

Youth messenger

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An Appeal to the young

Part 1 of 2

BY ELLEN G. WHITE

Dear Youth: From time to time the Lord has given me testimonies of warning for you. He has given you encouragement if you would yield your hearts' best and holiest affections to Him. As these warnings revive distinctly before me, I feel a sense of your danger that I know you do not feel. . . . I entreat you who have named the name of Christ to depart from all iniquity and develop characters that God can approve.

I inquire: Do you believe that the testimonies of reproof which have been given you are of God? If you really believe that the voice of God has spoken to you, pointing out your dangers, do you heed the counsels given? Do you keep these testimonies of warning fresh in your minds by



reading them often with prayerful hearts? The Lord has spoken to you, children and youth, again and again; but you have been slow to heed the warnings given. If you have not rebelliously braced your hearts against the views that God has given of your characters and your dangers, and against the course marked out for you to pursue, some of you have been inattentive in regard to the things required of you that you might gain spiritual strength and be a blessing in the

school, in the church, and to all with whom you associate.

Young men and women, you are accountable to God for the light that He has given you. This light and these warnings, if not heeded, will rise up in the judgment against you. Your dangers have been plainly stated; you have been cautioned and guarded on every side, hedged in with warnings. In the house of God you have listened to the most solemn, heart-searching truths presented by the servants of God in demonstration of the Spirit. What weight do these solemn appeals have upon your hearts? What influence do they have upon your characters? You will be

held responsible for every one of these appeals and warnings. They will rise up in the judgment to condemn those who pursue a life of vanity, levity, and pride.

Dear young friends, that which you sow, you will also reap. Now is the sowing time for you. What will the harvest be? What are you sowing? Every word you utter, every act you perform, is a seed which will bear good or evil fruit and will result in joy or sorrow to the sower. As is the seed sown, so will be the crop. God has given you great light and many privileges. After this light has been given, after your dangers have been plainly presented before you, the responsibility becomes yours. The manner in which you treat the light that God gives you will turn the scale for happiness or woe. You are shaping your destinies for yourselves.


You all have an influence for good or for evil on the minds and characters of others. And just the influence which you exert is written in the book of records in heaven. An angel is attending you and taking record of your words and actions. When you rise in the morning, do you feel your helplessness and your need of strength from God? and do you humbly, heartily make known your wants to your heavenly Father? If so, angels mark your prayers, and if these prayers have not gone forth out of feigned lips, when you are in danger of unconsciously doing wrong and exerting an

You now have a short time of probation, and you may improve this opportunity to make an unconditional surrender to God.

influence which will lead others to do wrong, your guardian angel will be by your side, prompting you to a better course, choosing your words for you, and influencing your actions.

If you feel in no danger, and if you offer no prayer for help and strength to resist temptations, you will be sure to go astray; your neglect of duty will be marked in the book of God in heaven, and you will be found wanting in the trying day. There are some around you who have been religiously instructed, and some who have been indulged, petted, flattered, and praised until they have been literally spoiled for practical life. I am speaking in regard to persons that I know. Their characters are so warped by indulgence, flattery, and indolence that they are useless for this life. And if useless so far as this life is concerned, what may we hope for that life where all is purity and holiness, and where all have harmonious characters? I have prayed for these persons; I have addressed them personally. I could see the

influence that they would exert over other minds in leading them to vanity, love of dress, and carelessness in regard to their eternal interests. The only hope for this class is for them to take heed to their ways, humble their proud, vain hearts before God, make confession of their sins, and be converted.

Vanity in dress as well as the love of amusement is a great temptation for the youth. God has sacred claims upon us all. He claims the whole heart, the whole soul, the whole affections. The answer which is sometimes made to this statement is: "Oh, I do not profess to be a Christian!" What if you do not? Has not God the same claims upon you that He has upon the one who professes to be His child? Because you are bold in your careless disregard of sacred things, is your sin of neglect and rebellion passed over by the Lord? Every day that you disregard the claims of God, every opportunity of offered mercy that you slight, is charged to your account and will swell the list of sins against you in the day when the accounts of every soul will be investigated. I address you, young men and women, professors or nonprofessors: God calls for your affections, for your cheerful obedience and devotion to Him. You now have a short time of probation, and you may improve this opportunity to make an unconditional surrender to God.—
Testimonies, vol. 3, pp. 362–365. 



Part 2 of 3

BY D. SURESHKUMAR

Today many people understand that kind of “love” that belongs to the category of lust—a greedy, self-centered, and abusive disposition. Many young men follow young women because they lust for them; they don’t love them. They don’t know what love really is. Their interest is not in giving but in taking advantage. Sooner or later, such relationships turn sour.

LOVE OR INFATUATION?

Love is not blind to principle, or duty, or responsibility. Love is not a surrender of one’s personality and individuality to be dominated

by another. Before entering into a true love relationship, one must disentangle the confusion caused by those who try to identify true love with infatuation. Here are a few points to be considered:

Simple infatuation is often called a “crush” or “puppy love.”

Romantic infatuation is often called “romantic love.”

Biological interest is a deep biological drive that seeks some erotic expression.

Real love exists when your strong tender feelings for the other person are balanced by reason and deep respect.

Romantic infatuation is very dangerous because young people easily fool themselves by acting out their intense feelings and biological urges. Romantic feeling is false or counterfeit “love.” If you are infatuated, your emotions will be in charge. In real love, your reason rules your emotions. However, people easily confuse real love with romantic infatuation, because both have one thing in common—strong feelings of attachment to the other person.

IDENTIFYING INFATUATION

Infatuation can be diagnosed by the following symptoms:

1 In infatuation your main interest is likely to be in the other person’s physical aspects. The main stress is on things you can perceive right away—what you see, hear, smell, taste or touch. A marriage based only on such an attraction will not last long.

2 The factors that attract you are relatively few. Just the smile! Just the handsome look or pretty face! Just the lovely hair! Just the funny talk or jokes!

