



But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. – Matthew 15:9

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## Shake It Up, Baby

I'm wanting to do a little exploring of an old Adventist teaching. This old teaching that I'm wanting to explore is the teaching of the shaking. Recently I ran across a comment on Facebook that the Adventist teaching about the shaking was false. If we are going to look at this teaching then the first thing we probably should do is to find where it came from.

I went to the [egwwritings.org](http://egwwritings.org) website and typed the words "shaken out" into their search engine. I found lots of entries but most of them were just repeats of the same passage into different books or articles, etc.... Following are 4 places where she mentioned people being shaken out and they are worth mentioning here.

First passage:

The suffering Jesus, His love so deep as to lead Him to give His life for man, was again held up before me; also the lives of those who professed to be His followers, who had this world's goods, but considered it so great a thing to help the cause of salvation. The angel said, "Can such enter heaven?" Another angel answered: "No, never, never, never. Those who are not interested in the cause of God on earth, can never sing the song of redeeming love above." I saw that the quick work that God was doing on the earth would soon be cut short in righteousness, and that the messengers must speed swiftly on their way to search out the scattered flock.

The mighty shaking has commenced and will go on, and all will be

shaken out who are not willing to take a bold and unyielding stand for the truth, and to sacrifice for God and His cause. The angel said: "Think ye that any will be compelled to sacrifice? No, no. It must be a freewill offering. It will take all to buy the field." I cried to God to spare His people, some of whom were fainting and dying. Then I saw that the judgments of the Almighty were speedily coming, and I begged of the angel to speak in his language to the people. Said he, "All the thunders and lightnings of Mount Sinai would not move those who will not be moved by the plain truths of the word of God, neither would an angel's message awake them."

I then beheld the beauty and loveliness of Jesus. His robe was whiter than the whitest white. No language can describe His glory and exalted loveliness. All, all who keep the commandments of God, will enter in through the gates into the city, and have right to the tree of life, and ever be in the presence of the lovely Jesus, whose countenance shines brighter than the sun at noonday. – Christian Experience and Teachings of E.G. White, 107 & 108

This passage states that people will be shaken out but when you read it in context it's talking about those who are selfish, greedy, unwilling to part with their worldly goods so they can help someone who is in need.

A thought popped into my head as I wrote the above paragraph. That thought is to wonder why so many of the people in this country are wanting that wall. Could it be this country is guilty of not being willing to help our southern neighbors, many of whom are living in squalor and unsafe circumstances?

We claim to be a christian country yet many of us have lost sight of what it means to be a Christian. Being a Christian means to have a Christlike character and having that Christlike character will cause you to be striving to help those who are in need, not trying to hoard things for yourself or forcing others to act in the way that you deem appropriate.

So this passage teaches that it's those who are greedy and looking out for themselves that are being shaken out. It doesn't say that they are being shaken out of the Adventist church.

But you could argue that the self-centered are being shaken out of the church because they are sinners and don't belong in the church. Well... how do I say this nicely? Um... maybe it's time to stop playing ostrich. Pull your head out of the sand and take a look at what is happening in the Adventist church today.

There is a huge issue at hand of women's ordination. The issue of ordination is only a red herring that is covering over a bigger issue and that is the issue of the practice of inequality or unfairness and claiming to have god-given authority to do so.

Some of you won't want to read the following but I'll place it here anyway. There is a group on Facebook that I read sometimes and will sometimes comment. A few days ago someone posted that there is a group who is claiming to be the "True Adventists" because they are anti-women's ordination and those who are pro-women's ordination are all "false Adventists" and they need to get out of the church.

Where is the love in that? Let me share with you something that was on that site and my response to it. The following is found on the welcome page of the website and I'm x-ing out their name.

XXXXXXXXX is a resource for **true** Seventh-day Adventists who love God and love the church. We at XXXXXXXXX love our church, and we are concerned about issues in the church. Are you concerned too?

