



GRATITUDE VS. REBELLION

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To introduce this topic, following is the first part of chapter 40 of *Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, titled "A View of the Judgment."

"On the morning of October 23, 1879, about two o'clock, the Spirit of the Lord rested upon me, and I beheld scenes in the coming judgment. Language fails me in which to give an adequate description of the things which passed before me, and of the effect they had upon my mind.

"The great day of the execution of God's judgment seemed to have come. Ten thousand times ten thousand were assembled before a large throne, upon which was seated a Person of majestic appearance. Several books were be-

fore Him, and upon the covers of each was written in letters of gold, which seemed like a burning flame of fire, 'Ledger of Heaven.'

"One of these books, containing the names of those who claim to believe the truth, was then opened. Immediately I lost sight of the countless millions about the throne, and only those who were professedly children of the light and of the truth engaged my attention. As these persons were named, one by one, and their good deeds mentioned, their countenances would light up with a holy joy that was reflected in every direction. But this did not seem to rest upon my mind with the greatest force.

"Another book was opened, wherein were recorded the sins of those who profess the truth. Under the general heading of 'Selfishness' came every other sin. There were also headings over every column, and underneath these, opposite each name, were recorded, in their respective columns, the lesser sins. Under 'Covetousness' came falsehood, theft, robbery, fraud, and avarice; under 'Ambition' came pride and extravagance; 'Jealousy' stood at the head of malice, envy, and hatred; and 'Intemperance' headed a long list of fearful crimes, such as lasciviousness, adultery, indulgence of animal passions, etc. As I beheld, I was filled with inexpressible anguish, and exclaimed: 'Who can be saved? Who

will stand justified before God? Whose robes are spotless? Who are faultless in the sight of a pure and holy God?"
—*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, p. 241.

Think of it this way: When we say "I'll do it my way," what are we saying? "I doubt! And I am following that doubt."

Of all of God's created beings, it was Lucifer—who knew so much about God—who chose to question His leading and rebelled in heaven. Lucifer means "light bearer." He did not see his enormous privilege—to bear the divine light—but came to believe he was the light.

Did God know that doubt had germinated in Lucifer's heart? Yes, He knew. But how could it be properly revealed? Doubt had been conceived, but at that point no one could see it. It was growing in the dark, being nourished by forgetfulness and ingratitude, and seasoned with the root of bitterness. Doubt forgot its origin, denied its source, and believed it was self-existing. And, forgetting its own forgetfulness, it projected its own pride and arrogance upon God, the Creator, who made all things, even the highest living beings in the universe, with free will and the opportunity to show gratitude out of a thankful heart—not grudging servitude, for that is what Lucifer promised himself NOT to give. Consider it: The highest of all created beings came to see himself as a slave because of a lack of gratitude and an abundance of forgetfulness born of pride.

God knew what had been conceived in the heart of Lucifer, but how would He reveal it, because God wanted to help him. And if God was going to help him, Lucifer had to own his own thoughts and be made to see where he was coming from and where he was going with his doubt.





So, God called a council with His Son; and they made a plan to create a being in their own image, one in their own likeness. If anything would help Lucifer to remember that God was the Sovereign of the universe and the one and only Creator of all things, this should remind him of it. This should bring him to his senses. It should also humble him, not as something forced, but as something revealed, an “aha” experience. He would be able to see and know that God had still greater things to do than had ever been done before. And so, God and His Son said, We will make a creature, a being, in our own likeness, after our image; and the universe will have a demonstration in time and space of the timeless spirit of El Shaddai. He does nothing in secret. “Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7.

By the time God gathered the council of heaven together, Lucifer had already heard what God was going to do, for He told him first, since he was the first and highest of all the angels next to Michael, the archangel, the head of the angels—Christ Himself. What did Lucifer do with this information? He began planting seeds of doubt in the hearts and minds of his closest friends. He prepared them to reject the message and read wrongly what God was about to announce.

God was going to do something special, so Lucifer complained that God had decided something without first consulting him; he thus did his best to make the angels read his own motives into God’s acts. While God was seeking to remind him of his dependence upon his Creator and doing it in as kind a way

as possible, Lucifer saw it differently and attempted to make others see it as he did—from his point of view.

You see, a liar never tells you why he is doing what he is doing; rather, he always gives you something else as the reason. And that is what Lucifer did. He told his friends that since God had made them, all they needed to do was trust in themselves (in other words, doubt God). He was saying, in essence, “God is in you, therefore you are a god unto yourself. You can determine what is right for you, so be yourself; that is, be your own god. Deny your Originator! He won’t stone you.”

