

## RELIGIOUS LIBERTY SPECIAL EVENT

- ❖ Sabbath afternoon, January 23, LIVE  
“Religious Liberty and Current Events”  
Zoom panel from 2:00-3:00pm PST.
- ❖ Search Youtube for “Liberty Magazine”
- ❖ Advance registration at [https://nadadventist.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_gjZm-joASoiKI1MaxYqkMA](https://nadadventist.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gjZm-joASoiKI1MaxYqkMA)



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## CONTACT WITH THE LIVING GOD



**Intro Story** - One of my old jobs was as a celebrity booking agent for charity events. We would book meet & greet with the donors and celebrities and I was always surprised by how star-struck people were when asking for an autograph or signature. Have you ever experienced that? The awe of someone who you've known from afar and now they're right in front of you? I propose that our spiritual experiences are opportunities to be awe-struck with the Creator of the Universe.

## MAIN IDEA

❖ “To love as Jesus does means:  
to love with divine love  
(agape). We can only do this  
when we are filled with the  
Holy Ghost.” - Haubeil pg. 67



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Key Texts - ““A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”” (John 13:34–35 NAS95)

### 3 PROBLEMS

- ❖ Problem 1: “Lethargy, superficiality, worldliness, lack of generosity, ministers are burned out, teenagers are leaving the church, weak self-discipline, plans without any real background or result, a chronic lack of strong and dedicated men.” *Guide to Spiritual Life*, Joseph Kidder (Andrews University)
- ❖ Problem 2: “Many Adventists still have to comprehend what it means to be one with Christ. In the past we have probably not attached enough importance to it or hitched up the horse at the wrong end.” William G Johnsson, *Adventist Church in the Acid Test* (Lüneburg 1996), p. 118
- ❖ Problem 3: “But the truth is, we’re dying of thirst for contact with the living God!” Randy Maxwell, *If My People Pray* pg. 11

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## PROBLEM 1

### LETHARGY



General condition of the church - “Lethargy, superficiality, worldliness, lack of generosity, ministers are burned out, teenagers are leaving the church, weak self-discipline, plans without any real background or result, a chronic lack of strong and dedicated men.” Guide to Spiritual Life, Joseph Kidder (Andrews University)

Text: Jesus said: “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” (John 17:3 NKJV)

Commentary - “Saving knowledge is here defined as that which is centered upon the “true God,” in contrast with false gods, and upon Jesus Christ. It was the knowledge of Jesus Christ that was strikingly absent from the religion of the Jews. Men will be rejected in the last day because they have rejected the essential knowledge (see on Hosea 4:6). - SDABC





Abraham, Daniel & Queen Esther are all examples of people who exhibited faith in trying circumstances. They also had an ear for the voice of God when impressed to take certain actions. Their experiences of faith show us how to be revived out of lethargy and carnal christianity.

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““Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.” (Matthew 5:5 NAS95)





““Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.“For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”” (Matthew 11:28–30 NAS95) “One who is “meek” intends nothing but good toward others (see on ch. 5:5). - SDABC

## SOLUTION TO CARNAL LETHARGY

- ❖ “Those who find the rest of which Jesus speaks will walk in “the old paths” and conform their lives to “the good way” of God’s own choosing (see Jer. 6:16).” - SDA Bible Commentary on Matthew 11:28
- ❖ “Thus says the LORD, “Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, Where the good way is, and walk in it; And you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’” (Jeremiah 6:16 NAS95)

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## PROBLEM 2

### LACK OF UNION WITH CHRIST



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❖ “We must have a living connection with God. We must be clothed with power from on high by the baptism of the Holy Spirit, that we may reach a higher standard; for there is help for us in no other way.” Review & Herald 4/5/1892

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When Mary anointed Jesus' feet with her perfume & hair, she was showing Him the most tender and loving gesture. Jesus affirmed her actions and pointed to it as a sign of response to tremendous forgiveness...

❖ “Martha served at the table, but Mary was earnestly listening to every word from the lips of Jesus. In His mercy, Jesus had pardoned her sins, He had called forth her beloved brother from the grave, and Mary's heart was filled with gratitude. She had heard Jesus speak of His approaching death, and in her deep love and sorrow she had longed to show Him honor.” - The Desire of Ages pg. 558

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## HOW DO WE GET THIS LOVE FOR OTHERS AND FOR GOD?