Here is a comment that someone made on the Facebook group in reference to the above statement:

This, from the "welcome" page was all I needed to see to get the arrogance of their intention. (Yellow circle added for emphasis by me.)

Following is my response to this persons comment about the message found on the welcome page:

What jumped out at me when I read this is that they are in love with the church. I don't think that they are understanding just what the true "church" is. The true church is God's true followers. They are the ones who love others more than they love themselves and are even willing to die for someone rather than act to save themselves. They are the ones who practice and promote equality for all no matter the gender, orientation, denomination, race, etc....

Maybe I'm reading more into that statement than I should but I'm reading that they are in love with the organization rather than the

Creator. They say they love God but the God they seem to indicate they are loving does not promote inequality disguised as male headship. But there is a wannabe god who has stepped in and is trying to take the place of the true God and that one is an impostor. He does promote any act that will bring misery upon the true God's creation. And the practice of inequality falls within his realms.

I'm thinking back to the stories I've read about Jesus in the Bible. I can't remember where Jesus ever promoted unity of doctrine or truth. But I can remember him promoting unity of brotherhood, or rather equality for all, even women. Who was it that was the first to see Jesus when he arose from the grave? Women. Who was it that was trusted with bearing and raising God's son? Mary, a female. How did he respond when the woman who was lured into committing an act of adultery so they could drag her out publicly and demand that Jesus do something about it? He silently turned on the men, who responded by recognizing their crime and slowly leaving, with the one who was originally charged with adultery there to face Jesus on her own. She didn't leave. She stayed with him and spoke with him. He told her he didn't condemn her.

Jesus placed a high value on women and still does. I refuse to believe that the true God would place any value at all on the act of treating someone unfairly. It's just not within the realms of his Character which is Love. Love does not act in ways that will harm another, whether it be physical, emotional or whatever. Male headship is damaging to both men and women. And when it is continually practiced it sears the conscience of those who have fallen into this trap whether it be intentional or unintentional.

Only the Holy Spirit can bring the truth to the hearts of those who are victims of this behavior. We can do what we can to support those who are being damaged, and try to show those who practice this behavior that it isn't a heaven-ordained act because it isn't an act of love. But only the Holy Spirit can bring it home to them in a way that we can't. Ultimately, the decision is theirs whether or not they will follow the urging of the Holy Spirit or continue to follow the impostor. And for our part we must continue to pray for each other, those of us who support WO and those who don't support WO.

I do believe my ADD has kicked in for I managed to get from self-centeredness to the issue of women's ordination. My point was that those who are promoting

issues of inequality are the ones who are pushing for those who are acting in loving ways to exit the church.

So, with that thought I can't take the above passage of Mrs. White's and use it to validate the teaching that the wicked will be shaken out of the Adventist church and only those who remain will make it to heaven. Judging by the behavior of many of the members, I can use that passage to make the case that the wicked are pushing God's true church (his true people) out of the organization called Adventism.

Next passage.

I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale, and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. Firmness and great earnestness was expressed in their countenances; large drops of perspiration fell from their foreheads. Now and then their faces would light up with the marks of God's approbation, and again the same solemn, earnest, anxious look would settle upon them.

Evil angels crowded around, pressing darkness upon them to shut out Jesus from their view, that their eyes might be drawn to the darkness that surrounded them, and thus they be led to distrust God, and murmur against Him. Their only safety was in keeping their eyes directed upward. Angels of God had charge over His people, and as the poisonous atmosphere of evil angels was pressed around these anxious ones, the heavenly angels were continually wafting their wings over them to scatter the thick darkness.

As the praying ones continued their earnest cries, at times a ray of light from Jesus came to them, to encourage their hearts, and light up their countenances. Some, I saw, did not participate in this work of agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless. They were not resisting the darkness around them, and it shut them in like a thick cloud. The angels of God left these, and went to the aid of the earnest, praying ones. I saw angels of God hasten to the assistance of all who were struggling with all their power to resist the evil angels, and trying to help themselves by calling upon God with perseverance. But His angels left those who made no effort to help themselves, and I lost sight of them.