Right then, the sirens should have gone off; the bells should have started ringing, and the red flags should have been thrown. But, for many of the angels, that did not happen; the bells rang, but not for all of them. Perhaps it was because of Lucifer’s influence, stature, beauty, wisdom, talent, and knowledge. After all, he had been in many private councils with God and Jesus before, so the other angels did not question what he was telling them. He was encouraging them to question God but never to question him. In other words, doubt; but don’t doubt your doubt. Question God instead! The thought he expressed to them was, “You are gods yourselves, because God is in everything that He has made.” Have you heard that before? Do you know what that is called? Pantheism—the alpha of apostasy. It is the philosophy that thinks that anything that one has, he himself produced. That is the power of doubt. The god of doubt makes you think that you know something, that by yourself you are something, and that you are in charge of your own future. The irony is that the last part of that is true, because doubt is born of forgetfulness, and the land of forgetfulness is where all doubters are going!

So, Lucifer told them that, since God had made them, they had power in themselves to decide what direction their own little government should take. He also implied something else: That because God had not included him (i.e. Lucifer) in his last council, God was arbitrary, inconsistent, and authoritarian. God had changed. “God is not fair!” was his charge! “Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal. Hear now, O house of Israel; Is not My way equal? are not your ways unequal?” Ezekiel 18:25.

That was the charge that Lucifer made. “The way of God is not equal.” He told

the angels that in their last assembly God put His Son first when He announced the plans to make a new world and create a being more like Himself than ever before.

“Don’t you see what that means for you?” he said to the angels. “If you follow God, you are finished! You are never, ever, going to be the greatest.”

But what was God really trying to do? Save Lucifer. But how did he read it? As a put down. In Lucifer’s mind, God was demonstrating who He was and who His Son was. He announced what He was going to do so that all could join in the occasion. And almost all the universe did join that celebration on that first Sabbath, “when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.” Job 38:7. But Lucifer saw things very differently. Why? Because he was marching to the sound of a different drum, the dull drum of doubt. At that moment, he vowed never again to bow to the Son of God.

“And there was war in heaven: Michael and His angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” Revelation 12:7-9.

God knows all things. He knew that Lucifer was fostering doubt and fomenting rebellion, and He did the only thing He could do; He revealed His true nature in the face of lies and accusations. He revealed His plan to make a creature more like Himself than any He had ever made.

God could have said something like this: “You are questioning who I am, so I am going to make a shadow of Myself so that you can see a true reflection of Me—so you can know Me, so you can really understand Me as much as it is possible for any created being to do. This



will permit you, My created children, to know who the I AM really is!"

But Lucifer said, "Why did He not consult with me?" What he was really saying was, "There is already someone who is like God. ME!"

Regardless, God's plan to make man in His own image was a gentle denial, if not a direct contradiction, of Lucifer's claims. That plan should have been proof enough against Lucifer's arguments, but many followed their doubts nevertheless. They had been infected, and the disease of doubt was fatal for them. They left off or failed to take the antidote. They forgot to be thankful. They looked at what they thought they did not have and forgot what they did have. And that was what caused the war. That was also what turned Lucifer, the light bearer, into Satan, the adversary, the prince of darkness.

"For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath." Matthew 13:12.

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." "And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good." Genesis 1:1, 31. But there had been war in heaven. Why? Because part of the angels forgot to be thankful. They did not overcome forgetfulness with thanksgiving and remembrance.

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Ephesians 4:31, 32.

We need to remember where we came from and who made us. Let us not deny our Originator and Deliverer to feed and protect our own doubts and egos. Kill those doubts with stone markers of gratitude. Hang in memory's hall the precious promises of God. "Why not impress upon our minds the things that will be a benefit for us to remember? Why not speak of these precious things in the garden of God's word, instead of talking of our doubts and trials?" —*Review and Herald*, April 16, 1889.

"And the man that will do presumptuously, and will not hearken unto the priest that standeth to minister there before the Lord thy God, or unto the judge, even that man shall die: and thou shalt put away the evil from Israel." Deuteronomy 17:12.

**General Conference
Good Samaritan Week
June 8-14, 2025**

Appeal for Support

to local churches, fields, unions, and divisions

Morris Lowe
General Conference Good
Samaritan Department Leader
Cedartown, Georgia

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: Kindly accept warmest Christian greetings from the brothers and sisters of the General Conference Good Samaritan Department in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ with the words of Acts 4:32: "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common."

The story of the Good Samaritan, recorded in Luke 10:30-35, illustrates the character of God—His love and compassion for those who are bruised, wounded, and suffering. To live an unselfish life, to sacrifice our time, money, and earthly possessions for the good and blessings of others, is a great privilege to be co-laborers with Jesus Christ. Our Lord identifies Himself with the sufferings of our fellow human beings and considers deeds of love and mercy done to others as done to Himself.

