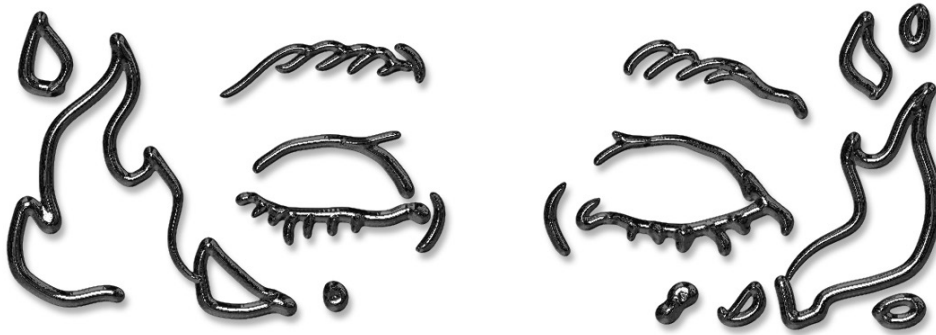


# Seeing the God No One Can See



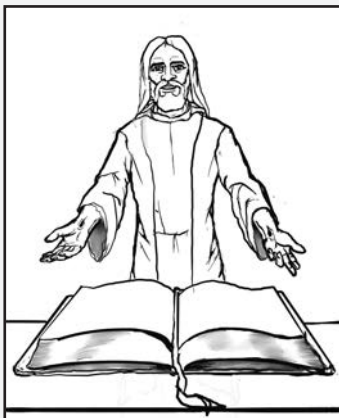
## SABBATH—AUGUST 13

**READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON:** Romans 8:28–39; John 14:1–14; Ephesians 1:18–23; 1 Peter 5:7; Psalm 55:22; Matthew 6:25–33; Isaiah 40:27–31; Isaiah 40:11; Revelation 13:15.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “Moses left Egypt because he had faith. He was not afraid of the king’s anger. He continued strong as if he could see the God no one can see” (Hebrews 11:27, ERV).

**WHAT IS FAITH?** The book of Hebrews best explains the meaning of faith for us: “Now faith is being sure we will get what we hope for. It [faith] is being sure of what we cannot see” (Hebrews 11:1, NLV). How can we be sure about what we don’t see? Paul tells us that Moses shows us how: “He continued strong as if he could see the God no one can see” (Hebrews 11:27, ERV).

God invites all of us to see “the God no one can see.” God wants us to know we can trust Him when times are good, for sure. More than that, God wants us to know we can trust Him when anything goes wrong in life. We need strong faith in Bible truth to do that. So, we must believe in God and His kingdom. We also must believe that our Father is good. We must believe in the power of Jesus’ name. We must believe that Jesus can wake us and our loved ones from the dead. These Bible truths will help us to stand strong when we are suffering and want to doubt everything we believe.



**We need strong faith  
in Bible truth.**

**OUR FATHER’S LOVE (Romans 8:28–39)**

“If God really loves me, He will do \_\_\_\_\_ for me!” How many times do we feel this way? We look at our lives and then wonder if God really loves us. We feel that if He really does, then things should be different, right?

Two ideas cause us to doubt that God is good. First, we may have a wish for something that we believe is good. So, the idea that God may want something different for us may seem crazy. Second, we may doubt that God is good because our experience goes against our beliefs. So, if something looks good, feels good, or tastes good, we think it must be good. We get angry with God when we can’t have what we want.

We need faith to help us during these times. Faith helps us when we doubt God and His love.

**Romans 8:28–39 are powerful verses that show God’s love and care for us. What can you find in the verses to help protect your mind against doubting God’s love?**

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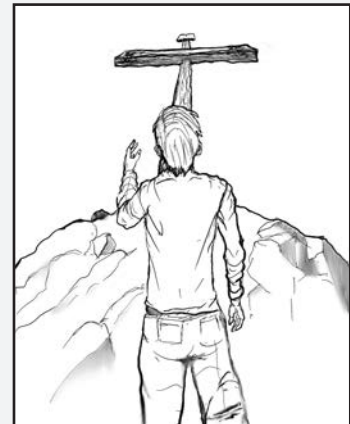
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In Romans 8:32, we see an idea that is very helpful in protecting us from doubt and fear during difficult experiences. “He even [also] let his own Son suffer for us. God gave his Son for all of us. So now with [because of] Jesus, God will surely [for sure] give us all things” (Romans 8:32, ERV). How can we possibly think that God is mean and selfish if He sent Jesus to die for us?

