



Antonio Ciseri "Ecce Homo" (John 19:5)



# *Steps To Christ*

Ellen G. White

## Chapter 9 The Work and the Life

## Memory Verse – Ephesians 1:7 (NKJV)

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

# Scriptures

New King James Version

## Scriptures

1. What did Jesus say about His life?

John 17:4 (NKJV). “I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.”

## Scriptures

2. How did the apostle Paul feel about his life's work?

2 Timothy 4:6, 7 (NKJV). “<sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

## Scriptures

3. What reward awaits those who are victorious?

2 Timothy 4:8 (NKJV). “Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”



## Scriptures

4. What special gifts has God given for witnessing?

1 Corinthians 12:8-10 (NKJV). “<sup>8</sup> for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,

<sup>10</sup> to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.”

## Scriptures

### 5. What other gifts are mentioned in Romans?

Romans 12:4-8 (NKJV). “<sup>4</sup> For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

<sup>6</sup> Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> or ministry, *let us use it in our ministering*; he who teaches, in teaching; <sup>8</sup> he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; <sup>12</sup> rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; <sup>13</sup> distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.”

## Scriptures

### 6. How else are these gifts listed?

Ephesians 4:8, 11 (NKJV). “<sup>8</sup> Therefore He says: *‘When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.’* . . . <sup>11</sup> And He Himself gave some *to be apostles*, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,”

## Scriptures

### 7. Why were these gifts given?

Ephesians 4:12, 13 (NKJV). “<sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;”

## Scriptures

8. What was the order of the gifts?

1 Corinthians 12:28 (NKJV). “And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.”



## Scriptures

### 9. What great work do all Christians have?

Matthew 28:19, 20 (NKJV). “<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age. Amen.”

## Scriptures

10. What happens when Christians depend on God?

Acts 1:8 (NKJV). “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

## Scriptures

11. What is God's promise for success?

Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV). "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it."

# Study Questions

## Study Questions

1. What was the Savior's joy? (Paragraph 2).

“Our Saviour's joy was in the uplifting and redemption of fallen men.”

## Study Questions

2. What work are the angels engaged in? (2).

“So angels are ever engaged in working for the happiness of others. This is their joy.”

## Study Questions

3. What is the spirit that pervades heaven? (2).

“The spirit of Christ’s self-sacrificing love is the spirit that pervades heaven and is the very essence of its bliss.”

## Study Questions

4. How will love to Jesus be manifested? (4).

“Love to Jesus will be manifested in a desire to work as He worked for the blessing and uplifting of humanity.”



## Study Questions

5. What was the one great object of Christ's life? (5).

“The Saviour's life on earth was not a life of ease and devotion to Himself, but He toiled with persistent, earnest, untiring effort for the salvation of lost mankind.”

## Study Questions

6. What happens when someone comes to Christ?  
(6).

“No sooner does one come to Christ than there is born in his heart a desire to make known to others what a precious friend he has found in Jesus; the saving and sanctifying truth cannot be shut up in his heart.”

## Study Questions

7. What happens when we are filled with the joy of Christ's indwelling Spirit? (6).

“If we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ and are filled with the joy of His indwelling Spirit, we shall not be able to hold our peace.”

## Study Questions

8. What do we do, and what two things should our witness include? (6).

“Like Philip when he found the Saviour, we shall invite others into His presence. We shall seek to present to them the attractions of Christ and the unseen realities of the world to come.”

## Study Questions

9. What is the result of the effort to bless others? (7).

“And the effort to bless others will react in blessings upon ourselves.”

## Study Questions

10. What is the highest honor and greatest joy God can bestow upon us? (7).

“He has granted men the privilege of becoming partakers of the divine nature and, in their turn, of diffusing blessings to their fellow men. This is the highest honor, the greatest joy, that it is possible for God to bestow upon men.”

## Study Questions

11. What does every act of self-sacrifice do? (9).

“Every act of self-sacrifice for the good of others strengthens the spirit of beneficence in the giver’s heart, allying him more closely to the Redeemer of the world, . . . .”

## Study Questions

12. What does unselfish labor for other produce? (11).

“The spirit of unselfish labor for others gives depth, stability, and Christlike loveliness to the character, and brings peace and happiness to its possessor.”



## Study Questions

13. Who are most surely working out their own salvation? (11).

“Those who thus devote themselves to unselfish effort for the good of others are most surely working out their own salvation.”

## Study Questions

14. What is the only way to grow in grace? (12).

“The only way to grow in grace is to be disinterestedly doing the very work which Christ has enjoined upon us--to engage, to the extent of our ability, in helping and blessing those who need the help we can give them.”

## Study Questions

15. What is God appointed agency for the salvation of men? (13).

“The church of Christ is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men.”

## Study Questions

16. What would be the result if the followers of Christ were awake to duty? (14).

“If the followers of Christ were awake to duty, there would be thousands where there is one today proclaiming the gospel in heathen lands.”

## Study Questions

17. Among whom or where can we find a work for God? (15).

“We need not go to heathen lands, or even leave the narrow circle of the home, if it is there that our duty lies, in order to work for Christ. We can do this in the home circle, in the church, among those with whom we associate, and with whom we do business.”