I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen, and was shown that

it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people.

I saw that the testimony of the True Witness has not been half heeded. The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded. This testimony must work deep repentance; all who truly receive it will obey it, and be purified.

Said the angel, "List ye!" Soon I heard a voice like many musical instruments all sounding in perfect strains, sweet and harmonious. It surpassed any music I had ever heard, seeming to be full of mercy, compassion, and elevating, holy joy. It thrilled through my whole being. Said the angel, "Look ye!" My attention was then turned to the company I had seen, who were mightily shaken. I was shown those whom I had before seen weeping and praying in agony of spirit. The company of guardian angels around them had been doubled, and they were clothed with an armor from their head to their feet. They moved in exact order, like a company of soldiers. Their countenances expressed the severe conflict which they had endured, the agonizing struggle they had passed through. Yet their features, marked with severe internal anguish, now shone with the light and glory of heaven. They had obtained the victory, and it called forth from them the deepest gratitude, and holy, sacred joy.

The numbers of this company had lessened. Some had been shaken out and left by the way. The careless and indifferent, who did not join with those who prized victory and salvation enough to perseveringly plead and agonize for it, did not obtain it, and they were left behind in darkness, and their places were immediately filled by others taking hold of the truth and coming into the ranks. Evil angels still pressed around them, but could have no power over them.

I heard those clothed with the armor speak forth the truth with great power. It had effect. Many had been bound; some wives by their husbands, and some children by their parents. The honest who had been prevented from hearing the truth now eagerly laid hold upon it.

All fear of their relatives was gone, and the truth alone was exalted to them. They had been hungering and thirsting for truth; it was dearer and more precious than life. I asked what had made this great change. An angel answered, "It is the latter rain, the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, the loud cry of the third angel."

Great power was with these chosen ones. Said the angel, "Look ye!" My attention was turned to the wicked, or unbelievers. They were all astir. The zeal and power with the people of God had aroused and enraged them. Confusion, confusion, was on every side. I saw measures taken against the company who had the light and power of God. Darkness thickened around them, yet they stood firm, approved of God, and trusting in Him. I saw them perplexed; next I heard them crying unto God earnestly. Day and night their cry ceased not: "Thy will, O God, be done! If it can glorify Thy name, make a way of escape for Thy people! Deliver us from the heathen around about us. They have appointed us unto death; but Thine arm can bring salvation." These are all the words which I can bring to mind. All seemed to have a deep sense of their unworthiness, and manifested entire submission to the will of God; yet like Jacob, every one, without an exception, was earnestly pleading and wrestling for deliverance.

Soon after they had commenced their earnest cry, the angels, in sympathy, desired to go to their deliverance. But a tall, commanding angel suffered them not. He said: "The will of God is not yet fulfilled. They must drink of the cup. They must be baptized with the baptism."

Soon I heard the voice of God, which shook the heavens and the earth. There was a mighty earthquake. Buildings were shaken down on every side. I then heard a triumphant shout of victory, loud, musical, and clear. I looked upon the company who, a short time before, were in such distress and bondage. Their captivity was turned. A glorious light shone upon them. How beautiful they then looked! All marks of care and weariness were gone, and health and beauty were seen in every countenance. Their enemies, the heathen around them, fell like dead men; they could not endure the light that shone upon the delivered, holy ones. This light and glory remained upon them, until Jesus was seen in the clouds of heaven, and the faithful, tried company were changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, from glory to glory. And the graves were opened, and the

saints came forth, clothed with immortality, crying, "Victory over death and the grave;" and together with the living saints they were caught up to meet their Lord in the air, while rich, musical shouts of glory and victory were upon every immortal tongue. – Christian Experience and Teachings of E.G. White, Chapter 30, The Shaking

There was a lot of information in the above passage but one of the things that struck me was that Mrs. White was saying that those who were shaken out were the true believers. They were shaken out of a false system. And in one place she states that the shaking is among God's people. God's people are in every religion, not just Adventism.

