

Winter 2017

THE DEAF MESSENGER



“And when Jesus was baptized, He came up immediately out of the water. And suddenly the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending on Him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:16, 17, MEV).

Hope	1
The Holy Spirit Is a Person and Is God, Not God's Active Force	3
Shock and Awe of the 2016 Election	6
Rejoicing in the Lord	8

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The purpose of this magazine is

to inform the deaf reader about such topics as practical Christian living; basic Bible truths; and what the past, present, and future historical events mean to each of us. This magazine attempts to cover spiritual, mental, and physical aspects in its articles and columns.

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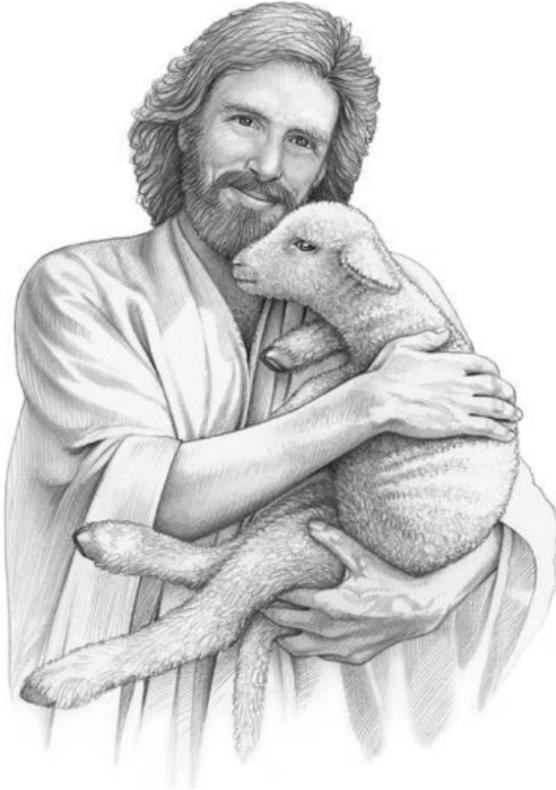
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Hope

By Alberta Blake



Can we experience “hope” in the middle of “trouble”? What do you think?

I believe we can have hope even today when it seems that all hope is gone. About two thousand years ago Jesus lived on this earth. (You can check this out through the history books.) Jesus was only 33 years old when He gave up his life to die on the cross.

He didn't stay in the grave where he was buried but rose again the third day from that grave (Mark 16:6). After about 40 days He went back to heaven where He had lived before coming to this world. His last words to his followers were, “Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age or world” (Matthew 28:20).

What Jesus promises He will do. He promised never

to “leave us or to forsake us” (Hebrews 13:5). We may face many problems in our homes, schools, communities, countries and in this world. There is not a place in this world that does not have problems. How we face the challenges is up to you and I. I would like to suggest that we don't have to face these challenges alone, but do have a companion who is willing to work through these problems with us. I like how King David in Psalms 23 wrote that describes how Jesus wants to walk and work with us as a Shepherd does with his sheep. He is the Shepherd and we are the sheep. He guides us through life's problems that we face each day. As a shepherd takes care of his sheep daily so He promises to take care of us. Give Jesus your life and He will guide you. He will be with you always and He will bless you.

I am reminded of a young family who were facing real challenges with their deaf children. The children needed other deaf children

to be their friends as the hearing children had other hearing friends. The Lord worked it out that the family was able to move across the border into another country so their deaf children could be with other deaf children and deaf adults. God worked out miracles so that one of the deaf children was able to get a special permit to enter that country. God had special people working in the government who were able to give extra assistance where needed. He also had a student in training to do another special job in two months that normally would take a process of two years to complete. What seemed impossible to man was possible with God's leading.

I believe there is hope for everyone. Look back over your life and you may find where God has led you when you may not have known it. May God continue to give people hope and guidance in this troubled world.