- ❖ “Supreme love for God and unselfish love for one another – this is the best gift that our heavenly Father can bestow. This love is not an impulse, but a divine principle, a permanent power. The unconsecrated heart [everyone, who isn’t filled with the Holy Ghost, has one] cannot originate or produce it. Only in the heart where Jesus reigns is it found.”  
Acts of the Apostles pg. 551

Key Question: How do we get this love for others and for God?



“And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” (Romans 5:3–5 NAS95)



Major promise from God - “I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.” (Psalms 32:8 NAS95)

## SOLUTION TO LACK OF CONNECTION?

- ❖ “I pray that according to the wealth of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner person, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, so that, because you have been rooted and grounded in love, you may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and thus to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:16–19 NET)

Paul’s message to Ephesus - “I pray that according to the wealth of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner person, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, so that, because you have been rooted and grounded in love, you may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and thus to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:16–19 NET)

## PROBLEM 3

DYING OF THIRST



Problem 3: “But the truth is, we’re dying of thirst for contact with the living God!” Randy Maxwell, *If My People Pray* pg. 11



“Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.”“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’”” (John 7:37–38 NAS95)



❖ “The true Christian who grasps a great truth that satisfies his own yearnings cannot long refrain from giving expression to it. He longs to send it forth to others who are seeking spiritual waters. There is formed within him a river of waters that no dam can wholly confine (see on ch. 4:14). - SDA Bible Commentary on John 7:38

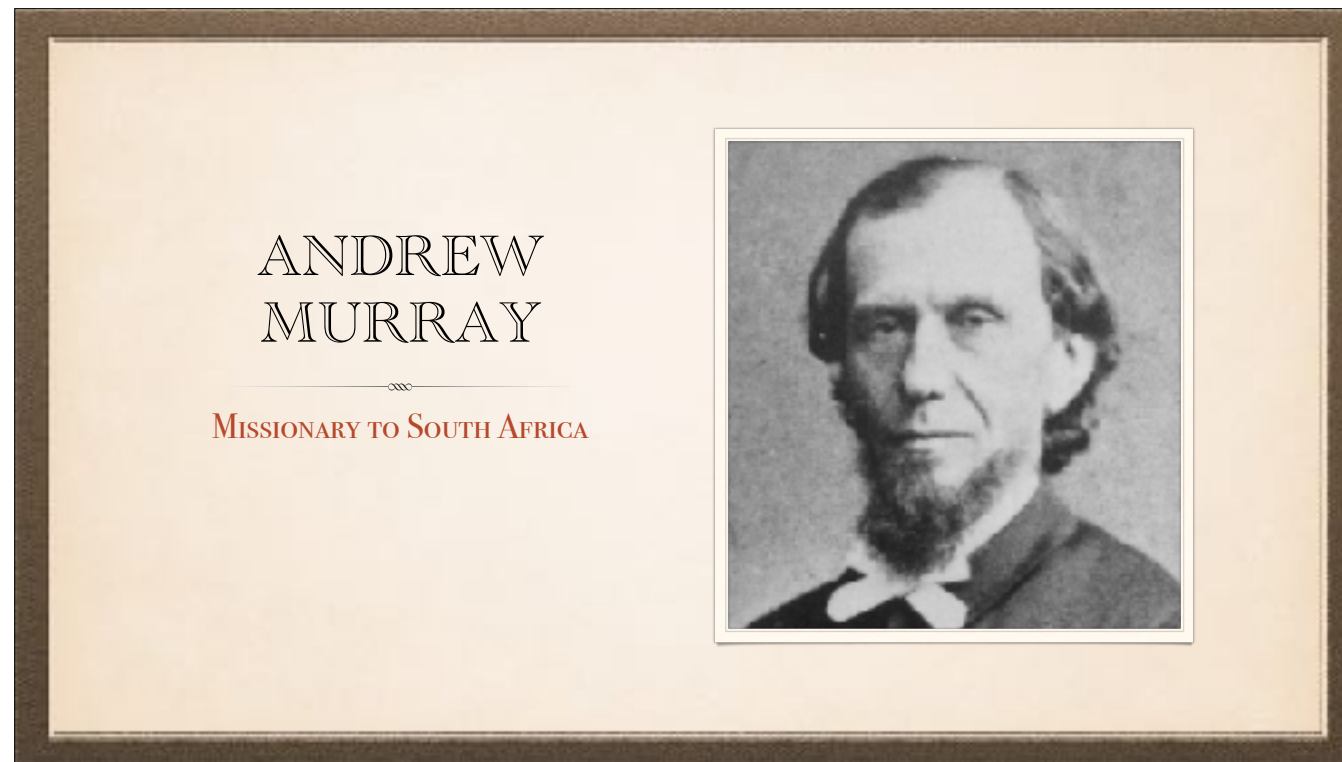
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To love as Jesus does means: to love with divine love (agape). We can only do this when we are filled with the Holy Ghost. - Haubeil pg. 67

