

Chapter 8, *The Return of the Latter Rain*

"The 1889 Revivals - 1"

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South Lancaster, Massachusetts: **January** 1889

					11 Fri	12 Sab
13 Sun	14 Mon	15 Tue	16 Wed	17 Thu	18 Fri	19 Sab
20 Sun	21 Mon	22 Tue				

We had a message of present truth for the people; and if they would place themselves in the channel of light, they would be prepared to do a work for others similar to the work that should be done for them. {1888 267.1}

The meetings continued a week beyond their first appointment. The school was dismissed, and all made earnest work of seeking the Lord. Eld. Jones came from Boston, and labored most earnestly for the people, speaking twice and sometimes three times a day. The flock of God were fed with soul-nourishing food. The very message the Lord has sent to the people of this time was presented in the discourses. {1888 267.7}

Both students and teachers have shared largely in the blessing of God. The deep movings of the Spirit of God have been felt upon almost every heart. The general testimony was borne by those who attended the meeting that they had obtained an experience beyond anything they had known before. They testified their joy that Christ had forgiven their sins. Their hearts were filled with thanksgiving and praise to God. Sweet peace was in their souls. They loved every one, and felt that they could rest in the love of God. {1888 268.1}

I have never seen a revival work go forward with such thoroughness, and yet remain so free from all undue excitement. There was no urging or inviting. The people were not called forward, but there was a solemn realization that Christ came not to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.... We seemed to breathe in the very atmosphere of heaven. Angels were indeed hovering around.... I was not able to sleep that night until nearly day. The Lord had visited his people.... {1888 268.2}

There were many who testified that as the searching truths had been presented, they had been convicted in the light of the law as transgressors. They had been trusting in their own righteousness. Now they saw it as filthy rags, in comparison with the righteousness of Christ, which is alone acceptable to God. While they had not been open transgressors, they saw themselves depraved and degraded in heart.... {1888 268.3}

Those who were at South Lancaster last winter know that the church and the school were moved upon by the Spirit of God. Nearly every student was swept in by the heavenly current, and living testimonies were given that were not surpassed even by the testimonies of 1844 before the disappointment. Many learned at South Lancaster what it meant to surrender their hearts to God--what it meant to be converted. Many said, "I have for years professed to be a follower of Jesus, but I never knew before what it meant to know Jesus or the Father. I have learned from this experience what it means to be a Christian." {RH, March 4, 1890 par. 6}

Chicago: **March/April** 1889

				28 Thu	29 Fri	30 Sab
31 Sun	1 Mon	2 Tue	3 Wed	4 Thu	5 Fri	6 Sab
7 Sun	8 Mon	9 Tue				

[April 7] Elder A. T. Jones has labored faithfully to instruct those assembled, and in breaking to their souls the Bread of Life. We have felt sorry that not only every Seventh-day Adventist church but every church, whatever their faith and doctrines, could not have the precious light of truth as it has been so clearly presented. I know it would have been a rich feast to very many souls not of our faith to see the plan of salvation so clearly and simply defined. {1888 280.2}

Faith in Jesus Christ's righteousness in the behalf of every individual soul should be held before the people for their study and for them to contemplate thoroughly. This theme cannot be dwelt upon too often and too earnestly. The people are suffering for the gospel of Christ. {1888 281.3}

The testimonies from Thursday had a different ring. The tame, lukewarm tone was gone. They were characterized by deep, earnest feeling. Men and women confessed how destitute of the love of Christ in the soul and of love for their brethren their religious experience had been. They humbly and thankfully expressed their

gratitude for the light received. They had been clinging closely to their own righteousness; now by faith they trust in Christ's might and His power and His righteousness. They can do literally nothing without divine help. Their prayers now are filled with earnest, simple faith that takes God at His word. All now seem to have warm hearts. The love of Christ is assurance to them of their acceptance, and they long to speak and acknowledge the great goodness of God in providing them a righteousness which is pure, spotless, efficacious. {1888 283.2}

Friday was a precious day. The rubbish has been removed from the door of the heart and they have opened it to Jesus. Everything has been without excitement or extravagance. The leaven of Christ's righteousness has been introduced into the experience and has energized the soul. {1888 284.2}

[Sabbath] ... One brother said he would bear his testimony for he knew it to be right, but he had no feeling. But his heart was broken; he fell upon the Rock and he was so impressed with the love of Jesus that he wept aloud. Ministers bore testimony that when they came to the meeting they were cold and their hearts hard, but when by faith they confessed to God their backslidings they knew Jesus forgave their sins and they were happy, newly converted, and they now bear a testimony that is free and joyful. {1888 284.4}

Brother Tait says, "Oh that I had preached the gospel of Christ to the souls for whom I have labored, how much better it would have been for them! But I will preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified in all my ministerial labors henceforth." ... {1888 290.1}

I have traveled from place to place, attending meetings where the message of the righteousness of Christ was preached. I considered it a privilege to stand by the side of my brethren, and give my testimony with the message for the time; and I saw that the power of God attended the message wherever it was spoken. You could not make the people believe in South Lancaster that it was not a message of light that came to them. The people confessed their sins, and appropriated the righteousness of Christ. God has set his hand to do this work. We labored in Chicago; it was a week before there was a break in the meetings. But like a wave of glory, the blessing of God swept over us as we pointed men to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. The Lord revealed his glory, and we felt the deep movings of his Spirit. Everywhere the message led to the confession of sin, and to the putting away of iniquity. {1888 545.7}

Ottawa, Kansas: May 1889

		7 Tue	8 Wed	9 Thu	10 Fri	11 Sab
12 Sun	13 Mon	14 Tue	15 Wed	16 Thu	17 Fri	18 Sab
19 Sun	20 Mon	21 Tue	22 Wed	23 Thu	24 Fri	25 Sab
26 Sun	27 Mon	28 Tue				

Wednesday I attended the early morning meeting and bore a decided testimony and entreated all present not to act over Minneapolis.... {1888 307.2}

Thursday afternoon I spoke to the people.... The word was received in just that way and in just that spirit that the individual hearers possessed.... I had a long talk with young Brother Washburn, who opened his heart frankly to me. {1888 317.1}

Sabbath Brother A. T. Jones talked upon the subject of justification by faith, and many received it as light and truth. {1888 317.3}

May 13. [Monday] This morning there was a precious meeting of confession. Brethren Porter, Washburn, and Wakeham, all have yielded their opposition and surrendered to God. Brother Wakeham's testimony was that he had enjoyed more of the Spirit of God in the last 24 hours than he had done in all his life before. He was getting free and rejoicing in the Lord. {1888 324.3}

Light flashed from the oracles of God in relation to the law and the gospel, in relation to the fact that Christ is our righteousness, which seemed to souls who were hungry for truth, as light too precious to be received. {1888 386.10}

In every meeting since the General Conference, souls have eagerly accepted the precious message of the righteousness of Christ. We thank God that there are souls who realize that they are in need of something which they do not possess,-- gold of faith and love, white raiment of Christ's righteousness, eye-salve of spiritual discernment.... Resist not grace, abuse not privileges, smother not in your human pride the convictions of the Spirit of God. {1888 387.6}