Alberta Blake is a writer who lives in Clive, Alberta, Canada.

The Holy Spirit Is a Person and Is God, Not God's Active Force

By Paul Kelly



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Some people question about the Holy Spirit whether or not He has the personhood and personality that God the Father and Lord Jesus Christ have and also whether or not the Holy Spirit is also God and is part of the Godhead working together for the salvation of people. Some think that the Holy Spirit is just an active force and nothing more. Here I present all the verses for you to search the Bible as the Bereans did to check if there is a truth in what I share with you (Acts 17:10,11).

The Personhood and Personality of the Holy Spirit

To have personality, one must have EMOTION, INTELLECT and a WILL.

The Holy Spirit can:

1. Talk and direct. Acts 8:29; 10:19, 20 and 13:2-4.
2. Forbid. Acts 16:6,7.
3. Teach. John 14:26; 16:13.
4. Comfort. John 14:16 (KJV).
5. Give prophecy. 2 Peter 1:21.
6. Give gifts. 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.

The Holy Spirit has:

1. A will. 1 Corinthians 12:11.
2. A mind and thoughts. Romans 8:27
3. An intellect. 1 Corinthians 2:11.
4. Love. Romans 15:30.
5. Communion (Fellowship). 2 Corinthians 13:14.
6. Feelings. Ephesians 4:30; Isaiah 63:10.

The Holy Spirit can be:

1. Tested. Acts 5:9.
2. Lied to. Acts 5:3,4.
3. Displeased. Isaiah 63:10.
4. Rejected, insulted. Hebrews 10:29.
5. Blasphemed against. Matthew 12:31, 32.

The Holy Spirit as a he instead of being impersonal

John 14:16,17, 26; 16:7,8,13,14 and Acts 13:2, 4.

An active force such as water or electricity cannot teach, guide, speak or feel hurt. The Bible above shows that the Holy Spirit has personality.

The Holy Spirit as an Advocate

Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit as another person as

Himself. He spoke of the Holy Spirit as another “parakletos.” The word “Comforter” or “Helper” in John 14:16; 16:7 refers to the Holy Spirit using the same Greek word “parakletos” which is also used for the word “Advocate” in 1 John 2:1 which speaks of Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit as God

1. Is God. Acts 5:3,4.
2. Is Creator. Job 33:4.
3. Is Eternal. Hebrews 9:14.
4. Is Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:17.

The Holy Spirit is part of the Godhead

Shares the same name as the Father and Son. Matthew 28:19.

Notice the word “name” is singular. Also, that three persons are named because there are three separate distinct persons.

The Holy Spirit is part of the Godhead working for the salvation of mankind. 2 Corinthians 13:14 (notice Jesus Christ, God and Holy Spirit).

All in all, since we know that God the Father and Jesus Christ have personality, we now see that the Holy Spirit also has personality and is God too. As with God the Father and Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit knows and understands how much we need salvation so Jesus sends Him to be our Comforter/Helper to teach and guide us until Jesus comes again (John 14:16, 26 and 16:7, 8,13).

Paul Kelly is a Deaf teacher for the Deaf and lay pastor who lives in Rochester, NY.

Shock and Awe of the 2016 Election

By David M. Trexler

Shocked, surprised, disappointed, awed, stunned, crushed, unbelievable! These are the words we heard about how the supporters for Clinton felt on the evening of November 8. Trump won the election by an upset. The pollsters were completely wrong about the predictions of the election results. Some said it was a miracle that Trump, who had been criticized for his unacceptable behavior during his campaign, won the contested election.

Now, let's talk about the war between Christ and Satan. Created beings in the whole universe are watching the events on earth. We are also watching how things happen daily as well. We all experience shock, disappointment, awe, discouragement, joy, etc. Didn't you know that angels of the Lord and evil angels have experienced the same way. Sadness in heaven happened when Adam and Eve sinned. But, Adam and Eve suffered shock and hurt. I believe that they were shocked and grieved when Cain their

firstborn killed their second son, Abel. The angels of the Lord were shocked as well. It was something not expected by created beings in the whole universe. Only God knew it would happen. He wasn't surprised at all.

