

God's Secret Service



*Dear Andrew,**

In recent years, reports have revealed what the secret service does. So-called whistleblowers, like Edward Snowden, have partially disclosed what is happening behind the scenes. What are the duties of the secret service? Does God also have a secret service for us, which informs us about the strategies of the enemy?

Germany's Secret Services

Germany has three secret services. The BND (Bundesnachrichtendienst – federal intelligence service) has the job of gathering information about foreign countries, which has relevance for the foreign affairs and safety policies of Germany. Both of the other secret services, but especially the Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz (Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution), gathers information in Germany, which pertains to democratic constitutional order. This sounds very positive. But the secret services use lies and deception and don't even have any qualms about using acts of violence, when it serves their purposes. Here are two examples from World War II.

A Successful Deception

The British secret service used deception to fool the German headquarters. Early on the morning of April 30, 1943, a British submarine slipped into the port of Huelva on the southwest coast of Spain. (This harbor is between Portugal and Gibraltar still on the Atlantic side.) The English had a man, who had died earlier from pneumonia, and they put him in the uniform of a major of the British navy, along with identification and other forged documents of a William Martin (e.g. receipts, a reminder from the bank about overdrawing his account and a sealed briefcase with several letters from the allied headquarters addressed to the commander in North Africa.) The corpse washed up on the beach and was found by Spanish fishermen, who immediately reported their find.

*Andrew according to the biblical Andrew in John 1:41-42.

The letters revealed that the allies would land in Greece and not in Sicily. A German secret agent made copies of all the documents found by the body, including the fake orders. When the German headquarters carefully examined the documents, they were convinced that the Allies would land in Greece. Hitler sent several divisions to Greece and withdrew warships from around Sicily and sent them to support the troops in Greece. Thus, the Allied forces were able to land in Sicily with little resistance and a minimal loss of lives. Therefore, secret services also have the job of tricking their opponents. (According to V. W. Foster, *Natürlich gesund*, Top Life Center, 1990, p. 13)

Americans were able to decode the marching orders of the enemy.

In WWII the Americans were able to eliminate the supreme commander of the Japanese naval force, Admiral Yamamoto. A few days previous, the Japanese admiral had planned to inspect the Japanese base camps on the Solomon Islands, since the battles there were entering a critical phase. The outcome of the war could depend on this. Yamamoto thoroughly and meticulously planned his tour. A detailed travel route was encrypted and sent by radio to every Japanese base, so that the admiral would receive the necessary support at each place. This was correct and sensible and yet it led to his death. Because the Americans had painstakingly recreated the Japanese code

machine and had decrypted their code. The Japanese didn't know this yet. When Yamamoto's secret plans were sent, the American secret service was listening in. Thus, the Americans knew in detail about his travel plans. A few days later on a clear April morning in 1943, the Americans sent a large squadron to meet Yamamoto's squadron. The enemy airplanes met each other near the island of Bougainville. The Japanese had no chance against the superior numbers and were shot down and the supreme commander of the navy was dead. Because the enemy had decoded their travel plans. During war, the secret services want to know everything about the strategical and tactical plans of their opponents. And moreover, when they can eliminate a leading officer, then even better. (See L. R. Walton, *Entscheidung am Jordan*, Advent-Verlag Schweiz, p. 10)

Information from God's Secret Service

We are also in the middle of a global war. We call it "the great controversy between light and darkness". Are secret services mentioned in the Bible?

In 2 Kings 6:8-10 the story is told of how the Syrians tried to ambush the Israelites several times, but the Israelites were able to avoid the danger every time. Verses 11 and 12 (NKJV):
"Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, 'Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?' And one of

his servants said, 'None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.'" Yes, the Syrian commander was aware that there was a prophet in the land of Israel. Elisha was able to warn the king about the planned ambushes. God doesn't need secret services. He knows everything. And He can inform His children through the gift of prophecy about impending danger.