Romans 8:32 helps us see something important about the death of Jesus for us on the cross. We must let the cross change our thinking. The Bible truth about the cross must become stronger than all the doubts that come to us from our difficult experiences and our hard tests.

**How is it possible for God’s love to be more powerful in your mind than your doubts? Spend some time thinking about the Bible truth that God sent Jesus to die for our sins. How does this thought make your faith grow stronger?**

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**We must let the cross change our thinking.**

## IN THE NAME OF JESUS (John 14:14)

**“ ‘If you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it’ ”  
(John 14:14, ERV).**

Jesus wasn't going to be with His followers much longer. He was going to heaven soon. Jesus' followers started to feel confused and powerless. Jesus had encouraged and supported His followers. Now they were not going to see Jesus face-to-face anymore. So, Jesus gave His followers a surprising promise to comfort them and give them hope.

Read John 14:1–14. In John 14:13, 14, Jesus promises to do for us “anything” that we ask in His name. Because of this promise, we almost always end our prayers with “In Jesus' name, amen.”



**When we ask for things  
“in the name of Jesus,”  
we can be sure that  
all heaven will help us.**

**Why do we say “In Jesus' name, amen” at the end of our prayers? What do these words mean? Why does Jesus encourage us to pray in this way? What hints do we find in the verses we just read to help us understand the important Bible truth that Jesus talks about?**

When we ask for things “in the name of Jesus,” we can be sure that all heaven will help us. We may not see the angels working all around us. But in the name of Jesus, God sends the angels from His throne of heaven. God sends His angels to answer our prayers.

Have you prayed in the name of Jesus and expected everything to be changed when you said “Amen”? Maybe you expected God to answer your prayer right away or do a miracle. While God can do powerful miracles, sometimes God answers our prayers in quiet ways that we don't expect or understand right away. Yes, Jesus commanded a storm to stop blowing. That was a powerful miracle, for sure. But sometimes God helps us in ways we don't expect. Think about how God answered Jesus' prayers in Gethsemane. Something big may not happen right away when we pray. While we wait, we can trust that God is working for us.

**Read again John 14:1–14. As you read, believe that Jesus talks to you face-to-face. What hope and encouragement do these promises give you? At the same time, ask yourself, “What things in my life block God from keeping His promises to me? What changes must I make?”**

**OUR HOPE OF WAKING UP FROM THE DEAD  
(Ephesians 1:18–23)**

We believe in the resurrection. The resurrection is the time when God will wake up His people from the dead at the Second Coming. The resurrection gives us hope. When we think about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we think about how His death made it possible for God to forgive us and accept us.

At the same time, the Resurrection shows us that God will wake us up from the dead, too. The Resurrection is important for another reason. After Jesus woke up from the dead, He sat down at the right side of His father. The place where Jesus sat shows us that Jesus has control and power. Now think about this idea: the resurrection power that woke Jesus up from the dead is the same power that God gives us today!

**In Ephesians 1:18–23, Paul talks about God's power. What do these verses teach us about the Resurrection? What hope and promises for yourself do you see in these verses?**

Paul prays that the Ephesians will understand a few things. We can understand these things, too, only with God's help: (1) God promises to change our lives. He also promises us a future of everlasting life with Jesus. Jesus invites us to have hope in these promises. (2) Paul also wants Christians to understand all the wonderful things that God and His power did, and do, for us.

Paul explains that God's power is surprising and wonderful. The power that God gives us today is the same power that woke Jesus up out of the ground and back to life. Then this same power put Jesus at the Father's right side in heaven.