Was Satan surprised to see the great act of humility of the Son of God who became human being? "That the Son of God should come to this earth as a man filled him [Satan] with amazement and with apprehension [worry]" (The Desire of Ages, 115). What about the angels of the Lord who watched the great event of the birth of the Son of God? Yes, they were surprised that God's people were not aware of this important event of salvation as prophesied by some prophets in the years past. "With amazement the heavenly messengers [angels of the Lord] beheld [saw] the indifference of that people whom God had called to communicate to the world the light of sacred truth. The Jewish nation had been preserved as a witness that Christ was to be born of

the seed of Abraham and of David's line; yet they knew not that His coming was now at hand" (The Desire of Ages, 44).

We understand that most people of the world will be shocked to learn that they are lost because they accept false teachings about the coming Savior or savior and they are not prepared for it because of their unbelief and carelessness in the world. The goal of Satan is to deceive and destroy everyone in this world. He is working hard to keep them from having salvation in Jesus Christ through many different ways. This is why God gives us the Bible to help us to know the difference between truth and lie. If we accept the Bible as the truth we wouldn't be shocked and grieved. But, if we reject the Bible as the word of God our consequence will be an eternal loss that we don't want. It is sad that Satan is clever to twist the Bible about the second coming—secret rapture. Expecting this to happen will completely shock them.

Now, what about you and the people who expect to see the second coming of Christ? Or expect to be raised

from the dead at the second coming? Is it possible for you as a member of a church to be shocked that you are lost? Yes. Remember Jesus' parables in Matthew 25. In the Bible Jesus kept saying that we must "watch and pray." It is my prayer that we will not experience the shock and awe that we are lost because of deception and carelessness in our daily life. God, the heavenly angels and righteous beings from other worlds have a great desire for all of us to be saved at all costs. Let us not disappoint them or we will be great disappointed with the eternal consequences. "Since you were raised from the dead with Christ, aim at what is in heaven, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Think only about the things in heaven, not the things on earth. Your old sinful self has died, and your new life is kept with Christ in God. Christ is your life, and when he comes again, you will share in his glory" (Colossians 3:1-4, NCV).

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Ministries who lives in Lanham,
MD.*

Rejoicing in the Lord

By Ellen G. White

The children of God are to represent Jesus. They are to show the goodness and mercy of the Lord. Jesus showed us the true character of the Father. We are to show Jesus to a world that does not know His mercy and love. Jesus prayed to His Father, "I sent them into the world, just as you sent Me into the world." "I in them and You in Me, . . . that the world may know that You sent Me and that You love them as You love Me" (John 17:18, 23).

The apostle Paul says to people who follow Jesus, "You yourselves are the letter we have . . . for everyone to know and read" (2 Corinthians 3:2). Every person who loves Jesus is a letter to the world. If you accept Jesus, you are a letter to your family, your town, and the people on your street.

Jesus lives in you and wants to speak through you to people who do not know Him. The people may not read the Bible. They

may not hear the voice that speaks to them from the Bible. They may not see the love of God through the things He has created. But if you are a true representative of Jesus, people may learn about God's goodness through you. Then they may start to love and serve God.

Christians are to take God's message to other people. They are to show the world God's truth. The life and character of Christians should represent Jesus. Then other people will have the right idea about Jesus and His work.

If Christians really represent Jesus, they will show that serving God is wonderful. If Christians complain and are not happy, other people will get a wrong idea of God and the Christian life. People will think that God does not want His children to be happy. God wants His children to be happy.

Satan rejoices when he can discourage the children of God and encourage them

to doubt the Bible. Satan is happy when people do not trust God. Satan wants people to doubt God. Satan wants people to think God does not want to save people. Satan tries to make us believe that God wants to hurt us and make trouble for us.