There is a war against Seventh-Day Adventists

Revelation 12:17 (NKJV) shows us an extremely important thought: *"And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."* Satan is warring against the last church, which keeps God's commandments and has the gift of prophecy, however **without a declaration of war**. Why? Because he works through seducement.

Divine Help for the Last Church

A few verses further in Revelation 19:10 we find what the testimony of Jesus is: the gift of prophecy – real prophecy. The text in Revelation 12 also tells us against whom the dragon's special attack is directed. The image of a pure and loyal woman represents God's church. The dragon's attack is directed against *"the rest of her offspring"*.

The rest – those are always the last ones. Thus, the dragon's attack is directed against God's church in the last days. But God has given this church an important piece of advice. In 2 Chronicles 20:20 (NKJV) it says: *"Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper."*

Our Lord tells us how we can be established/upheld and prosper. For this, we must trust Him and His prophets. The general will of God for all people is written in His Word – we need to heed this. Why does God additionally expect us to believe His prophets?

Because special situations and developments arise at certain times and God wants to warn His children about current dangers in their situation. Amos 3:7 (NKJV) says: *"Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets."*

Therefore, our great God doesn't inform each church member directly, but rather He uses the prophets as His messengers and they pass on His instructions to the church.

Do we live under special circumstances?

Yes, definitely:

1. The great change in human thinking. We don't even have to study the history of the past 200 years. Each one of us has personally experienced how human thinking has changed. In the past 50-70 years belief in God has been lost and as a result standards and many values have deteriorated, causing families to fall apart and society to collapse. And if "artificial intelligence" and the massive use of "social media" can improve things is extremely doubtful.

2. The development of diseases caused by wrong lifestyles.
3. The second coming of Jesus is now closer than it was in the past centuries. Climate changes, hunger catastrophes, wars, pandemics and doomsday scenarios are more and more frequent. But also, the global proclamation of the gospel has made great progress!

That's why God has supplemented and explained Bible prophecies through a prophet with current details, because He wants us:

1. to preach the "eternal gospel", so that people will learn about His love and His offer of salvation.
2. to get along better in a greatly changed situation and to stay healthy.
3. to better recognize the special dangers in the final phase of the great controversy.

God has revealed through the prophetic word the strategy of the dragon in the last days.

Through the Bible-believing Christian Ellen G. White, God has revealed a few concrete details about Satan's strategy:

Influence Pastors

"I [says the dragon] will **influence popular ministers** to turn the attention of their hearers from the commandments of God. That which the Scriptures declare to be a perfect law of liberty shall be represented as a yoke of bondage. The people accept their minister's explanations of Scripture and do not investigate for themselves. Therefore, by working through the ministers, I can control the people according to my will." (Ellen G. White, *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 472.4)

Satan wants to wear down the church from the inside through **deception and temptation**. He advises his agents, the fallen angels of God:

"But before proceeding to these extreme measures, we must exert all our wisdom and subtlety to **deceive and ensnare** those who honor the true Sabbath. We can separate many from Christ by worldliness, lust, and pride. They may think themselves safe because they believe the truth, but indulgence of appetite or the lower passions, which will confuse judgment and destroy discrimination, will cause their fall." (*Ibid*, p. 473.2)

Led Astray by Carnal Christians

"Through those that have a form of godliness but know not the power, we can gain many who would otherwise do us harm. [Who are the people who don't know the power of God? Aren't they the carnal Christians?] Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God will be our most effective helpers." (*Ibid*, p. 474.1)

Talented and Intelligent People Serve as Decoys

“Those of this class who are apt and intelligent will serve as decoys to draw others into our snares. Many will not fear their influence, because they profess the same faith. We will thus lead them to conclude that the requirements of Christ are less strict than they once believed, and that by conformity to the world they would exert a greater influence with worldlings. Thus they will separate from Christ; then they will have no strength to resist our power, and ere long they will be ready to ridicule their former zeal and devotion.” (*Ibid*, p. 474.1)

False Teachings Mixed with Truth

“We must be present at all their gatherings ... I will have upon the ground, as my agents, men holding false doctrines mingled with just enough truth to deceive souls. I will also have unbelieving ones present who will express doubts in regard to the Lord's messages of warning to His church. Should the people read and believe these admonitions, we could have little hope of overcoming them. But if we can divert their attention from these warnings, they will remain ignorant of our power and cunning, and we shall secure them in our ranks at last.” (*Ibid*, p. 474.2- 475.1)

Deception about the Gift of Prophecy

“The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God [the gift of prophecy is meant] ...

