

Conditions of Acceptance

I. A Future Encounter With Jesus – Matthew 25 and Matthew 7

1. The lie – unconditional acceptance
2. Unconditional forgiveness never has been – never will be... (PP 522)
3. Laodicea – spew thee out...

II. A Vital Topic

We Have a Work to do in Complying with the Conditions

Our own merit will never commend us to the favor of God; it is the worthiness of Jesus that will save us, His blood that will cleanse us; yet we have a work to do in complying with the conditions of acceptance. {SC 95.3}

The Conditions are Plainly Stated

...The conditions are plainly stated, and those who read the Word need make no mistake. If we will prove ourselves true and faithful, the Lord will comply with the conditions He has made. Those who are doers of the Word give evidence that they are believers of the Word. They will have strong consolation because of the promises made, and in confidence will lay hold on eternal life. {ST, March 15, 1899 par. 6 & 8}

As laborers together with God, we need to know what is required of us. Let none sit down at their ease and say, Christ has done all that is necessary. Surely it were better that Christ's sacrifice had never been made, than that it should be made to minister to sin. It is this kind of religion that makes the cross of Christ of no effect. Throw your energies into the contemplation of eternal interests. Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. Respond to the operations of the Holy Spirit. Your soul will be lifted into a purer, holier atmosphere as you consider the important question, What shall I do to be saved? {RH, August 21, 1900 par. 3}

Our salvation depends upon our knowledge of God's will as it is contained in his word. Never cease asking and searching for truth. You need to know your duty. You need to know what you must do to be saved. And it is God's will that you shall know what he has said to you. But you must exercise faith. As you search the Scriptures, you must believe that God is, and that he rewards those who diligently seek him. {YI, July 24, 1902 par. 9}

In temporal matters many act with far more prudence and consideration than in spiritual things. They do not begin their worldly transactions in a haphazard, thoughtless way. They teach God's people a lesson. We are not to rush into the acceptance of the gospel without any fixed stability of purpose. If we receive Jesus Christ, we must receive all the conditions, all the requirements, and make it our life business in everything to make the kingdom of God our first consideration. Difficulties will present themselves as obstructions. But the greatest difficulties originate with self. It will cost all there is of the man, for Christ demands the heart, the soul, the strength, and the mind of every human agent. "Ye are not your own for ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God's." It will cost self-humiliation, self-denial, self-sacrifice, a constant conflict with human passions. Our natural temperaments can not be carried along in the road, cast up for the ransomed of the Lord to walk in. Shame and weakness and disgrace are the sure result of professedly following Christ while walking in the ways and practises of the unrenewed, unconverted men. {BTS, October 1, 1916 par. 1}

Critical in Evangelism

There are souls perishing. They must know the terms of salvation. They must be taught that the conditions of acceptance are the same now as they were in Adam's day,--obedience to all God's commandments. Many appear to be entombed in the darkness of ignorance, entrenched behind an invincible barrier, full of error taught them by priest and ruler; but bear in mind that heavenly intelligences are working with the human agents. The Holy Spirit can pierce the stronghold of unbelief. Jesus is leading his army to the field of battle. Listen to his proclamation, "Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Our General leads to victory, for he is a mighty conqueror. {RH, July 2, 1895 par. 7}

III. The Conditions -

1. Acknowledgement of our guilt—

A. Pharisee & Publican – Luke 18:10-14

B. The sense of need, the recognition of our poverty and sin, is the very first condition of acceptance with God. "Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 5:3. {COL 152.1}

The confession that is mingled with tears and sorrow, that is the outpouring of the inmost soul, finds its way to the God of infinite pity. Says the psalmist: "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." {5T 636.2}

Those who have not humbled their souls before God in acknowledging their guilt have not yet fulfilled the first condition of acceptance. If we have not experienced that repentance which is not to be repented of and have not confessed our sin with true humiliation of soul and brokenness of spirit, abhorring our iniquity, we have never sought truly for the forgiveness of sin; and if we have never sought, we have never found the peace of God. The only reason why we may not have remission of sins that are past is that we are not willing to humble our proud hearts and comply with the conditions of the word of truth. {2MCP 456.1}

C. 1 John 1:9

2. Obedience – Matthew 7 & Gen. 4

A. Obedience comes first – "Whoever comes to me..." Jn. 6:37 and "Come unto me, all ye..." Mt. 11:28 – Luke 17 (Lepers)

B. "Many are forfeiting the condition of acceptance with the Father. We need to examine closely the deed of trust wherewith we approach God. If we are disobedient, we bring to the Lord a note to be cashed when we have not fulfilled the conditions that would make it payable to us. We present to God His promises, and ask Him to fulfill them, when by so doing He would dishonor His own name." COL 143.3

C. Until Christianity is planted in the heart, it cannot control the life, for it is the evil in the heart that must be corrected. It is not enough to have a form of godliness without holiness to the Lord, for it is like cleansing the outside of the cup while impurities remain within. A belief of doctrines, however

pure they may be, will not save a soul from death, unless they are brought into contact with the life. The heart must be purified through obedience to the truth. {ST, May 7, 1894 par. 6}