Satan says God has no love and compassion. Satan lies about God. Satan fills our minds with false ideas about God. Satan tries to make us believe the lies he tells about God. Then we will not trust and honor God, and we will complain about God.

Satan tells people the Christian life is boring and filled with sorrow. Satan wants people to think the Christian life is difficult. When Christians seem sad or discouraged, they act as if they agree with Satan's lies.

Many Christians think a lot about their mistakes, failures, and disappointments. Then they become sad and discouraged. A woman wrote to me while I was in Europe. She was sad and wanted me to encourage her.

The night after I read her letter I dreamed I was in a garden. The person who seemed to own the garden was leading me along the paths. I was picking flowers and enjoying the sweet smell.

The woman walking with me showed me some thorns that were in her way. She was complaining. She was not walking on the path. She was walking among the thorns.

"Oh," she cried, "this beautiful garden is spoiled with thorns!"

Then the guide said, "Leave the thorns alone. The thorns will only hurt you. Pick the roses, the lilies, and the pinks."

We should think of the happy times in our lives. We should think of the wonderful times when our hearts were filled with joy as the Holy Spirit spoke to us. All of us have had some happy times in the past.

God's promises are compared to sweet flowers growing beside the path. We should let God's promises fill our hearts with joy.

Thorns will hurt us and

make us unhappy. If we talk to other people about our bad experiences, we are turning away from God's goodness. We are keeping other people from wanting to follow Christ.

We should not try to remember the bad things that happened to us in the past. We should not talk about our past sins. We will become discouraged and feel we have no hope. A discouraged person forgets God and God's love. Discouraged persons influence other people to be discouraged.

Thank God for the Bible truths that make us happy. We should often think about God's love and His wonderful promises. God wants us to think about the life and death of Jesus for us.

The Son of God [Jesus] left His Father's throne and covered His divine [God] nature with human nature. Jesus became a man to save people from the power of Satan.

Jesus won the battle against evil for us. Now God's people can be sure they will have a home in

heaven and see God's glory. Sinful people who repent can now be given Jesus' righteousness. People who overcome sin can have eternal life with God in heaven. God wants us to think about these wonderful and inspiring truths.

When we doubt God's love and His promises, we give people a wrong idea about God. Also, we cause the Holy Spirit to feel sad.

How would a mother feel if her children were always complaining about her? How would a mother feel if the children acted as if she wanted the children to suffer? All her life she tried to do things for her children. If her children doubted her love, they would break her heart. All parents would feel sad if their children did not love and trust the parents.

God gave His Son to die for us. If we do not trust God's love, how does He feel? The apostle Paul wrote in Romans 8:32, "He [God] gave us His Son [Jesus]—will He [God] not also freely give us all things?" The actions of many people show they do not believe that God

means them. They think God loves other people, but He does not love them.

Thinking God does not love us is harmful. Every word of doubt invites Satan to tempt us. Then our minds are filled with doubts and rebellious questions. Our angels feel sad.

Never say a word of doubt. If we tell other people our doubts, our words will give a negative [bad] influence to other people. After we have shared our doubts, we cannot stop the negative influence on other people. The negative influence may be impossible to change.

We may be able to get away from Satan's control. But other people who heard our negative words may never be able to stop doubting God's love and power. They may never be able to escape Satan's control. This is why we should speak only words that will give spiritual strength and life.

Angels are listening to hear what kind of report we are telling the world about Jesus. We should talk about

Jesus, who represents us to the Father. When we are with a friend, we should praise God. If we praise God, our friends will think about Jesus.

Every person has trials, sorrows, and temptations that are difficult to resist. We should not tell other people about our problems. We should tell God about our problems in prayer. We should not speak words of doubt or discouragement. Instead, we should encourage other people with words of hope and cheer.