3 It tends to start fast. But in reality, there is no such thing as “love at first sight.” That kind of “love” stops the same way it starts—fast.

4 A couple’s interest in each other fluctuates a lot. One day you feel sure this is the right person for marriage. Then you develop doubts and wonder if you should date another young woman/or young man for a while, to test your feelings more.

5

This causes a disorganizing and destructive effect on your personality. Infatuation makes you less effective, less efficient, and it degrades your real self. Infatuation is irresponsible and fails to consider the future consequences of today's actions.

6

You live in a “two-person world”—yourself and the one you think you love. You tend to neglect your family and pay little or no attention to your friends. You turn a deaf ear to your friends, parents, teachers, or your boss. You fail to do your homework. “Romantic love” is of such central concern to yourself that you allow nothing to stand in its way.

“Two persons become acquainted; they are infatuated with each other, and their whole attention is absorbed. Reason is blinded, and judgment is overthrown. They will not submit to any advice or control, but insist on having their own way, regardless of consequences. Like some epidemic, or contagion, that must run its course is the infatuation that possesses them; and there seems to be no such thing as putting a stop to it.”—*The Adventist Home*, p. 71.

7

Infatuation blinds your eyes to the defects of the other person. You tend to idolize your partner. No one can tell you anything wrong about the object of your affections. At best, you won't believe the warnings of those who try to help you. If you are infatuated, you will defend him or her against all negative remarks. You will not admit that he or she has any faults.

8

You two may have big problems and obstacles to cope with—different religions, hopes, values, family, and cultural backgrounds. Danger signals by the dozens! Yet you are not concerned. You don't feel the need to think about these enormous hazards before marriage. You think that somehow everything will come out all right.

UNDERSTANDING REAL LOVE

In contrast to infatuation, real love can be identified as follows:

1 Your interest is in his or her total personality.

2 Many qualities of the other person attract you. You like not only the way he or she looks and talks, but also the way he or she thinks and feels about things and other people.

3 It starts slowly. Studies have shown that the longer the period of courtship and engagement, the better the chances for success in a marriage. In some places the courtship or engagement lasts for years, sometimes even 5 to 10 years. (While this length of time is neither ideal nor at all recommended, the reasoning behind it reflects an attitude and state of mind from which many of us today can learn.)

4 The relationship tends to even out existing differences, and interest in each other becomes consistent.

5 It has an organizing and constructive effect on your personality. It brings out the best in you.

6 It does not stop suddenly. It takes a long time to end such a relationship, and it takes a long time to get over it.

7 You admit the faults of the other person but love him or her in spite of the evident defects.

8

As it is with infatuation, so it is in real love: The one you love may well be the most important person to you. But there is a big difference. In true love, you don't abandon or neglect your other relationships. Instead, you just add the new relationship to all the others you already have. It becomes a plus, not a replacement. You still maintain good ties with your family, your friends, and your teachers. You are not in a "two-person world."

IS LOVE BLIND?

No, but infatuation is. Infatuation, like other extreme emotions, such as anger, hate, and fear, distorts thinking. "Those who are actuated by true love are neither unreasonable nor blind. . . . Love . . . is not unreasonable; it is not blind. It is pure and holy. But the passion of the natural heart is another thing altogether. While pure love will take God into all its plans, and will be in perfect harmony with the Spirit of God, passion will be headstrong, rash, unreasonable, defiant of all restraint, and will make the object of its choice an idol. . . . True love is not a strong, fiery, impetuous passion. On the contrary, it is calm and deep in its nature. It looks beyond mere externals, and is attracted by qualities alone. It is wise and discriminating, and its devotion is real and abiding" (*Ibid.*, pp. 50, 51).

True love is a plant that needs cultivation. Therefore, before assuming any commitment, do your "homework" thoroughly and put some questions to yourself if you desire to have a happy union. This will help you to avoid future distress and grief. Before you yield your affections, ask:

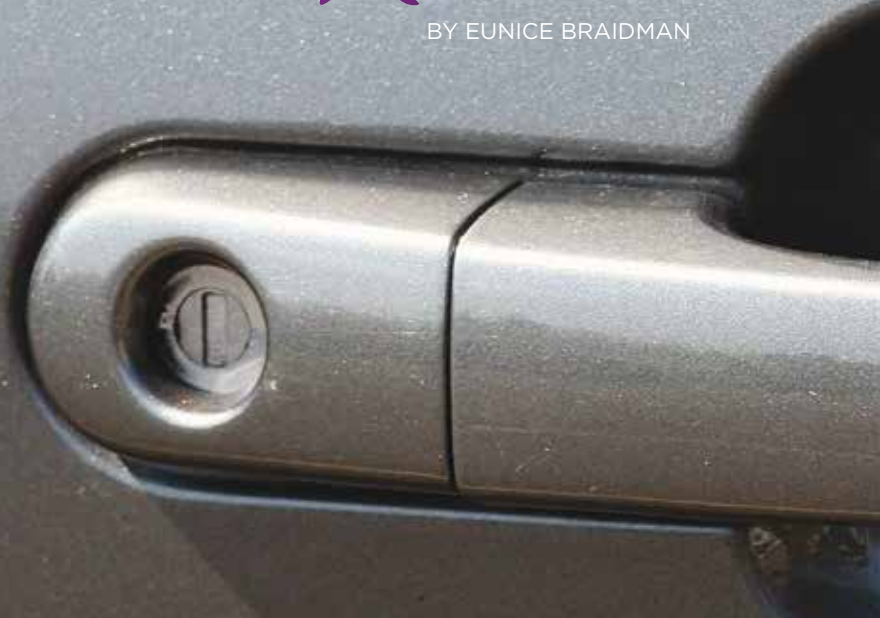
Does he or she have a mother? What is her character like? Does he or she recognize his or her obligations to her? Is he or she mindful of her wishes and happiness? Let's be realistic: If he or she does not respect and honor his or her mother, will he or she manifest respect, kindness, attention, and love toward you? When the novelty of marriage is over, will he or she love you still? Will he or she be patient with your mistakes, or will he or she be critical, overbearing, and dictatorial? True affection will overlook many mistakes.