But Paul doesn't stop there. (3) The Resurrection didn't only give control over everything to Jesus. The Resurrection also gave Jesus the power to offer His people every possible thing they will ever need forever!

**Do you have things in your life that only Jesus can change? Make a list of these things. When you finish your list, please pray that God's power will change all these parts of your life. At the same time, what can you do better right now? What choices can you make to allow God's power to work more fully in your life?**



**The resurrection gives us hope.**

## LET GOD CARRY YOUR HEAVY LOAD OF WORRY (1 Peter 5:7)



**We carry our problems and worries until the load gets so heavy.**

Some people have a funny sign in their homes. The sign says: “Why pray when we can worry?” Sure, this sign makes us laugh. That’s because we know how often we worry and don’t come to God to let Him solve our troubles.

But God wants to help solve our troubles. Sad to say, we carry our problems and worries until the load gets so heavy. Why do we wait until our load is about to crush us with its weight before we come to the Lord for help?

**Read 1 Peter 5:7. Peter uses a quote from Psalm 55:22 in 1 Peter 5:7. What is Peter’s message for us in 1 Peter 5:7? Also read Matthew 6:25–33.**

1 Peter 5:7 is a very simple verse. There is no mystery or secret hidden in it: “Give all your worries to him, because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7, ERV). When we give our worries to our Father in heaven, He promises to solve our problems. Jesus tells us the same thing in Matthew 6:25–33. The problem for us is not that giving our worries to God is hard. The problem is we feel that giving our worries to God just seems too easy and too good to be true.

Worry is caused by many different things. Maybe you feel pressure from your job. Or someone tells you that you’re not doing something very well and can do better. Or maybe you feel that no one wants you or loves you. We worry about money and health. Many people also feel they are not good enough for God. Some people believe they are not forgiven.

Whatever our reasons for worry are, we hold on to our problems because we think we can solve them better than anyone else can. But Peter tells us to stop thinking this way. The reason we don’t need to worry is that God cares about us. Does God care enough to stop a divorce from happening or to keep us from losing our jobs? Does God care enough to save us from feeling as if we are useless? The Bible tells us that God cares enough to change any experience in our lives if that is His plan for us!

**What things do you worry about now? Is anything too hard for the Lord to fix? Maybe you believe God can fix your problems. But you don’t believe He will solve things in the way you want them solved. How true is this for you?**



**STAYING LOYAL TO THE GOD WE CAN'T SEE**  
(Isaiah 40:27–31)

Do you sometimes think that no one cares about you? That's a very sad thought, right? What if we thought that God Himself didn't care about us? Sometimes our thoughts hurt us.

What do you think the Jews believed when Babylonian soldiers forced them to move to Babylon? The Jews thought God didn't really care about them. They felt God left them because of their sin. Isaiah gives the Jews hope. In Isaiah 40, Isaiah tells the Jews that the Lord loves them so much: "Like [the same as] a good shepherd, he takes care of his people. He gathers [carries] them like lambs in his arms. He holds them close, while their mothers walk beside him" (Isaiah 40:11, ERV). Isaiah 40 is a beautiful chapter! But it was hard for the Jews in Babylon to believe these words. The Jews kept thinking, "Where are You, O Lord? We can't see any proof that You are with us or care about us!"

**Read Isaiah 40:27–31. What does Isaiah compare God to? How do these word pictures show the Jews that God cares about them?**

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Maybe the Jews in the book of Esther also thought that God didn't care about them. God's name is not in the book of Esther. But the whole story shows us that God saves His people from a law that will destroy them. This story is a record of Jewish history. At the same time, the story is a word picture for what will happen in the future. It shows us a time when evil people will again hurt God's people and make a law to destroy them (Revelation 13:15). Even today, we may think that God forgot about us when bad things happen. But we must learn to trust. The same God who saved His people in the book of Esther will save His people again in the end times.

**Think about the way that Isaiah talked about God to the Jews in Babylon. What if you were Isaiah? What can you say to people who feel that God left them alone? How will you teach them to look to God in faith and not depend on what they see with their human eyes?**



Isaiah shows the people how much God loves them: "Like [the same as] a good shepherd, he takes care of his people" (Isaiah 40:11, ERV).