Many brave people suffer when Satan tempts them to do wrong. They are almost ready to faint in the conflict with self and Satan's temptations. We must not discourage people who are being tempted. We must give encouragement and hope that will help them resist temptation. Then they will see Jesus in us and be encouraged. "None of us lives for himself only" (Romans 14:7).

Our lives influence other people. Our influence may encourage and strengthen other people. Or our

influence may discourage people from accepting Jesus and His truth.

Many people have a wrong idea of the life and character of Jesus. They think Jesus was stern, severe, and never happy. Their religious experience is damaged because of their wrong ideas.

Jesus had sorrows and knew much sadness because He listened to people's problems. Jesus had much pain and responsibility, but He was never discouraged. Jesus' face did not show His pain. Jesus' face showed peace and happiness. Every place Jesus went, He gave peace and joy.

Jesus was very serious about His work, but He did not look sad. He was always cheerful. People who do God's work today will act the same as Jesus. They will be serious and responsible. They will not act foolish, rough, or loud. Jesus' religion gives peace. Jesus' religion does not stop people from being happy. Jesus' religion gives joy, cheerfulness, and smiling

faces. Jesus came to help people and minister to their needs. If Jesus' love controls us, we will follow His example.

Some people think continually about the unkind and unfair acts of other people. Then they cannot love other people the way Jesus loves people. But if we think about the love and mercy of Jesus for us, we will love other people. We will see the faults of other people, but we will still love and respect one another. We should be patient with other people's faults. Our patience with other people will help us stop being selfish. We will become more kind and forgiving.

The psalmist David wrote, "Trust in the Lord and do good; live in the land and be safe" (Psalm 37:3). "Trust in the Lord." Each day we have problems. Too often we want to tell other people about our problems. We want to tell them about our fears and what we think might happen in the future. People who listen would not know we have a loving Saviour ready to hear our prayers and help

with every problem.

Some people are always afraid and expecting trouble. Every day God shows that He loves them. Every day they enjoy God's blessings. But they do not see and remember these blessings. They are continually worrying about bad things that might happen. Their worry makes them forget the many things they have to be thankful for. Problems should make people ask God for help. God wants to help people. Instead, people who worry allow the problems to separate them from God.

Jesus wants us to believe He will help us. We should thank and trust Jesus. Jesus is our friend. All heaven is interested in our lives. We should not always think about our problems. Worrying makes us tired. But worrying does not help us solve our problems.

You may have business problems. You may be losing money. You are afraid you will have to close your business. Do not become discouraged. Pray. Give God your problems, and stay calm and cheerful. Ask God

for wisdom to make good decisions so you will not have to close the business. Then do everything you can to make your business a success. Jesus has promised to help us. But we must work with Jesus and do our part. Do the best you can with Jesus' help. Then accept the results cheerfully.

God does not want His people to have many problems and become discouraged. But God does not deceive us. God does not say, "Do not worry; you will never have problems." God knows there are problems and dangers. God is honest with us.

God does not say He will take His people out of a world of sin and evil. But God tells us where to get help. Jesus' prayer for His disciples was, "I [Jesus] do not ask You [God] to take them [disciples] out of the world, but I [Jesus] do ask You [God] to keep them [disciples] safe from the evil one [Satan]" (John 17:15).

Jesus said, "The world will make you [disciples] suffer. But be brave! I [Jesus] have defeated the

world” (John 16:33).

Jesus taught His disciples important lessons in His sermon on the mount. Jesus taught the disciples that they needed to trust God. Jesus taught these lessons to help all God’s children until Jesus comes again. The lessons bring us help and comfort.

Jesus pointed to the birds. The birds sing beautiful songs and do not worry. “They [birds] do not plant seeds, gather a harvest and put it [food] in barns; yet your Father in heaven takes care of them [birds]!” Jesus asked, “Aren’t you worth much more than birds?” (Matthew 6:26).