WHY DO MANY MARRIAGES FAIL?

Many unhappy marriages, which end in divorce, have their roots in infatuation and biological interest only—sometimes known as "great chemistry." Most youth are not sure what real love is. Age and maturity lend no immunity against infatuation, which can affect anyone. Our youth should be educated away from this folly, which is called infatuation, and from another danger, namely, one-sided love, which doesn't work. 🌀

Everything Happens for a Reason

BY EUNICE BRAIDMAN



It was a typical summer day, and the sun was beating down mercilessly as we parked my father's truck in front of the store. It was midday and we couldn't wait to enter the air-conditioned building and be engulfed by the welcome cool, pleasant air. We had all piled out of the vehicle when one of us—we won't say who—closed and locked the driver's door without realizing that the other door was closed as well and that, worse still, my purse in which I had put the keys was now locked inside the truck. It was an older vehicle and, consequently, it couldn't boast of having a keyless entry keypad or any other means of unlocking it other than using its key. We all heaved a deep sigh upon realizing the predicament. We were 45 minutes from home, and my father was working and was also quite

far from us, so our options were few. After thoroughly assessing the situation and realizing that there truly was no way to get in through any of the windows or any such thing, I decided to walk across the parking lot to the drycleaners and ask for a metal hanger and try to accomplish something with it. To my dismay, no matter what I tried or how I twisted the hanger, shoving it down inside the door in hopes of somehow being able to pull back the lock, nothing worked. To make a long story short, we tried everything we could think of—no matter how unearthly the notion—to either unlock the door or somehow find a way out of the “fix” into which we had gotten ourselves. At this point we were also very hot, to say the least, and in view of the imperfect humans that we are, frustration and impatience threatened to creep in.

We at last decided to enter the store and later try to think of a solution. We had just started walking down the aisles, when a young man approached my mother and asked if we needed help. Apparently, he had been observing our futile attempts and was kind enough to offer us a hand. We readily accepted his help and followed him out to the truck. We all stood around as he tried—in the stifling heat—to do that which we had failed to achieve moments earlier. After what seemed an eternity, his perseverance paid off. We couldn’t believe it. I had left my purse open, fortunately,

and he had finally managed to pick up the keys from inside my purse by using the metal hanger and pulling the keys through the window which was cracked open. It had taken many painstaking tries, but he had finally been successful. Logically, we couldn’t thank him enough for his kindness. As he was preparing to leave, I remembered that I had a *Steps to Christ* in my purse. I grabbed it and ran towards him. I thanked him again as I handed him the book, and he accepted it with a grateful smile. As he drove away, I began to reflect over the incident, and I realized something important which changed my entire perspective. As frustrating as the ordeal may have seemed, it dawned on me that God may have had a special purpose in allowing it to happen. Had the keys not gotten locked in the truck, we most likely would have never met that young man, and I never would have had the opportunity to give him that precious little book. And what if one day, when we get to heaven by the grace of God, I see him there because of that one day the keys got locked in the truck? What a thought!

“Everything happens for a reason,” people say. Although I cannot know if everyone who says this truly believes it, I’d like to think that you and I do. And even though the incident I have related may be a simple example and a seemingly small “trial,” this does not detract from the importance

of the lesson that can thereby be learned—a lesson of faith and trust in God and in His workings, and a reminder that sometimes “bad” things happen for good reasons. This concept can be applied to the greater and more painful trials that come our way. Whether it be an incident as vexing as locking our keys in the car, or a severe and bitter trial such as losing someone we love, we must strive to remember always, with the Lord’s help, that “all things work together for good” (Romans 8:28).

How familiar we may be with the story of Esther, Daniel, or Joseph. We may have read and heard these stories over and over, and we might clearly see how in their lives God allowed certain trials, experiences, and situations for a good purpose. We may effortlessly be able to understand God’s reasons and trace the workings of the hand of Providence throughout their lives. How easily we see the picture God was trying to paint, and how plainly we see why things

happened the way they did! But in our own lives, how different it is. We are blinded by the fog of uncertainty, by the darkness of doubt, and the clouds of mystery. We cannot see beyond our present circumstances, and we are thus tempted to murmur and complain and become discouraged, for we are not yet able to understand the workings of God’s providence. In moments like these we should remember the inspired words of the servant of the Lord: “God has given us sufficient evidence of His love, and we are not to doubt His goodness because we cannot understand the workings of His providence” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 47).

God can use us in a great way, just as He did Esther, Daniel, Joseph, and countless others. But we must be willing to trust His plan, even if we have many questions; and we must be willing to follow where He leads, although at times we cannot see the path beneath our feet. In Isaiah 55:8 we are reminded that God’s thoughts are not our thoughts, nor are our ways His ways. What may not make sense to us makes perfect sense to God, and what we may think is nothing but a misfortune may be, in God’s eyes, an ultimate blessing. God’s wisdom is never erring, and we should find rest and peace in knowing that, no matter how perplexing a problem or how furious a storm, the Lord is leading us where we are meant to be. He allows the wind, the waves, the storm, the pain, the darkness for


We must be willing to trust his plan . . . and follow where He leads, although at times we cannot see the path beneath our feet.

our good . . . although our human mind and heart many times fail to grasp this.

Sometimes God's leading will be clear, at other times it may seem we are on a long detour, and we are not able to discern God's plan until much later. In other situations, our finite minds will not be enlightened until we reach that heavenly land with the help of God. But whatever the case may be, we must have trust in our heavenly Father as a little child trusts his or her earthly father. God has a purpose for every failure; a reason for every heartache. We do not encounter moments of difficulty or grief simply because we have "had a stroke of bad luck." "God speaks to us through His providential workings and through the influence of His Spirit upon the heart. In our circumstances and surroundings, in the changes daily taking place around us, we may find precious lessons if our hearts are but open to discern them" (*Steps to Christ*, p. 87).