A lot of what was written in this passage is happening now. These events she described are now current events. The message of God's true character is going forth and being presented by people of all kinds of faiths. They aren't preaching the gospel of Adventism, they are collectively and faithfully presenting to the world a picture of God that is so much more loving than what organized religion has adopted as its message.

Yet these people of God who present this message are placed in unsavory positions by those who reject the truth about God. People have been kicked out of their church or have been sanctioned. Some people have been mistreated by family and so-called friends.

It's happening and it's happening all around us. It's exciting to realize that we're this close to being rescued, but it's also frightening because so many people will not accept that God wants to save all people and is doing all he can to accomplish that. One of the reasons they don't want to accept that is that means that God is also trying to rescue their enemies and they would rather see their enemies get what they've got coming to them.

And with the excitement I experience when reading this and recognizing that it's happening NOW, something that was in there caused me some concerns. I have to wonder at what level of maturity Mrs. White was operating on when she wrote the above passage. Throughout it she is presenting the true children of God as being focused upon themselves and worried about their safety.

That cannot be the case. God's true people will be those who do not love their lives so much that they shrink from death.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:  
"Now have come the salvation and the power



and the kingdom of our God,  
and the authority of his Messiah.  
For the accuser of our brothers and sisters,  
who accuses them before our God day and night,  
has been hurled down.  
They triumphed over him  
by the blood of the Lamb  
and by the word of their testimony;  
they did not love their lives so much  
as to shrink from death. – Revelation 12:10, 11

So if the Bible states that they weren't so concerned about their lives and Mrs. White claims they are constantly begging God to rescue them because the wicked want to kill them....

Houston, Hannah has a problem here. She doesn't understand and sees this as a conflict. And seeing this as a discrepancy does not mean I will burn in hell for it. It means that I need to study it out and try to find a way to make Mrs. White reconcile with the Bible, not find a way to make the Bible go along with her.

Let me add a little something here. I finished writing this blog at about 2 a.m. When I had finished with it I noticed that Elkanah was awake and out of bed. I went to him and asked him to proof this so I could go ahead and post it. He finished it and I went to bed about 2:30.

While he was reading through this he spotted something about the above passage that I had missed and it needs to be shared. He pointed out that in this passage there are two instances where God's people are begging for something. These are two separate instances because they are begging for two different things and they happen at two different points in time.

The first time they are begging God to remove the sins from their lives. In other words, they are begging to receive a Christlike character. Their wish is granted.

The second time they are begging happens later and they are begging to be protected or even rescued. Once again they prevail and God grants their wish. Jesus comes and claims them as his own.

This is an interesting passage because there is a teaching out there that we won't achieve character development until Jesus returns. At the moment of his return then he will miraculously change our characters, taking the sinful acts out of our lives. This is based on a Bible text that states we will all be changed in a

moment, in the twinkling of an eye. Here's the text taken from the NIV:

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. – 1 Corinthians 15: 51-53 NIV

Those who promote this teaching intend to go on sinning until Jesus comes back. But this is an incorrect interpretation of the above Bible passage. It doesn't mean there is a miraculous removal of sinful acts at the moment Jesus returns. It is actually telling us that God's people will receive new bodies that are not subject to decay and death.

The above passage by Mrs. White indicates that the character of God's people is perfected before Jesus returns. And when you consider the teaching that God's people will reach the point that they stand before God without an intercessor then we have to know that in order to be able to do that our characters must be Christlike or else we won't be able to stand before God without that intercessor.

And that is another teaching that has been used to cause people to fear God. They recognize that they are sinners but their view of this state of being is incorrect. They believe they need to be free of sinful acts which they are unable to rid themselves of and they also believe that the Father is angry with them for their sins and planning to zap them for it.

This presents quite a conundrum. They believe they are to be punished for something they were born with which wasn't their fault. And there is nothing they can do about it. Yet they are unable to understand that this is not an act of love therefore it is incorrect.

