individually. It was by personal contact and association that He trained the Twelve. It was in private, often to but one listener, that He gave His most precious instruction. To the honored rabbi at the night conference on the Mount of Olives, to the despised woman at the well of Sychar, He opened His richest treasures; for in these hearers He discerned the impressible heart, the open mind, the receptive spirit. Even the crowd that so often thronged His steps was not to Christ an indiscriminate mass of human beings. He **spoke directly to every mind and***

appealed to every heart. He watched the faces of His hearers, marked the lighting up of the countenance, the quick, responsive glance, which told that truth had reached the soul; and there vibrated in His heart the answering chord of sympathetic joy. Ed 231.2

“No Answering Chord” –

DA 387.3:

The prejudice of the Pharisees lay deeper than their questions would indicate; it had its root in the perversity of their hearts. Every word and act of Jesus aroused antagonism in them; for the spirit which they cherished could find in Him no answering chord. DA 387.3

DA 720.1, 2:

In all that Christ said to His disciples, there was something with which, in heart, Judas disagreed. Under his influence the leaven of disaffection was fast doing its work. The disciples did not see the real agency in all this; but Jesus saw that Satan was communicating his attributes to Judas, and thus opening up a channel through which to influence the other disciples. This, a year before the betrayal, Christ declared. "Have not I chosen you twelve," He said, "and one of you is a devil?" John 6:70. DA 720.1

Yet Judas made no open opposition, nor seemed to question the Saviour's lessons. He made no outward murmur until the time of the feast in Simon's house. When Mary anointed the Saviour's feet, Judas manifested his covetous disposition. At the reproof from Jesus his very spirit seemed turned to gall. Wounded pride and desire for revenge broke down the barriers, and the greed so long indulged held him in control. This will be the experience of everyone who persists in tampering with sin. The elements of depravity that are not resisted and overcome, respond to Satan's temptation, and the soul is led captive at his will. DA 720.2

DA 696.1:

Jesus said to him, "Friend, wherefore art thou come?" His voice trembled with sorrow as He added, "Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?" This appeal should have aroused the conscience of the betrayer, and touched his

stubborn heart; but honor, fidelity, and human tenderness had forsaken him. He stood bold and defiant, showing no disposition to relent. He had given himself up to Satan, and he had no power to resist him. Jesus did not refuse the traitor's kiss.

DA 696.1

SC 17.2:

In his sinless state, man held joyful communion with Him "in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:3. But after his sin, he could no longer find joy in holiness, and he sought to hide from the presence of God. Such is still the condition of the unrenewed heart. It is not in harmony with God, and finds no joy in communion with Him. The sinner could not be happy in God's presence; he would shrink from the companionship of holy beings. Could he be permitted to enter heaven, it would have no joy for him. The spirit of unselfish love that reigns there—every heart responding to the heart of Infinite Love—would touch no answering chord in his soul. His thoughts, his interests, his motives, would be alien to those that actuate the sinless dwellers there. He would be a discordant note in the melody of heaven. Heaven would be to him a place of torture; he would long to be hidden from Him who is its light, and the center of its joy. It is no arbitrary decree on the part of God that excludes the wicked from heaven; they are shut out by their own unfitness for its companionship. The glory of God would be to them a consuming fire. They would welcome destruction, that they might be hidden from the face of Him who died to redeem them. SC 17.2

“No Fear” –

In the New Testament in a variety of contexts, Jesus admonishes with the words, “Be not afraid.” That phrase is used almost a further 20 times elsewhere in the Bible. The injunction to have “no fear” gets expressed in Scriptures in a variety of ways. The message comes through convincingly and is one of faith and hope. Truly, God’s perfect love casts out fear!

Isaiah 41:13 – For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

Proverbs 3:24-26 – When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet. Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh. For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

Hebrews 12:1, 2 – Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher

of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

*1 John 4:17-19 – Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but **perfect love casteth out fear**: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us*

Jeremiah 12:5 – If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?

“We Have Nothing to Fear” –

CET 204.1, 2:

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. CET 204.1

*We are now a strong people, if we will put our trust in the Lord; for we are handling the mighty truths of the word of God. We have everything to be thankful for. If we walk in the light as it shines upon us from the living oracles of God, we shall have large responsibilities, corresponding to the great light given us of God. We have many duties to perform, because **we have been made the depositaries of sacred truth to be given to the world in all its beauty and glory**. We are debtors to God to use every advantage He has entrusted to us to beautify the truth by holiness of character, and to send the messages of warning, and of comfort, of hope and love, to those who are in the darkness of error and sin. CET 204.1*

Part 6 - Conclusion

What better way to conclude than to revisit the vision of the path as a reminder that we need not fear, because God holds the cords!

2T 596.2-597.1:

The Vision of the Path - “We need not fear” -

At length we came to a large chasm, at which our path ended. There was nothing now to guide the feet, nothing upon which to rest them. Our whole reliance must be upon the cords, which had increased in size until they were as large as our bodies.

Here we were for a time thrown into perplexity and distress. We inquired in fearful whispers: "To what is the cord attached?" My husband was just before me. Large drops of sweat were falling from his brow, the veins in his neck and temples were increased to double their usual size, and suppressed, agonizing groans came from his lips. The sweat was dropping from my face, and I felt such anguish as I had never felt before. A fearful struggle was before us. Should we fail here, all the difficulties of our journey had been experienced for nought. 2T 596.2

*Before us, on the other side of the chasm, was a beautiful field of green grass, about six inches high. I could not see the sun; but bright, soft beams of light, resembling fine gold and silver, were resting upon this field. Nothing I had seen upon earth could compare in beauty and glory with this field. But could we succeed in reaching it? was the anxious inquiry. Should the cord break, we must perish. Again, in whispered anguish, the words were breathed: "What holds the cord?" For a moment we hesitated to venture. Then we exclaimed: "Our only hope is to trust wholly to the cord. It has been our dependence all the difficult way. It will not fail us now." Still we were hesitating and distressed. The words were then spoken: "God holds the cord. **We need not fear.**" These words were then repeated by those behind us, accompanied with: "He will not fail us now. He has brought us thus far in safety." 2T 596.3*

*My husband then swung himself over the fearful abyss into the beautiful field beyond. I immediately followed. And, oh, what a sense of relief and gratitude to God we felt! **I heard voices raised in triumphant praise to God.** I was happy, perfectly happy. 2T 597.1*

Closing Prayer –

"You Raise Me Up" – Secret Garden (music by Rolf Lovland of Secret Garden; lyrics by Brendan Graham)

In Jesus' name. Amen.