

## The Heart of the Problem

“The great heart of the work is at-----; and, as the human heart throws its living current of blood into all parts of the body, so does the management at this place, the headquarters of our church, affect the whole body of believers. If the physical heart is healthy, the blood that is sent from it through the system is also healthy; but if this fountain is impure, the whole organism becomes diseased by the poison of the vital fluid. So it is with us. **If the heart of the work becomes corrupt, the whole church, in its various branches and interests, scattered abroad over the face of the earth, suffers in consequence.**

“Satan's chief work is at **the headquarters of our faith**. He spares no pains to corrupt men in responsible positions and to persuade them to be unfaithful to their several trust” (4T 210-211).

**“I saw that before the work of God can make any decided progress, the ministers must be converted”** (1T 468.1).

**“What we need in this time of peril** is a converted ministry. We need men who realize their soul poverty, and who will earnestly seek for the endowment of the Holy Spirit. A preparation of heart is necessary that God may give us His blessing, but this heart work is not done. O, when will the ministry awake to the solemn responsibilities that are laid upon them, and earnestly plead for heavenly power? It is the Holy Spirit that must give edge and power to the discourse of the minister, or his preaching will be as destitute of the righteousness of Christ as was the offering of Cain” (*RH* April 5, 1892).

“May the Lord convert the hearts of His workmen! **When there is a converted ministry**, then look for **results**. But we cannot convert our own hearts. This work can be done only by the power of the Holy Spirit. In every stage of the work let this be remembered: “Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.” . . . (*Review and Herald*, Feb. 28, 1899).

**“We must have a converted ministry, and then the truth will be exalted** because it is taught in the life and woven into the character. The truth is to become a living, active principle in converting the soul” (1888 50.3).

“There is but little faith in the world. There are but few who are living near to God. And how can we expect more power and that God will reveal Himself to men, when His word is handled negligently and when hearts are not sanctified through the truth? Men who are not half converted, who are self-confident and self-sufficient in character, preach the truth to others. But God does not work with them, for they are not holy in heart and life. They do not walk humbly with God. **We must have a converted ministry, and then we shall see the light of God and His power aiding all our efforts”** (4T 402.1).

“I tell you that there must be **a thorough revival among us. There must be a converted ministry.** There must be confessions, repentance, and conversions” (21MR 386.4).

"We need a converted ministry; otherwise the churches raised up through their labors, having no root in themselves, will not be able to stand alone" (4T 315.2).

"At the eleventh hour the Lord will gather a company out of the world to serve Him. There will be a converted ministry. Those who have had privileges and opportunities to become intelligent in regard to the truth, and yet who continue to counterwork the work God would have accomplished, will be purged out, for God accepts the service of no man whose interest is divided. He accepts the whole heart, or none" (20MR 320.1).

"The purging and cleansing will surely pass through every church in our land that has had great opportunities and privileges, and has passed them by unheeded" (1888 1649.1).

"The efficiency and power attending a truly converted minister would make the hypocrites in Zion tremble and sinners afraid" (4T 528).

"The ministers must be converted before they can strengthen their brethren. They should not preach themselves, but Christ and His righteousness. A reformation is needed among the people, but it should first begin its purifying work with the ministers. They are watchmen upon the walls of Zion, to sound the note of warning to the careless, the unsuspecting; also to portray the fate of the hypocrite in Zion. It seemed to me that some of the ministers had forgotten that Satan was yet alive, as persevering, earnest, and artful as ever; that he was still seeking to allure souls from the path of righteousness" (1T 469.3, 4).

"Unless the ministers are converted, the people will not be" (GW92 137.1).

"Unless Christ shall abide in the men who preach the truth, they will lower the moral and religious standard wherever they are tolerated" (4T 441.1).

"The ministry is corrupted by unsanctified ministers. Unless there shall be altogether a higher and more spiritual standard for the ministry, the truth of the gospel will become more and more powerless" (4T 442.2).

"But I have been shown that Brethren F and G are almost wholly unacquainted with the operations of God's Spirit. They have been working in their own strength and have been so fully wrapped up in themselves that they have not seen and realized their great destitution. They talk flippantly of the Testimonies given of God for the benefit of His people, and pass judgment upon them, giving their opinions and criticizing this and that, when they would better place their hands upon their lips and lie with their faces in the dust; for they know no more of the spirit of the Testimonies than they do of the Spirit of God" (4T 443.1). (This happens now to a great degree among our ministers and even administrators and seminary professors.)

"Many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan. If doubts and unbelief are cherished, the faithful ministers will be removed from the people who think they know so much.

"If thou hadst known," said Christ, "even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes" (SpTA11 8.1).

"I tell you plainly, brethren, unless the ministers are converted, our churches will be sickly and ready to die" (SpTA01a 2.1).

"An unconverted ministry means spiritual death to the churches. When the ministers are converted, spiritual life and spiritual death come into conflict ere the truth gains access to the heart" (20MR 320.2).

"The church will rarely take a higher stand than is taken by her ministers. We need a converted ministry and a converted people. Shepherds who watch for souls as they that must give account will lead the flock on in paths of peace and holiness. Their success in this work will be in proportion to their own growth in grace and knowledge of the truth. When the teachers are sanctified, soul, body, and spirit, they can impress upon the people the importance of such sanctification" (5T 227.3).

"When we have a converted ministry, the work will bear a different mould, and be conducted upon higher and holier principles" (PH118 10.3).