## Study Questions

18. Why do many find an excuse not to use their gifts? (18).

“Many have excused themselves from rendering their gifts to the service of Christ because others were possessed of superior endowments and advantages.”

## Study Questions

19. What should we not wait for before we begin to work for God? (20).

“You are not to wait for great occasions or to expect extraordinary abilities before you go to work for God.”

## Study Questions

20. How should the humble and poor approach their work for God? (21).

“The humblest and poorest of the disciples of Jesus can be a blessing to others. They may not realize that they are doing any special good, but by their unconscious influence they may start waves of blessing that will widen and deepen,



and the blessed results they may never know until the day of final reward. They do not feel or know that they are doing anything great. They are not required to weary themselves with anxiety about success. They have only to go forward quietly, doing faithfully the work that God's providence assigns, and their life will not be in vain."

# Thought Questions

## Thought Questions

1. I really don't want others to know what kind of a person I was before becoming a Christian. What should I share with them when I witness to them?

## Thought Questions

2. How can I find out what my spiritual gift is?

## Thought Questions

3. Do I have to go door-to-door?

## Thought Questions

4. Will God ever let me fail at my work for Him? Why or why not?

## Thought Questions

5. I'm not good at explaining the Scriptures to others. Can't I just work for God in the background?

## Thought Questions

6. Isn't just letting others see you living the Christian life enough?



## Thought Questions

7. Why witness? No one ever accepts what I try to give them?

## Thought Questions

8. Why is it so hard to witness to those in my family?

## Thought Questions

9. If I have only one star in my crown, will I feel embarrassed?

## Thought Questions

10. What things can you do to witness? Is there a list somewhere of things to do?

## Thought Questions

11. I'm so busy with my family, how can I find time to do anything else?

## Thought Questions

12. What does witnessing really do for me?

## Thought Questions

13. After you witness, what question do you ask to get a decision?

## Thought Questions

14. Does every person on earth have to hear the Gospel before Jesus returns? They say we are losing ground?



## Thought Questions

15. I hate rejection!!! Do I have to force my beliefs on others by witnessing to them?

## Thought Questions

16. What do I do if they accept what I am saying about salvation?

## Thought Questions

17. I don't think I'm really sure about my own salvation. How can I witness to others?

# Thought Questions

18. [Add your questions].

# Problem Solving

## Problem Solving

The following family of parents and two teens have been church members for several years. They have rarely been involved in the activities of the church. The children are not in church school, and they have few close friends in the church. The parents often avoid communion and special events where there is a lot of spiritual activity. The parents have confided that none of them are growing spiritually.

There is a desire for a change, but they are not sure just where to begin. There is fear they are going to be asked to get up front or go door-to-door. How would you help this family to enjoy living and sharing the Christian life?

Notes: You might work with the following information: causes, options, solutions, decisions, scriptures that apply.

# Additional Exercises



## Additional Exercises

1. Add three more items to your “Appreciation List.”

## Additional Exercises

### 2. Additional Reading:

*The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 469-479. “Help in the Daily Living.”

*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 325-365. “Talents.”

## Additional Exercises

3. Identify your spiritual gift, and discover two ways that gift can be used to bless others.”

## Additional Exercises

4. Identify one or more persons in our study group, or in the church who need something that you have the resources to supply. List the need, and the resource, **BUT NOT THEIR NAME**. Ask God to give you an opportunity to supply their need.

## Additional Exercises

5. Describe one example of how the information learned in this chapter can help YOU in YOUR daily Christian life.

## Additional Exercises

6. Find at least one opportunity to explain what you have learned to one or more persons.

# Ellen G. White Quotes

*Education*, p. 103

“All things both in heaven and in earth declare that the great law of life is a law of service.”



*The Ministry of Healing, p. 37*

“God can use every person just in proportion as He can put His Spirit into the soul temple. The work that He will accept is the work that reflects His image.”

*Christ's Object Lessons, p. 327*

“Not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God.”

*Education, p. 267*

“The specific place appointed us in life is determined by our capabilities. Not all reach the same development or do with equal efficiency the same work. God does not expect the hyssop to attain the proportions of the cedar, or the olive the height of the stately palm. But each should aim just as high as the union of human with divine power makes it possible for him to reach.”

*Education*, pp. 268, 269

“The church is organized for service; and in a life of service to Christ, connection with the church is one of the first steps. Loyalty to Christ demands the faithful performance of church duties. This is an important part of one’s training; and in a church imbued with the Master’s life, it will lead directly to effort for the world without.”

*Education, p. 268*

“Love and loyalty to Christ are the spring of all true service. In the heart touched by His love, there is begotten a desire to work for Him.”

*Christ's Object Lessons, p. 354*

“He who begins with a little knowledge, in a humble way, and tells what he knows, while seeking diligently for further knowledge, will find the whole heavenly treasure awaiting his demand. The more he seeks to impart light, the more light he will receive. The more one tries to explain the word of God to others, with a love for souls, the plainer it becomes to himself.