My wish and prayer for you, dear reader, is that in the trying moments of your life—whether they be small annoyances and troubles or crushing trials—you are able to recognize God's hand, even though you may not be able to see His plan. When you don't understand why things happen the way they do and you wish



you could see what is on the other side, remember that all things truly do happen for a reason; and as long as we know that God is beside us, we can trust that the reason is a worthy one. When we are confused and discouraged, when we wonder and question, when we feel hurt and overwhelmed, may our hearts be cheered and our spirit renewed and strengthened to know and remember the following words: "There are homes for the pilgrims of earth. There are robes for the righteous, with crowns of glory and palms of victory. All that has perplexed us in the providences of God will in the world to come be made plain. The things hard to be understood will then find explanation. The mysteries of grace will unfold before us. Where our finite minds discovered only confusion and broken promises, we shall see the most perfect and beautiful harmony. We shall know that infinite love ordered the experiences that seemed most trying. As we realize the tender care of Him who makes all things work together for our good, we shall rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory" (*The Adventist Home*, p. 542). 

managing your two cents

Where shall I spend it?

Part 2 of 3

BY PAM STEMLER



Put God first.

This is an important principle. It reminds us that the Giver of all is God and when we give back a certain percentage to Him for His work on the earth, He multiplies the rest. We see this happen continually. What a financial plan is that!

“Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine” (Proverbs 3:9, 10).

Meet your needs.

Another principle of taking care of your two cents is using it for meeting your needs. If you are young and you only get a small amount, talk with your parents and decide what needs you will cover with the money you are getting. As you get older and are paid more money, you will also have more expenses, so it's good to train with smaller amounts first.

If you are older and always depending upon someone else to buy what you need, that's not a healthy place to be. As adults we have a responsibility to care for ourselves and our families.

“If any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel” (1 Timothy 5:8, emphasis supplied).

Help others.

I am sure that you remember that money is not just for ourselves. It is also to help others. As you think of sharing, you will find MANY needs. It is important to mention here that you alone cannot meet all of the needs around you. I have found that I must pray for guidance and that having a certain percentage available for sharing helps in the deciding process. If you only have \$10.00 to share, you can't help a \$100.00 need.

“Is it not [God's chosen fast] to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?” (Isaiah 58:7).

Be Sharp.

Advertising works on our emotions. Marketers know that if they can get you emotionally tied to something, you will buy it, whether you need it or not! But it isn't good to operate this way. Over the years I have heard many people say they "need" a new car, new clothing, a new iPod, a new computer, a new DVD, a certain food or drink. Is that realistic? Not really. Remember, money is to be used for supplying your NEEDS, not necessarily all your WANTS!

It is pretty easy to look around and find that those who spend all of their money on pleasures are usually complaining that they don't have enough money for what they need. Don't be driven by "I WANT THAT."

"He that **loveth pleasure shall be a poor man**: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich" (Proverbs 21:17, emphasis supplied).

Getting caught in wanting things badly enough to borrow to get them, or to not be able to

meet your needs or responsibilities can really mess you up. And if that happens when you are young, it can affect you for a good part of your life, maybe even the rest of your years, unless you learn from mistakes and do differently.

On the other hand, if you can get a handle on being "cents-wise" when young, you will have an advantage that planning and discipline will give you for the rest of your life.

It is not wrong to get something in the "want" category along the way, but it is a good habit to save up for that special purchase. That way we think longer and more carefully about whether we really do want it or not.

It is also important to learn how to choose the quality that you should have in a product. Some things don't matter if they are inexpensive, but the years will show that if you can get quality for a lower price, it will last longer and in the long run save you money.

- **10% gift to God.** This is the minimum amount that we are to return to Him. (After this 10% tithe, the Hebrews routinely gave an addition 10%, 15% or more in free-will offerings toward the cause of God. The Lord is so generous with us; shall we not be the same with Him? This additional amount that could go toward offerings can come by reducing some of the following categories—and you might actually find that the Lord miraculously reduces your expenses when you give more to Him!).
- **10% saving for a rainy day or a large item that I want to buy.**
- **20% for buying clothing and other needed purchases.**
- **40% for room & board, or rent or mortgage.**
- **15% for transit.**
- **5% for miscellaneous.**

Be Balanced.

I have met people who say that they are only going to get what they really “need” but aren’t really thinking right. They may think that they don’t really need to have heat in the winter, or warm enough clothes for comfort, or a variety of food. They may be able to survive but not necessarily long or well.

There may be times in our lives when we really do need to exercise a lot of self-discipline because money is scarce, but that does not mean that we need to live like that all of the time. These kind of people often become what are known as misers. What is that? It’s someone who doesn’t want


to spend anything. They are often those who look like they have nothing, but in reality there is a lot of money hiding somewhere. They don’t want to spend on themselves or others. Remember, money is to help you and others

There is a law that God has put in place called “sowing and reaping,” and it affects our finances as well. It says, what you sow (plant), you will reap (harvest).

As we work diligently, carefully, seeking to put the Lord first in everything, managing carefully by His guidance what is given into our hands, He can bless by multiplying our means. Trust Him and watch and see!

Budget.