God gives everything that human beings and animals need. God takes care of the birds. God does not drop food into their mouths, but God gives what they need. They must pick up the grain He has given for them. The birds must make their own nests. They must feed the baby birds. The birds sing as they work. Your “Father in heaven takes care of them [birds].”

You are intelligent. You are able to know about

God. You are worth more than birds. Jesus is your Creator. He will take care of you. Jesus will give you everything you need if you trust Him.

Jesus showed His disciples the beautiful flowers. Jesus made the flowers. The flowers show people Jesus’ love. Jesus said, “Look how the wild flowers grow!” The wild flowers were more beautiful than King Solomon’s clothes. The most beautiful clothes on earth cannot compare with the grace and beauty of flowers.

Jesus tells us that God cares about the flowers that live a short time. And we are more important than flowers. Then Jesus says we have little faith when we doubt God’s care for us. (Read Matthew 6:30.)

God is the divine Artist. God gives the flowers many different colors. Some flowers live only a few days. God cares more for the people He created than He cares for the flowers. Jesus gave us this lesson to teach us we should not worry. We should have faith in God and

trust Him.

Jesus wants all His sons and daughters to be happy and have peace. Jesus wants His people to trust and obey Him. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled [do not worry] and do not be afraid" (John 14:27, NIV). "I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete" (John 15:11, NIV).

If a person looks for happiness for selfish reasons, the happiness will soon be gone. The selfish person will be lonely and sad. But there is joy and satisfaction when serving God.

Christians have God to guide them. The Christian does not need to be sad because of disappointments and mistakes. Maybe we are not rich and do not have much joy from the things of the world. But we can be happy thinking about heaven.

On earth Christians may have the joy of communion with Jesus. They have the

knowledge of Jesus' love.

They have the comfort of knowing Jesus is with them. Everything we do may bring us closer to Jesus. Then we will experience more of Jesus' love and be closer to a home in heaven.

We must stay faithful to God. We must have a hope that grows stronger every day. "The Lord has helped us all the way" (1 Samuel 7:12). Jesus will help us until the end, when He comes again.

Remember the things Jesus has done to comfort us and save us from Satan. Always remember (1) God's mercy to us, (2) the tears He has wiped away, (3) the pain He has stopped, (4) the worries and fears He has removed, (5) the needs He has provided, and (6) the blessings He has given us. Remembering God's blessing will give us strength for the future.

We will have more trials and problems in the future. But we can remember that God has helped us in the past. We can say, "The Lord has always helped us." The Bible tells us, "Your

strength will equal your days” (Deuteronomy 33:25, NIV). God will give us strength for all our trials and problems. We should continue our work for God. We must believe that God will give us strength for all future problems.

Someday the gates of heaven will open to welcome God’s children. Jesus will say, “Come, O blessed of My Father, inherit [live in] the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation [beginning] of the world” (Matthew 25:34, RSV).

Then God’s people will be welcomed to the home that Jesus is preparing for them. In heaven the friends of the redeemed will not be liars, idolaters, or unbelievers. Every person in heaven will have overcome Satan and, with God’s grace, will have a perfect character. Jesus’ blood will remove every weakness and sin. Jesus’ glory that is much brighter than the sun will be given to His people. The saved people will have the beauty of Jesus’ character. The beauty of Jesus’ character is much brighter than their outward glory. They stand without sin before God. In

heaven the saved people will have the same blessings as the angels.

A beautiful heavenly home is ready for God’s people. “Will a person gain anything if he wins the whole world but loses his life [eternal life]?” (Matthew 16:26). A person may be poor on earth. But eternal life is greater than fame or wealth on this earth.

The person redeemed, cleansed from sin and dedicated to God’s work, has greater value than we can understand. There is joy in heaven when a person is saved. The joy makes the angels sing holy songs of victory.



Ellen G. White was a well-known religious writer and speaker on three continents. This article is from “Steps to Christ, Easy Reading Edition.”

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