A child who is born with a birth defect is not at fault for the defect and his parents don't blame him for his infirmity. They do everything in their power to provide their child with what he needs to live a healthy life. And they never stop loving him.

A healthier teaching is that the Father also loves us and is trying to save us rather than harm us. Yes, his presence is an all-consuming fire but it consumes sin, not people. When things reach the point that there is nobody left that can be saved then God will remove his protection leaving us vulnerable to the

onslaught of satan. Those who have received that perfected character are still receiving God's protection though things may be so bad they are tempted to doubt. Yet they cling to his promises and move forward in the belief that they will be rescued.

When Jesus does return he is no longer hiding his full glory. That glory washes out over the people. Those who have received healing are able to stand in that glory while those who are expecting to be changed at that moment are found to be suddenly faced with all the defects of their characters. They have to face the outcome of their actions on themselves and others. They come to realize how they have harmed others by their sinful acts. This knowledge is overwhelming and they probably die of a stroke or heart attack or something. Essentially they have a massive dose of reality and they can't handle it.

Those who have achieved the perfected character no longer focus on their sinful acts, it's on God and his love and also on what they can do to make life easier for others. The promotion of self is removed from us.

When we reach that point then God's consuming fire has already done its job by means of the Holy Spirit, and consumed our sinful nature. Without that sinful nature then we are able to stand fearlessly in God's presence. We know that God loves us so much that he gave all that he had to give in order to rescue us. We will be eternally studying and learning more and more about his selfless act of rescue yet never fully uncovering the depths to which he went so that he could reclaim us.

Next passage:

#### Some Shaken Out

Some may say it is exalting our own merits to expect favor from God through our good works. True, we cannot buy one victory with our good works; yet we cannot be victors without them. The purchase which Christ recommends to us is only complying with the conditions He has given us. True grace, which is of inestimable value, and which will endure the test of trial and adversity, is only obtained through faith and humble, prayerful obedience. Graces that endure the proofs of affliction and persecution, and evidence their soundness and sincerity, are the gold which is tried in the fire and found genuine. Christ offers to sell this precious treasure to man: "Buy of Me gold tried in the fire." Verse 18. The dead, heartless performance of duty does not make us Christians. We must get out of a lukewarm condition and experience a true conversion, or we

shall fail of heaven.

I was pointed to the providence of God among His people and was shown that every trial made by the refining, purifying process upon professed Christians proves some to be dross. The fine gold does not always appear. In every religious crisis some fall under temptation. The shaking of God blows away multitudes like dry leaves. Prosperity multiplies a mass of professors. Adversity purges them out of the church. As a class, their spirits are not steadfast with God. They go out from us because they are not of us; for when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, many are offended.

Let these look back a few months to the time when they were sitting on the cases of others who were in a condition similar to that which they now occupy. Let them carefully call to mind the exercise of their minds in regard to those tempted ones. Had anyone told them then that notwithstanding their zeal and labor to set others right, they would at length be found in a similar position of darkness, they would have said, as did Hazeel to the prophet: "Is thy servant a dog, that he should do this great thing?" 2 Kings 8:13.

Self-deception is upon them. During the calm, what firmness they manifest! what courageous sailors they make! But when the furious tempests of trial and temptation come, lo! their souls are shipwrecked. Men may have excellent gifts, good ability, splendid qualifications; but one defect, one secret sin indulged, will prove to the character what the worm-eaten plank does to the ship—utter disaster and ruin! ... -- 1 Testamonies 478, 479

What I took from this passage is that some people are able to travel the heavenly path as long as there aren't any stumbling blocks in the way. When they come upon a part of the pathway that is blocked by something that seems insurmountable, they will turn around and go back, leaving behind those who are struggling to get past the roadblock. Perhaps I missed it, but I didn't see any mention of these people only being Adventists.