A budget is a spending plan. That means that you look at how much money you have brought in and then make a plan of percentages in different categories. An example would look something like this:

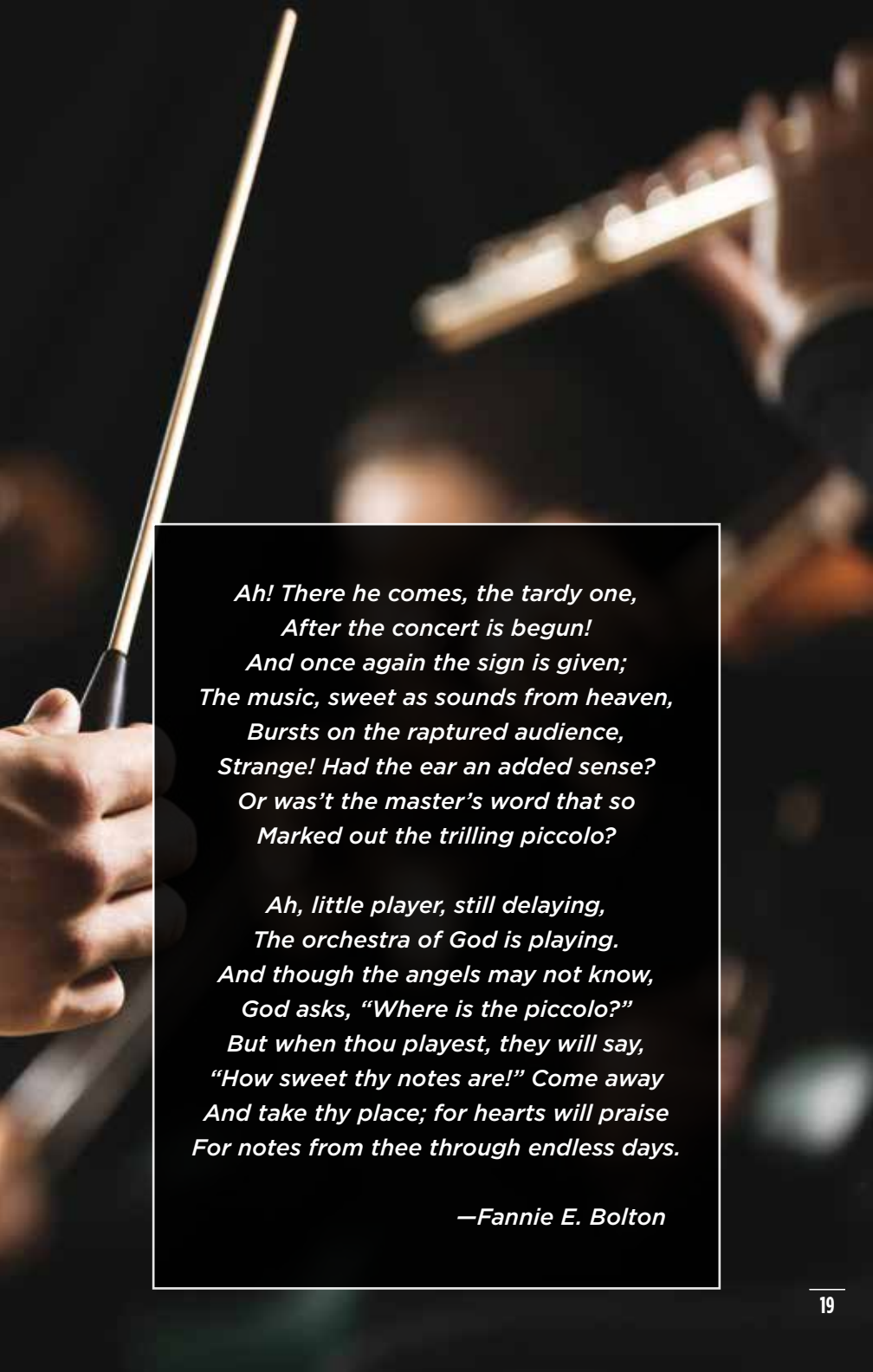
This is only an example and is not necessarily the percentages that you would use in your own case. This would be broken down more specifically depending upon your age and your income. Again, I would suggest that you ask someone with successful experience to help you break it down. 



"Where Is the Piccolo?"

*The orchestra was ready made,
And yet the leader half delayed.
He ran his eye from chair to chair,
It seemed his players all were there.
He counted o'er the finer strings,
He noted harps, triangles, rings,
Cymbals, trombones, bass-viols, fifes,
Flutes, clarinets, drums, mellowing pipes.
What, what were missing, if one were?
Or was his orchestra all there?
Then blaze of light burst forth, as he
Gave them the sign of minstrelsy.*

*Like rush of air upon a void,
Like burst of light from 'neath a cloud,
So strains of music, sweetly blent,
Poured as from one vast instrument,
And to the master's ear alone
There was the missing of a tone.
Crash! Came the baton on the stand;
He hushed the sound by wave of hand.
Pale, trembling, stood the master so,
And asked, "Where is the piccolo?"*



*Ah! There he comes, the tardy one,
After the concert is begun!
And once again the sign is given;
The music, sweet as sounds from heaven,
Bursts on the raptured audience,
Strange! Had the ear an added sense?
Or was't the master's word that so
Marked out the trilling piccolo?*

*Ah, little player, still delaying,
The orchestra of God is playing.
And though the angels may not know,
God asks, "Where is the piccolo?"
But when thou playest, they will say,
"How sweet thy notes are!" Come away
And take thy place; for hearts will praise
For notes from thee through endless days.*

—Fannie E. Bolton


BY JULIA H. DUFFIE

SURFACE *Moisture*

Light and moisture are among the most important agents in promoting both animal and vegetable life, so the Scriptures make use of these figures in illustrating the conditions necessary for a thrifty spiritual life. Thus salvation itself is frequently expressed by the term “water of life.” God’s people are said to drink water from the wells of salvation.

One whom God constantly sustains and supplies with spiritual food is compared to a “tree planted by the rivers of water.” When David felt a great need of the help and blessing of God, and was most earnestly seeking these priceless treasures, he represented himself as being very thirsty: “My soul thirsteth for God.” “As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God” (Psalm 42:1). Another time he complained that his moisture was “turned into the drought of summer” (Psalm 32:4). The figures of water and moisture are also commonly used to designate thrifty conditions in other respects.