**ADDITIONAL THOUGHT:** Read Ellen G. White, “In the Days of Queen Esther,” pages 598–606, in *Prophets and Kings*.

“God will give us the Holy Spirit if we ask Him. His Spirit is real. He will guide us. Some people are afraid to trust God. They feel that trusting God is the same as expecting God to do something He hasn’t promised to do. They pray for the Lord to teach His people. But these same men are afraid to trust God’s promises or believe He has taught us already. We must come to God with an open heart. We also must be willing to learn. Then we can trust that God will keep His own promise to teach us. Don’t for one second doubt God. If you doubt Him, you will fail to show Him honor and respect. You must believe that God will lead you and guide you. Then He will bless you when you do His commands. Sure, we may not trust ourselves to be wise enough to understand God’s teachings. So, we must pray and fully trust God to help us understand. Then the Holy Spirit will lead us to understand God’s plans for us. Then we will see God’s leading and blessings in our lives.”—Ellen G. White, *Manuscript Releases*, volume 6, page 225, adapted.

“Our faith grows strong when we fight against doubt or when God gives us a test. These experiences will help our faith grow stronger. These experiences are worth more to us than expensive jewels.”—Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, volume 3, page 555, adapted.



**“We must come to God with a heart empty of all pride.”**

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1 Name some things that we can’t see that we believe are real. We know they are real, but we don’t see them with our eyes. How can these things help us understand what it means to see “Him who can’t be seen”?
- 2 What can we do to help ourselves trust in the Lord’s way, even if we want to do something else?
- 3 Read the final quote from Ellen G. White again. How may this idea help us during hard times?
- 4 Sometimes we pray and do our best. But things don’t get better. What did we learn this week that can help us understand why God allows bad things to happen?

## PART 8: MARRIED TO JESUS

**F**ather gave his heart to Jesus. Everything was peaceful at first.

Then a week later, evil spirits growled at Father in his car. The spirits told Father they were going to kill him. All of a sudden, a shadow that looked the same as a man appeared in the car. The shadow was made of three evil spirits. The shadow man showed Father a vision of a faraway light. In the light, Father saw a cross. The cross was filled with mud. The shadow man said the mud-filled cross was a sign Father was going to die. Father prayed, "Jesus, please sit beside me in the car and take me home." The shadow man disappeared in an instant.

This was the first time that Father ever asked Jesus for help. Father felt so safe. He believed that Jesus protected him. The next morning, Father went to church for the first time. The church celebrated the Lord's Supper with foot washing. Someone knelt and washed Father's feet. Father felt his sins pass away. Tears flowed down his face. Father asked God for forgiveness. Father felt that the Holy Spirit washed him clean.

A short time later, Father asked Mother to marry him. Mother was so happy. Now nothing stopped her from getting baptized.

The day before her baptism, Father and Junior went to the church to watch Mother practice singing with the choir. Father stood near a ladder. A man stood on the ladder to decorate the church. The ladder fell over. The man on the ladder fell off and knocked Father to the floor.

Father said he was fine. But then he started to scream. Two evil spirits filled him. Junior ran to Father. Father lay shaking on the ground. An evil spirit growled from his mouth. The spirit said that he meant to kill Father with the ladder.

Junior knew about the worldwide war between God and Satan. But Junior never saw it happen in real life. The choir started to sing, "Jesus Christ, You are the Bridegroom, the Planter, my Father and my Shepherd, the Expensive Pearl. Jesus, You are everything!"

Mother came over to Father and grabbed his hands. They were twisted. Mother tried to straighten them. Father's hands were very cold. The evil spirit said mean and nasty things to her.

After the church sang and prayed for Father for an hour, he felt better. He woke in a lot of pain the next morning. But he came to church to see Mother get baptized. With joy in her heart, Mother sank into the water.

Your 13th Sabbath Offering will help build eight churches in South America. Four of these churches will be built in Brazil, where Father (Eduardo Ferreira dos Santos) and his family live.

INSIDE  
*Story*  
by ANDREW MCCHESENEY



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