The more we use our knowledge and exercise our powers, the more knowledge and power we shall have.”

*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, p. 74*

“The value of service to God is measured by the spirit in which it is rendered, rather than by the length of time spent in labor.”



*Christ's Object Lessons, p. 397*

“Not the amount of labor performed or its visible results but the spirit in which the work is done makes it of value with God.”

*The Ministry of Healing, p. 481*

“Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish and a plain path before their feet.”

*Christ's Object Lessons, p. 363*

“But when we give ourselves wholly to God and in our work follow His directions, He makes Himself responsible for its accomplishment. He would not have us conjecture as to the success of our honest endeavors. Not once should we even think of failure. We are to co-operate with One who knows no failure.”

*Christian Service, p. 98*

“Let us not forget that as activity increases, and we become successful in doing the work that must be accomplished, there is danger of our trusting in human plans and methods. There will be a tendency to pray less, and to have less faith. We shall be in danger of losing our sense of dependence upon God, who alone can make our work succeed;

but although this is the tendency, let no one think that the human instrument is to do less. No, he is not to do less, but to do more by accepting the heavenly gift, the Holy Spirit.”

*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, p. 261*

“I was shown God’s people waiting for some change to take place--a compelling power to take hold of them. But they will be disappointed, for they are wrong. They must act, they must take hold of the work themselves and earnestly cry to God for a true knowledge of themselves.

The scenes which are passing before us are of sufficient magnitude to cause us to arouse and urge the truth home to the hearts of all who will listen. The harvest of the earth is nearly ripe.”

*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 83*

“Those who have sought for the development and perfection of Christian character by exercising their faculties in good works, will, in the world to come, reap that which they have sown. The work begun upon earth will reach its consummation in that higher and holier life to endure throughout eternity.”



*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 2, p. 232*

“To be a co-worker with Christ and the heavenly angels in the great plan of salvation! What work can bear any comparison with this! From every soul saved there comes to God a revenue of glory to be reflected upon the one saved and also upon the one instrumental in his salvation.”

*Christ's Object Lessons, p. 330*

“The Lord has a great work to be done, and He will bequeath the most in the future life to those who do the most faithful, willing service in the present life.”

*Christian Service, p. 228*

“God does not generally work miracles to advance His truth. If the husbandman neglects to cultivate the soil, God works no miracle to counteract the sure results. He works according to great principles made known to us, and it is our part to mature wise plans, and set in operation the means whereby God shall bring about certain results.

Those who make no decided effort, but simply wait for the Holy Spirit to compel them to action, will perish in darkness. You are not to sit still and do nothing in the work of God.”

Quiz

## Quiz

1.  T F The salvation of mankind was the one great object of Christ's life. (SC 9.5).
2.  T F The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of mankind. (SC 9:13).
3.  T F Christians were to go into all the world with their witness. (Matthew 28:19, 20).

## Quiz

4.  T F We are to begin close by when we start to witness for Christ. (Acts 1:8).
5.  T F Love to Jesus will be manifested in a desire to work as He worked. (SC 9.4).

## Quiz

6. Through what agency are God's gifts given to human beings? (1 Corinthians 12:8-10 NKJV).

“<sup>8</sup> for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,



<sup>10</sup> to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.”

## Quiz

7. List three purposes of spiritual gifts. (Ephesians 4:11, 12 NKJV).

“<sup>11</sup> And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,”

## Quiz

8. List the highest honor, the greatest joy possible for God to bestow upon men. (SC 9.7).

“He has granted men the privilege of becoming partakers of the divine nature and, in their turn, of diffusing blessings to their fellow men. This is the highest honor, the greatest joy, that it is possible for God to bestow upon men.”

## Quiz

9. List one of your gifts.

## Quiz

10. What does God promise to give to us when we are born again? (Ezekiel 36:26, 27 NKJV).

<sup>26</sup> I will give you a new heart put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep my judgments and do *them*.”

## Quiz

11. Which of the following is true?  
(1 Corinthians 12:8-10 NKJV).
- A. Some Christians received some gifts.
  - B. Some Christians received all gifts.
  - C. All Christians received some gifts.
  - D. All Christians received all gifts.

## Quiz

12. What happens when one comes to Christ?  
(SC 9.6).

- A. A desire is born to make Jesus known to others.
- B. We become aware of all of our sins.
- C. We begin to give Bible studies.
- D. We begin to prophesy.

## Quiz

13. Which gift was set first in the church?  
(1 Corinthians 12:28 NKJV).

A. Workers of miracles

B. Prophets

C. Pastors

D. Apostles



## Quiz

14. Those who devote themselves to unselfish effort for the good of others, are doing which of the following? (SC 9.11)
- A. Winning friends and influencing people
  - B. Working out their own salvation
  - C. Gaining access to financial resources.
  - D. Earning stars in your crown

## Quiz

15. Complete the following:

“The spirit of Christ’s SELF-SACRIFICING LOVE is the spirit that pervades heaven, and it the very essence of its bliss. This is the SPIRIT that Christ followers will possess, the WORK that they will do.”  
(SC 9.2).

## Contact

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