Those who engage in the business of agriculture, gardening, and so forth, have constant occasion to



note how apt and forcible these illustrations are. How vigorous and thrifty the plant appears which has had a sufficient supply of moisture, compared with the one which has lacked this valuable aid! Nevertheless, the gardener also observes that plants which have been accustomed to an undue amount of artificial watering appear very flourishing as long as this supply is kept up; but if it is withheld, even for a short time, the plant quickly withers and dies much sooner than those which have had far less surface moisture, and more soil cultivation. The gardener wisely concludes that the overwatered plant, finding an abundance of moisture near the surface, has not been impelled to send its roots deep into the earth to get the moisture by natural means. It depended entirely upon the artificial supply; and when that was withheld, having no connection with deeper sources, of course it must quickly wither, whereas the plant which has had more judicious management has sent its roots deep into the soil, and draws its life-sustaining moisture from the provision there made for it; hence it could much better sustain the loss of the surface supply.

What a lesson there is here for us! What danger we are in of constantly looking for

the approval of others in all our efforts to do right, and if we receive this, of coming to depend upon it to sustain and encourage us, instead of seeking a deep experience for ourselves, and drawing our support and daily spiritual food from God and His word! This course is well illustrated by the plant which depended only on the shallow means of sustenance the surface treatment provided, and neglected to send its roots deep down where the steady, constant supply could be reached.

Then let us dig deep, and become “rooted and grounded” in Christ; then, although we will have due regard for the opinions and counsels of those whose position or sound judgment entitle them to such respect, we will nevertheless be enabled to stand firmly for right principles, regardless of either praise or censure, if we may but know that our feet rest upon the word of God. David says: “All my springs are in thee” (Psalm 87:7); and when we can truthfully say that all our strength comes from God, all our incentives to rightdoing from the divine Source, then indeed the words of Hosea regarding Israel will be true of us: “He shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon” (14:5). 🌱



the Turtle

BY JULIE LOMBARD

A box turtle grew up along the wooded area of a well-visited state park. He was used to eating, burrowing, taking a small swim, and going back to his burrows. One day he decided to seek for something better. He was no longer satisfied with the surroundings about him. "It looks greener over there," he surely must have thought. The place he was referring to was on the other side of a busy road. In order to get there he had to risk everything—including life itself—for the supposed joys on the other side. The calling was great, the temptation was strong, his will . . . weak.

As he began his journey, excitement rushed all over his body, and this made him all the

more eager to press forward to the "greener side." He pressed on faithfully, when . . . VOOSH! A car passed over him. Whoa! Nevertheless, eager to enjoy the pleasures that awaited him, he continued. Another car came by the road, VOOSH! All right, at this rate, he would be able to make it on the other side—and not just make it to the other side, but be able to boast about the fact that he had crossed the road successfully while dodging vehicles. Now the turtle was already halfway across, when the dreadful event happened. A car came along and drove right over him. Thankfully, he was made with a tough outer shell, but his bottom shell could not resist the pressure and it cracked. As he felt the pain


and as blood started to surge through the cracks, this box turtle retreated back inside his shell and waited for death.

Down the same road, several minutes after the dreadful event, came a young couple riding with some friends. Their friends were a mother and her daughter. The young man, being the driver, spotted something on the road. "Look! A turtle," He said. "Oh, please pick it up, we don't want something bad to happen to it," replied the mother. They stopped the vehicle and picked up the turtle. As they examined the creature, their worst fears proved true. They saw the blood running down his cracked bottom shell. "Mommy, he looks dead," exclaimed the child. "Why don't we just leave it on the side of the road?" "No, we must care for it and see if it is still alive," said the mother. When they got to their campsite, the mother, using all her motherly love and care, tenderly washed the turtle and sought to find ways to help relieve some of its pain. After a few minutes, the mother eagerly rushed over to her child and showed her the turtle. "Look at what Jesus did." The turtle was not only alive, but he had his head out and was moving around his two front feet as if nothing had happened. Oh, what joy!

At the end of this story, two lessons, even three, come to mind. The first might be obvious to everyone. It is the importance that

we need to give to nature and care for it. How we need to be able to lend a helping hand and care for what our heavenly Father has left under our care.

The second lesson is this: As our first parents started out life, they were like that box turtle: Enjoying life in the garden till temptation came. Their way of life soon was not satisfying and seeking for something better, they decided to try something new. That something was not only what hurt us but drove us so desperately into sin that we were left to die. Till a kind Hand came and picked us up, washed us from all our sin, and even gave us the opportunity of having eternal life.

As we go through life, we see many souls that go through their daily chores pressed about with the weight of sin. Their souls are hurt and bleeding, and they are waiting for the moment when they can just give up their lives and die to end the hurt. We see them, even converse with them, but we think as the child did and say, "Why don't we leave them on the side of the road?" They don't appear to be interested in the gospel, they don't need the message, they have already gone too far. And yet, if our Saviour thought the same, wouldn't you be left on the side of the road also? Would you have been worthy to be rescued, or would you have looked just like that turtle, hurt and ready to die under the weight of sin? 

A CHANGE OF COLOR

An Allegory for the Young
BY BARBARA MONTROSE

It was a bright, sunny morning and young Griselda awakened with great joy. Today was a holiday—and later that afternoon would be her special herbal tea party! Rushing out to the backyard, she ran to make sure everything in her playhouse was in order.

“Oh, no!” cried Griselda. “Someone splattered ugly paint all over my pretty pink house! Who would do such a horrible thing?”

Then she thought for a minute. “Aha! I know who did it!” she said to herself. “It must have been Meg, that new girl down the street. She’s always frowning, and she’s probably jealous because she wasn’t invited to my tea party! Well, I’ll fix her!”

Remembering that someone had given her a piece of chewing gum, Griselda ran to try to find it.