3. Separate from world – Jn.17:11-16 – in the world not of it / Blessed when men shall hate thee – Luke 6:22
 - A. The condition of our acceptance with God is a practical separation from the world. The Lord calls upon us as a people, “Come out from among them, and be ye separate,” “and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.” {CH 51.1}
 - B. “Here is a promise to us on condition of obedience. If we will come out from the world, and be separate, and touch not the unclean he will receive us. Here are the conditions of our acceptance with God. We have something to do ourselves. Here is a work for us. We are to show our separation from the world. ...Separate from what? The inclinations of the world, their tastes, their habits; the fashions, the pride, and the customs of the world. “Come out from among them, and be ye separate, and touch not the unclean, and I will receive you.” In making this move, in showing that we are not in harmony with the world, the promise of God is ours. He does not say perhaps I will receive you; but, “I will receive you.” It is a positive promise. You have a surety that you will be accepted of God.” RH, Feb. 14, 1888
4. Make wrongs right – Matt. 5:23-24 – Luke 19 (Zacheus)
 - A. From an Article entitled: “Conditions of Acceptance with God”

“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.” If any man has been dishonest, and has wronged his neighbor and his God, there is but one course for him to pursue. He must confess his wrong; he must restore again that he has robbed; he must forsake his evil ways, and have repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. {RH, April 2, 1889 par. 1}
5. Not regard iniquity or cling to known sin – SC 95.3 – “Go and sin no more...” – “Lest a worse thing befall thee” (Repentance)
 - A. I wish I could impress every soul before me today with the importance of having a close connection with God. If the heart is pure, we can come with boldness to the throne of grace. Believing that God hears us, we shall act just as though we knew that he heard. This is faith. If we wait for a special feeling, we may be disappointed. Feeling has nothing to do with faith. The conditions of acceptance are, that we come out from the world and be separate, that we put away secret sins, and that we cease to transgress knowingly any of God’s requirements. {RH, March 16, 1886 par. 13}
 - B. If we regard iniquity in our hearts, if we cling to any known sin, the Lord will not hear us; but the prayer of the penitent, contrite soul is always accepted. When all known wrongs are righted, we may believe that God will answer our petitions. Our own merit will never commend us to the favor of God; it is the worthiness of Jesus that will save us, His blood that will cleanse us; yet we have a work to do in complying with the conditions of acceptance. {SC 95.3}

6. Living for the good of others – RH Feb. 14, 1888/7BC 956.4 – Matt. 25 & Rich Young Ruler...
- A. (Eph. 1:1, 15, 16.) Evil Results of Neglect.--[Rev. 2:1-5 quoted.] In this scripture are outlined the conditions of acceptance with God. The first experience of the Ephesus church led to good works. God took delight in the fact that His church reflected the light of heaven by revealing the spirit of Christ in tenderness and compassion. The love that dwelt in the heart of Christ; the love that caused Him to give Himself a sacrifice for humanity, and to suffer with forbearance the reproach of men, even to the extent of being called a devil; the love that prompted Him to perform mighty works of healing during His ministry--this was the love that was to be revealed in the lives of His disciples. {7BC 956.4}
 - B. Those who will be accepted of heaven, will have put their talents out to the exchangers for the glory of God and the good of humanity. {RH, February 14, 1888 par. 9}

7. Perseverance – SC 97 – Parable of importunate woman

- A. Perseverance in prayer has been made a condition of receiving. We must pray always if we would grow in faith and experience. We are to be “instant in prayer,” to “continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.” Romans 12:12; Colossians 4:2. Peter exhorts believers to be “sober, and watch unto prayer.” 1 Peter 4:7. Paul directs, “In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” Philippians 4:6. “But ye, beloved,” says Jude, “praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God.” Jude 20, 21. Unceasing prayer is the unbroken union of the soul with God, so that life from God flows into our life; and from our life, purity and holiness flow back to God. {SC 97.2}

There is necessity for diligence in prayer; let nothing hinder you. Make every effort to keep open the communion between Jesus and your own soul. Seek every opportunity to go where prayer is wont to be made. Those who are really seeking for communion with God will be seen in the prayer meeting, faithful to do their duty and earnest and anxious to reap all the benefits they can gain. They will improve every opportunity of placing themselves where they can receive the rays of light from heaven. {SC 98.1}

8. Faith – Hebrews 11:6

Faith is the only condition upon which justification can be obtained, and faith includes not only belief but trust. {1SM 389.1}

Really ONE condition – 2SAT 138

We need to ask ourselves the question, What shall I do to inherit eternal life? Christ gave His own life that the transgressor of the law should not suffer the penalty of the law, that as our Redeemer He might stand before the Father with pierced, uplifted hands, and say, “Lay their sins on Me. I am responsible for them. I will bear their transgressions. I have graven them upon the palms of My hands.” The sinner may be pardoned if he accepts Christ as a personal Saviour. There is only one condition--the acceptance of the robe of Christ’s righteousness. {2SAT 138.4}

IV. What is your Priviledge if you comply with conditions? – SW Dec. 5, 1899

Having complied with the word of God, do not depend upon your feelings for evidence of acceptance with God. “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” If you have complied with the conditions, believe God, whether or not you feel any different. Christ declares, “As the father gave me commandment, even so I do. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love, even as I have kept my fathers commandments, and abide in his love.” Let all who understand the abiding claims of the law of God, yield implicit obedience to every requirement given in the word. The convictions of the Holy Spirit are warnings which it is dangerous to disregard. {SW, December 5, 1899 par. 11}