❖ “Teach your children that it is their privilege to receive every day the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Let Christ find you His helping hand to carry out His purposes. By prayer you may gain an experience that will make your ministry for your children a perfect success.” -Counsel to Teachers, Parents, & Students pg. 131

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**Quote** - Andrew Murray's experience and counsel - "I may preach or write or think or meditate, and delight in being occupied with things in God's Book and in God's Kingdom; and yet the power of the Holy Ghost may be markedly absent. I fear that if you take the preaching throughout the Church of Christ and ask why there is, alas! so little converting power in the preaching of the Word, why there is so much work and often so little success for eternity, why the Word has so little power to build up believers in holiness and in consecration – the answer will come: It is the absence of the power of the Holy Ghost. And why is this? There can be no other reason but that the flesh [see Gal. 3:3] and human energy have taken the place that the Holy Ghost ought to have." Randy Maxwell quoting Andrew Murray in *If My People Pray* pg 145

## SOLUTION TO THIRSTY CHRISTIANS?

- ❖ “The influence of the Spirit of God is the very best medicine that can be received by a sick man or woman. Heaven is all health; and the more deeply the heavenly influences are realized, the more sure will be the recovery of the believing invalid.” EGW, Medical Ministries pg. 12

The Holy Spirit and our physical health - “The influence of the Spirit of God is the very best medicine that can be received by a sick man or woman. Heaven is all health; and the more deeply the heavenly influences are realized, the more sure will be the recovery of the believing invalid.” EGW, Medical Ministries pg. 12

❖ “We must individually hear Him speaking to the heart. When every other voice is hushed, and in quietness we wait before Him, the silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God. He bids us, ‘Be still, and know that I am God’.” Psalm 46:10 The Desire of Ages pg. 363

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## CONTACT WITH THE LIVING GOD

- ❖ 1. “Supreme love for God and unselfish love for one another – this is the best gift that our heavenly Father can bestow.” - AA pg. 551
- ❖ 2. Find rest for our souls by connecting to Christ.
- ❖ 3. God’s Spirit is medicine for our sick souls!



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Appeal Story - "Some years ago a Boeing 707 took off from the Tokyo airport headed for London. It had a great take off. There was a clear, sunny sky. Soon the passengers could see the famous Mount Fuji in Japan. All of a sudden the pilot had the idea to circle around the mountain so that the passengers could enjoy this rare view.

He left the designated course of flight and changed over to visual flight. During visual flight the pilot dispenses with the security of the ground control center and depends completely on what he sees. The pilot saw the mountain close under him. His altimeter showed 4000 meters. What he didn't see was the fall winds and gusts of wind, which raged around Mount Fuji. The Boeing 707 was no match for the winds. The plane broke in the air, crashed and all of the passengers died."<[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BOAC\\_Flight\\_911](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BOAC_Flight_911)>

The carnal Christian lives in "visual flight mode". He makes all the decisions himself. In spite of the best intentions he will fail. The spiritual Christian lives through the Holy Ghost in a loving and trusting relationship with His Lord, who leads him to a safe destination." -Haubeil pg. 85

## PRAYER

❖ “Father in heaven, thank you that the indwelling of Jesus through the Holy Ghost makes such a positive difference in us and in our work. Please open my eyes even more to the work of the Holy Spirit. Please give me this fullness of life through Him, which Jesus wants to give us. Please help me to discover the key to solving this problem in my journey and to put it into practice. Thank you in Jesus’s name, Amen.”

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