Next passage:

We are coming to a crisis, and I am in terror for our souls. Why is it that we find men leaving the faith? Are we in a position where we shall know what we believe, and shall not be shaken out? That souls

leave the truth should not discourage us in the least, but only make us seek more earnestly for the blessing of God. It is not the education, or the talents, or the position of men, that is to save them. We are to be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. How do you stand before God today? The question is not, How will you stand in the day of trouble, or at some future time? but how is it with your soul today? Will you go to work today? We want a personal, individual experience today. Today, we want Christ abiding with us. As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so the Son of man has been lifted up, that we might look and live. There is but one plan of salvation. There is but one process by which the soul may be healed of its wounds. Look to the Man of Calvary. – RH April 9, 1889, par. 11

If we take this passage out of context and use only the first part then this might be used to teach that only Adventists who don't get shaken out of the church will be the ones who make it to heaven. The reason I say that is that Adventists teach that the Adventist doctrine is “the faith”. So when Mrs. White states that people are leaving the faith then Adventists may construe this to be saying they are leaving the Adventist church.

But keep reading the passage. The last part tells us the only way to reach heaven is by looking to Jesus, not to the church. Only by looking to Jesus and trusting in God to heal us can we be saved.

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Now let's discuss this. The Adventist teaching of the shaking is that just before Jesus returns the wicked will be shaken out of the Adventist church and all of God's true children will become baptized members of the Adventist church. Supposedly this teaching comes from the writings of Mrs. White. Perhaps I typed in the wrong wording in the search engine when I visited the [egwwritings.org](http://egwwritings.org) website because I missed finding anything that would support this belief.

While I was going through those EGW quotes I was reminded of an elderly lady I once knew. I admit that I am embarrassed to share this but I'll do it anyway. Feel free to get angry about it. It's the way much of the people in this country thinks.

This elderly lady that I once knew was given the once-in-a-lifetime chance to visit England. A friend of hers was going to go visit an acquaintance and didn't

want to travel that distance alone and invited Aunt F to go with her.

Aunt F was beside herself. She was so anxious to go she couldn't contain her excitement, nor could she hide her disappointment when her husband told her they couldn't afford her tickets. She wasn't going to need money for lodging or food while she was there, she only needed to buy her tickets and her husband said they couldn't afford it.

I never knew how she pulled it off but she was able to make the trip. I suspect that several of her friends pooled their money to help make the purchase which enabled her to go.

When she returned she was all excited and aflutter. She was excited because over there you could see the shaking was happening. It was happening right before her eyes and that meant that Jesus was just about to return.

What she found in England was that there were black people living in England and to her horror they were allowed to attend church with the white people. Aunt F was a true Southern-bred belle who was raised with a lot of prejudices. She died a long time ago.

Aunt F was misguided in her belief that for a white-skinned person to worship with a dark-skinned person was a sin. She was wrong in her belief that the church was committing a grievous sin by allowing people of different ethnicities to worship together. I would ask if she was not aware that there will be people of all colors in heaven, however, she was from the area where I was told by prominent church members that black people aren't humans, they are just a higher form of animal life.

Mrs. White made some comments that were misused and I even question where Mrs. White got her information because it wasn't something that would promote love. Instead it was information that would promote hate and God knew that so I don't believe she got that information from God.

Every species of animal which God had created were preserved in the ark. The confused species which God did not create, which were the result of amalgamation, were destroyed by the Flood. Since the Flood there has been amalgamation of man and beast, as may be seen in the almost endless varieties of species of animals, and in certain races of men.— Spiritual Gifts, Volume 3, Page 75

If you will stop doing your ostrich act and take a look at what is happening in the

church and the christian world and the entire world, you'll see that this shaking is happening, but it's the so-called christians who are pushing the people who are interested in promoting equality and doing loving acts for others out of the church. The true shaking is that God's true people are discovering the truth about organized religion and are exiting their church in search of a place where they can worship the true God without being molested. Yet despite the mistreatment that is heaped upon them by their christian tormentors, they continue to push forward the truth about God without worrying about what will happen to them. They completely place their trust in God, knowing that He will make it all work out for the best in the end.

That is the shaking.

Love to all of you and may you have a wonder experience with our Creator.

Hanna

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