“I’ll fix her for sure. Tomorrow is a big event at the school. I’ll chew up that gum to make it really sticky and nasty and then put it in her chair for her to sit on. Then she’ll sit in it and ruin her nice dress and get really upset. But it

will serve her right for messing up my playhouse!”

As Griselda began to fumble through the kitchen drawer for the little piece of gum, suddenly her older sister Amy appeared.

“What’s up, Griselda? You’re up bright and early this morning. What are you looking for?” asked Amy.

“Oh, dear,” thought Griselda. . . . “Amy is always so nice to everybody. She won’t approve of my plan, for sure. But I’ll go ahead and tell her about it, because certainly she’ll be sympathetic for me in my tea party disaster.”

“Amy, I’m looking for that piece of chewing gum to make mean old Meg sit in it to pay her back for messing up my playhouse. Just look outside!” Griselda declared.

Amy went outside and slowly returned with sorrow.

“What makes you think that Meg did that, Griselda?”

“I’m sure she did. It looks like she gets really mad whenever she’s not invited to something. She’s new in the neighborhood, and I don’t know why she seems

to think she belongs in our exclusive club of fancy, pinkie girls!"

Amy was quiet for a moment. Then suddenly she said, "Grissy, I have an idea. It's a lot better than that old, tired chewing gum trick. You can pay her back even worse."

Griselda was shocked. Usually Amy was always trying to make her be good, but now she was actually coming up with a mischievous idea. . . .

Amy continued, "Why don't you heap coals of fire on her head?"

"Wait a minute!" Griselda cried. "That would be really bad. I could get in big trouble. But you know—Meg has such thick, naturally curly hair that probably it wouldn't hurt much, but it surely would teach her a lesson!"

"If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: for thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the Lord shall reward thee' (Proverbs 25:21, 22). I think that's the best kind of punishment Meg could have," said Amy in a serious tone of voice.

"I doubt it," Griselda mumbled. "I don't think it will help much at all. And it won't restore my beautiful playhouse!"

"Grissy—let's give it a try. You've got nothing to lose. Many times I've seen how this works.



These 'coals of fire' can melt away all kinds of cold, ugly, bitter feelings. You've got a lot of dolls upstairs. Why don't you offer to lend one of those dolls to Meg?"

Griselda was sad. Not only was her tea party ruined, but now her sister was expecting her to do something totally impossible. . . . Life seemed very hard indeed.

As she strolled onto the front porch to mope in her misery, suddenly Griselda saw someone walking down the road toward the house. Of all people, it was Meg!

Just as Griselda's fury was starting to rise, something inside her heart told her to go ahead and try Amy's idea.

"Meg," she called. "Can you come here for a minute, please?"

Meg hesitated for a second and bowed her head as if she wanted to hide. Then she looked around with a blank face as if she wanted to pretend she didn't hear anyone calling.

Griselda ran out to meet her. Suddenly the words poured out more easily than expected:

“Meg, I know that a lot of your belongings have not arrived yet after your move to our town. Would you like to borrow a doll from me so you have something to play with?”

“What?” exclaimed Meg in surprise.

“I’d like to lend you a doll or two.”

Meg’s jaw suddenly dropped and her face turned pale.

“Is—is that all you—you want to ask me?” Meg stammered.

“Yes, hold on a minute, and I’ll run inside right now to see what I can find for you.”

“Wait, Griselda. There’s something I need to tell you. . . . I can’t believe that you want to do something so nice for me. I don’t deserve it. I came here to tell you sorry, because I did something very bad. . . . I tried to surprise you by trying to paint your playhouse with some pretty polka-dots . . . and I thought that would make you really happy. . . . But somehow the wet

paint was too watery and dribbled everywhere, so it did not turn out very well. Then I tried to fix it and it all smeared. I feel so sorry. . . . I thought that if I had been able to do an amazing job in making your playhouse really special that you might start to like me.”

Griselda stood quietly for a few seconds, her brow furrowed in thought. Then she exclaimed, “Meg, are you telling me that you did this in order to try to do something NICE for me rather than mean?”

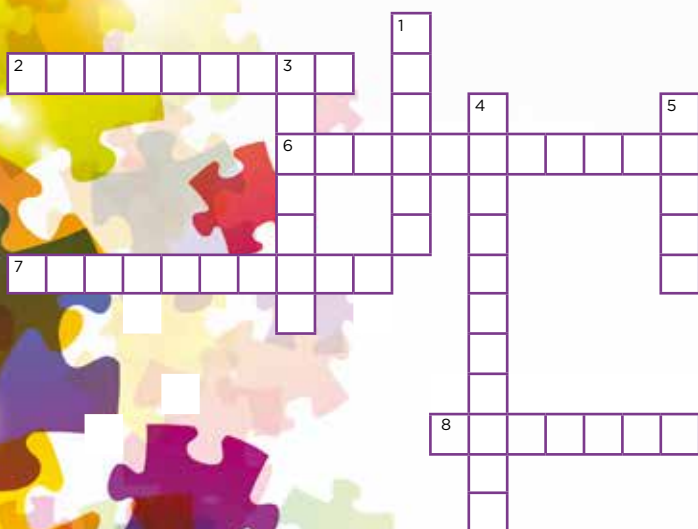
“Yes, because the Bible says that ‘a man that hath friends must shew himself friendly’ (Proverbs 18:24). I’m new here and it’s so lonely not having any friends. I had plenty of friends in my old town. But somehow it’s different here. But that’s no excuse for me to have messed up your playhouse.”

Suddenly, Griselda saw things in a different light. “Meg, I have a great idea. It’s early in the day. We still have time to repaint the house and completely cover those strange-looking ‘polka-dots.’ I’ve got two brushes and some violet paint that I was originally thinking to use instead of the pink. Will you help me?”

Meg’s face brightened with a huge smile as she exclaimed, “Of course!” She was so happy that tears came to her eyes.

