**Lesson – 11 Living By Faith**

**Read for your study: - Prov. 28: 4,5,7,9; 29:13; Rom. 1:16-17; Gal. 3:24; 1 Jn. 2:15-17**

**Memory Text: - “**The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.” **Proverbs 29:25**

**Introduction: -** Faith powers everything in the Christian life, like electricity powers every appliance in your home. If there’s a power outage and your TV won’t turn on, it won’t help to open the back of the TV to fiddle with the wires — that’s not the problem.  The problem is there’s no electricity.  To get the TV working you need to restore the electricity. It is same with the Christian life.  What powers every part of the Christian life is faith.  So when there’s a lack of joy or obedience or love, the problem is with your faith.  The solution is to strengthen your faith. How does one strengthen his faith? Let us dive into our study and learn!

**Keep the Law:** - This lesson is about the divine wisdom which is centered in God’s law which is an expression of His love and character. His law is based on two principles: love to God and love towards our fellow humans. Satan challenged God’s law and His character and then brought this calamity into this world. If man had been obedient to God’s word then there wouldn’t be a requirement for the covenant through circumcision or covenant of law.

Comparing **Proverbs 28:4, 7, 9** and **James 5:16** what do these verses tell us about the importance of obedience to God’s law?

**Ellen G. White** writes, “If man had kept the law of God, as given to Adam after his fall, preserved by Noah, and observed by Abraham, there would have been no necessity for the ordinance of circumcision. And if the descendants of Abraham had kept the covenant, of which circumcision was a sign, they would never have been seduced into idolatry, nor would it have been necessary for them to suffer a life of bondage in Egypt; they would have kept God’s law in mind, and there would have been no necessity for it to be proclaimed from Sinai or engraved upon the tables of stone. And had the people practiced the principles of the Ten Commandments, there would have been no need of the additional directions given to Moses.—**Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets 364.2.**

**To follow the law is indeed an act of faith, says the author. Paul says, “**For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith **(**[**Rom. 1:16-17**](http://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom.%201.16-17)**)**.

**Seek the Lord: -** Paul tells us that the purpose of the law is to lead us to Christ because we needed it. **(Galatians 3:24)** Is the primary purpose of God’s law to teach us about Himself? The law of love is the foundation of God’s government, and the service of love the only service acceptable to heaven. God has granted freedom of will to all, endowed men with capacity to appreciate his character, and therefore with ability to love him and to choose his service. So long as created beings worshiped God they were in harmony throughout the universe. While love to God was supreme, love to others abounded. **As there was no transgression of the law, which is the transcript of God’s character, no note of discord jarred the celestial harmonies. (Signs of the Times, February 13, 1893 par. 1)**

God’s character is revealed in the precepts of His law. This is the reason why Satan wishes this law to be made of none effect. But notwithstanding all his efforts, the law stands forth holy and unchanged**. It is a transcript of God’s character. It cannot be impeached or altered. (Signs of the Times, November 30, 1904 par. 6; 14MR 347.20)**

**What does it mean to ‘seek the Lord’? Seeking the Lord means seeking his presence!** “Presence” is a common translation of the Hebrew word “face.” Literally, we are to seek his “face.” But this is the Hebraic way of having access to God. To be before his face is to be in his presence. “Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.” **(**[**Isaiah 55:6**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isaiah%2055.6)**)**

But there are times when we are not in His presence or when God’s presence is not with us. It is when we become neglectful of God and give Him no attention and do not put trust in Him. At these times we are told to “seek His presence continually.” **“Now set your mind and heart to seek the Lord your God.” (**[**1 Chronicles 22:19**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Chronicles%2022.19)**)**

**Words for the Rich: -** Proverbs 28 also gives us several suggestions about the true wealth.

* Do not get rich at the expense of the poor. (Proverbs 28:8)
* Be generous with the poor. (Proverbs 28:27)
* Wealth should come from honest, hard work. (Proverbs 28:19)
* Do not use any dishonest means to get rich fast. (Proverbs 28:20,22,24)

Money has come to be the dominant force in our world. How can we avoid the deceitfulness of riches? **(Mark 4:19)**

**Handbook for the Poor: -** We should be always respectful of both rich and poor because we all were created equal. The poor and the rich are equal as **Proverbs 29:13** says, “The *poor man*and the oppressor have this in common: The Lord gives light to the eyes of both.” According to **Proverbs 28:3** the poor have the same duties as the rich but the righteous poor is better than the wicked rich. According to traditional wisdom, the righteous person is not supposed to be poor, says the author, for poverty is supposedly the just punishment for the lazy **(**[**Prov. 24:34**](http://biblia.com/bible/niv/Prov.%2024.34)**)**.

Poverty is supposed to come only upon the lazy or the wicked. (Proverbs 24:34) But, we know that in our world things are not that simple. **Have you ever been tempted to compromise your principles for material gain? Have you ever been tempted to acquire wealth by unfair means?**

**Loving the Truth: -** In our world today, it is a challenge to discipline our children. Proverbs goes on to talk about the fact that discipline requires more than just words. **(Proverbs 29:15, 19)** Children need–perhaps most of all–to know that boundaries exist, and they need to stay within those boundaries. Undisciplined children will be a shame to their parents and even to the children themselves when they become adults. We don’t do our children or ourselves any favors by letting them do whatever they want. Someone has said that “a pat on the back is useful if it is applied early enough, often enough, and low enough!”

“**Any child that is permitted to have his own way will dishonor God and bring his father and mother to shame.** Light has been shining from the word of God and the testimonies of His Spirit so that none need err in regard to their duty. God requires parents to bring up their children to know Him and to [326] respect His claims; they are to train their little ones, as the younger members of the Lord’s family, to have beautiful characters and lovely tempers, that they may be fitted to shine in the heavenly courts. **By neglecting their duty and indulging their children in wrong, parents close to them the gates of the city of God.—Ellen G. White, Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pp. 325.2-326.0.**

**What are some of the lessons you learned as a child that have stuck with you as an adult? What are the most appropriate ways for disciplining children in the 21st century so that to bring them to Truth? How are we living by Faith?**

**God Bless You!!!**