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." James 1:27; Galatians 6:10.

"He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will He pay him again." "For the poor shall never cease out of the land; therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to

thy needy, in thy land." Proverbs 19:17; Deuteronomy 15:11.

Dear brothers and sisters around the world, to highlight the importance of the Christian virtues of unselfishness, benevolence, and compassion toward the poor and needy, the General Conference Good Samaritan Department has designated June 8-14, 2025, as "Good Samaritan Week."

During that week, we invite the pastors, church leaders, and department leaders in the local churches, fields, and unions to prepare and present sermons and programs during your church services based on the theme, "The Good Samaritan: Christian Love in Action."

We appeal to all church members around the world to support the Good Samaritan Department's work by praying for it, especially during the week of June 8-14, 2025, and giving a special offering to the GC Good Samaritan Department during that week. Your financial support will be greatly appreciated and will enable the Department to provide help to more people who reach out to the Department for help.

We also urge the members of God's church to support the Good Samaritan work in your local churches, fields, unions, and the General Conference Good Samaritan Department through *systematic benevolence*—donating to this cause on a *regular* basis, regardless of the size of your gifts.

Currently, the GC Good Samaritan Department has received calls for help from believers in many countries including Cuba, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Benin, Nigeria, Honduras, Colombia, Peru, Guatemala, Bangladesh, and



South Africa. The Department provides financial help to orphans, widows, the elderly, the sick, and those who need life-saving medical treatments, including dialysis, cardiac treatment, brain surgery, and cancer treatment.

The Department has also provided tuition, food, and school supplies support for school children in several countries, including Guatemala, Honduras, Benin, and Zimbabwe.

It also provides help to church members who are victims of war and natural disaster—fires, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, etc. The Department has also provided help on a case-by-case basis to members who sustained serious injuries in motor vehicle and motorbike accidents.

It also promotes and supports the dignity of economic self-reliance and self-sufficiency among the church mem-

bers by providing support to churches, fields, and unions to establish viable business projects (such as agricultural farming, honeybee farming, auto mechanics, etc.) that can provide employment and income to the believers.

The General Conference Good Samaritan Department team wants to express its deepest appreciation and sincere thanks to the brothers and sisters from several European and other countries who generously donate to the General Conference Good Samaritan Department work on a regular basis. These donations are the lifeblood of the Department.

We urge ALL of the members who can help relieve the suffering of others to join us in this noble, God-approved, Good Samaritan work!

Thank you in advance for your benevolence and sacrificial support! For the GC Good Samaritan Department team,

Your co-worker in Christ,
Morris Lowe

Brother Morris Lowe

*GC Good Samaritan Department Leader
GC Help Ministry Leader*

The Gift of God

“Jesus Christ, the Majesty of heaven, has been offered to the world, has been given to man as his Saviour and Redeemer. Well may the inhabitants of heaven and the unfallen worlds look with astonishment upon man’s lack of discernment, upon his ingratitude. Many have hated and spurned the gift of God, although Jesus clothed His divinity with humanity, and for our sake became poor, that we through His poverty might be rich. He left the courts of heaven, and came to the world, all seared and marred and polluted with sin; He practiced self-denial and self-sacrifice, descending lower and lower in the path of humiliation, that we might be enriched and exalted. Rich in houses and lands, in worldly honor? No, but that we might have all heaven’s imperishable treasure, an eternal weight of glory.

“If thou knewest the gift of God.’ Oh, if the deceptive, bewitching power of Satan were only resisted, blinded eyes

would be opened, unbelieving hearts would be made to perceive, and unsaved souls would have a knowledge of the unspeakable gift, and would press to the throne of grace with importunate prayer, entreating that they might drink of the living water. God is willing to impart to men the knowledge of His gift. Jesus is ‘to give the knowledge of salvation unto His people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.’ ‘If thou knewest the gift of God.’ Who is there among those who already know the gift of God, who will fail to make known its preciousness to those who know it not? If you know the gift of God, if you have an experimental knowledge of what the blessings are that Christ came to bestow upon the perishing, will your lips be silent, your heart ungrateful? Will you have no in-

terest in others, and be indifferent as to whether or not they know the way of salvation? Will you not make known to others the precious light of truth, that they also may know, that they also may ask of Him, and receive the living water?...

“Have you been to the fountain of living water to drink? The knowledge of God is the most vital to you. Have you found it? Jesus says: ‘As Thou hast given Him power over all flesh that He should give eternal life to as many as Thou hast given Him.’ ‘And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.’ The evidence of our knowledge of God and of His Son is seen in the fact that we reveal Him in life and character, that we make Him known unto others.”
—*Signs of the Times*, June 19, 1893.

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