“It’s amazing,” thought Griselda, “how those ‘coals of fire’ can make people cry—but with happiness instead of sadness. This is great—I’m going to remember it!”





ACROSS

2. You are shaping your _____ for yourselves.
6. Young men and women are _____ to God for the light given them.
7. In the allegory, Griselda learned the best kind of _____.
8. One who is not following God is missed just like the important little _____ was.

DOWN

1. Sometimes it seems as if we are on a long _____, and we don't see God's plan until later.
3. If we dig deep we will be _____ to stand firmly for right principles.
4. _____ is a blind form of idolatry.
5. Money is to be used for _____, not necessarily for things we want.

Bible ABC's

J

One who prayed for protection from evil (1 Chronicles 4:9, 10).

Two who defied God in Moses' time (2 Timothy 3:8).

An early Christian whose house was assaulted by the Jews (Acts 17:5-7).

A king of Judah who feared the Lord (1 Kings 22:41-44; 2 Chronicles 20:1-3, 20).

A zealous, hypocritical king (2 Kings 10:13, 16, 28-31).

A harlot's son known for keeping his vow (Judges 11:1, 30-35; Hebrews 11:32)

A wicked queen, who lived a notorious life and died a disgraceful death (2 Kings 9:30-37).

The general of King David's army (1 Chronicles 27:34).

The father who accepted correction from his son, Gideon (Judges 6:24-31).

The godly mother of Moses (Exodus 6:20).

The following quiz will test your knowledge of certain Bible names and places which begin with the letters J, K, and L. Some answers are easy, others are more challenging. After you go through them all, pick out the ones you could not answer. Look up the verse prayerfully and read the entire context, asking God to give you greater spiritual understanding from what you find.

Try to discover more about that subject and about God's love shining through it by using a concordance or Spirit of Prophecy index. It may take a bit more time, but this is what turns what might have seemed as only trivia into richer spiritual treasure. Enjoy!

K, L

A Levite who helped with the restoration of Jerusalem (Ezra 3:9; Nehemiah 7:43).

Two of the sons of Ishmael (Genesis 25:13-15).

Three nations promised to Abraham (Genesis 15:18, 19).

Abraham's wife after Sarah's death (Genesis 25:1, 2).

A Levite whom God destroyed for rebelling against Moses (Numbers 16:1-3, 32).

Rebekah's brother to whom Jacob fled (Genesis 27:41-45).

One whom Jesus raised from the dead (John 11:40-44).

Jacob's wife whom, after her death, he buried with his parents and grandparents (Genesis 49:31).

The only faithful tribe in the golden-calf crisis (Exodus 32:26).


A businesswoman with a heart open to the gospel (Acts 16:14).

What Kind of Test?

Jesus is coming. Do you believe that? Probably you do. Do you believe it may be very soon? Hopefully you do. So, what should we all be doing about it?

As youth, we're always choosing priorities. Suppose at school there's a test coming next week—in a super-hard subject. Maybe we will have started already studying for it, because it's a deep subject, and it will take time to really understand the information before being tested on it. But, on the other hand, for an easy test, we might be able to relax and simply plan on starting to focus a little on it the day before.

So back to the first point: How much time is there before Jesus comes—or more importantly, when my probation will close? No human being on earth knows the answer to this question. We should, however, ask ourselves: Is the final judgment of my character one of those easy “just-think-about-it-the-day-before” types of test? Let's see:



“If we would develop a character which God can accept, we must form correct habits in our religious life. Daily prayer is as essential to growth in grace, and even to spiritual life itself, as is temporal food to physical well-being. We should accustom ourselves to lift the thoughts often to God in prayer. If the mind wanders, we must bring it back; by persevering effort, habit will finally make it easy. We cannot for one moment separate ourselves from Christ with safety. We may have His presence to attend us at every step, but only by observing the conditions which He Himself has laid down.”—*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 546.

In reality: “Tomorrow our probation may end and our account be forever fixed.” (*Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 668).

So, our Lord and Master gives talents and time to each one of us and says, “Occupy till I come” (Luke 19:13). Right now, we have a chance to follow His example in how He spent His time and what His priorities were. He did not live to amuse and entertain Himself in selfish pleasure but rather, to be about His Father’s business. We, too, have amazing opportunities and privileges to honor Him and bring greater happiness to ourselves if we will only seek them. When we place God first in life, He opens better doors than we ever have imagined possible. The sacrifice of Christ and surrender to His ways bring deeper joy, lasting fulfillment—and ultimately, eternal life. So why not make as our most urgent priority to “walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness”? (Colossians 1:10, 11). It’s worth it! 🌱

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THE *Prayer* AND THE **Life**

Do I mean the prayer I offer,
 Do I feel the words I say,
 When before our heavenly Father,
 I kneel from day to day;
 When at morning and at evening
 I incline to seek His face,
 And my voice goes up in pleading
 To His glorious throne of grace?

When my voice goes up in pleading,
 Does my heart go with it too?
 There are many things I ask Him,
 That His might and grace may do;
 Petition on petition
 Goes up to meet His ear;
 Oh, are they such petitions
 As our Father loves to hear?

I tell Him of my wants—my needs;
 But when I turn away,
 Do I think of what I asked for?
 Do I watch as well as pray?

Do I strive against temptation?
 Do I seek like Christ to live?
 Do I use aright the blessings
 That so freely He doth give?

My prayers are with much speaking—
 Yet, when I leave the spot,
 How quickly are its memories fled.
 How soon those prayers forgot!
 Oh, if the thought that gave them birth
 So lightly treasured be,
 How can I think God's mercy
 Will remember them for me?

Yet one petition further, Lord!
 Wilt Thou not deign to hear?
 O, let my spirit breathe anew
 Through all my daily prayer;
 Then help me, as I pray, to live,
 Kept by Thy grace divine,
 And the glory of the prayer and life,
 Alike, O Lord, be Thine.