There will be a hatred kindled against the testimonies* which is satanic. The workings of Satan will be to unsettle the faith of the churches in them, for this reason: Satan cannot have so clear a track to bring in his deceptions and bind up souls in his delusions if the warnings and reproofs and counsels of the Spirit of God are heeded.” (Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages, book 1*, p. 48.3-4) (*Testimonies = personal letters to different church members, whom God corrected and warned through Ellen White. These were collected and arranged by topic in several books without disclosing the people's names.)

Therefore:

The dragon works in a similar fashion to the secret services. He is cunning and devious and tries to fool us. In addition, he does everything in his power to terminate loyal watchmen. He ensures that people don't personally read and believe, but rather that they just accept what is said. He especially works through people, who do not implement what they have learned through God's power and don't live as followers of Jesus. Satan wants to discredit the gift of prophecy at all costs, since God has warned us with these concrete prophecies and wants to continue to lead us.

Further Last Day Information

Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV): “*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*”

How can we protect ourselves?

With God's armor (Ephesians 6:10-20 and 1 John 5:18).

Why is it necessary for us to warn each other about certain dangers and pray for our leaders? In Revelation 12:17 it says that Satan has a great wrath against the "remnant".

2 Chronicles 20:20 (NKJV): *"Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper."*

We trust God by believing what He has demonstrated and revealed by His messengers, the prophets. Because He has promised: *"Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets."* (Amos 3:7 NKJV)

Summary: God gave an update. It was necessary because:

1. the thoughts and lives of people in the last 200 years have changed dramatically through industrialization, digitalization and mass media.
2. the second coming of Jesus is getting closer and closer and is apparent through different symptoms, i.e. environmental disasters, hunger, epidemics, destruction scenarios with atomic war, but also by worldwide mission efforts.

3. the church should get fit in order to preach the last message of warning, so that all people can hear about the love of God and how they can be saved.
4. church members have to know how they can preserve their health under the greatly changed living circumstances.
5. we have to see through Satan's strategies and dangerous tricks so that we are better protected in the great controversy between Christ and Satan.

Specific aims, which Satan and his agents have:

He wants to

- a) undermine faith in the Bible and prophetic messages (also from Ellen White). Because he is unmasked in these writings.
- b) ensnare the leaders of God's work and lead them away from being faithful.
- c) infiltrate the church with unconverted, half-converted and egoistically influenced "Christians", whether they think very conservatively or are rather liberal.
- d) lead through the disregard of prophetic writings to the disregard of the Holy Spirit. "Rejecting the prophets' words is rejecting the instruction of the Holy Spirit. The result ... the withdrawal of Christ's presence and the tyranny of evil.

Protective Measures:

- a) Read and study the Bible daily and implement what has been learned.
- b) Take the additional information seriously that God has revealed through the gift of prophecy (i.e. Ellen White).
- c) Pray especially for our leaders.
- d) Through daily surrender and constant contact to Jesus through the Holy Spirit contribute to strengthening and reviving the church by cultivating loving friendships with church members and sensitively and intelligently caring for acquaintances and neighbors so that they desire to know Jesus.*

Delusion in the Last Days

While preaching about a life with the Holy Spirit and distributing corresponding literature, I have noticed the following:

Many – often whole churches – receive this message with great longing. They hear the message with wonder and joy.

Others seem to have a Laodicean-viewpoint, assuming they have understood the import of the topic. Their attitude gives the impression: “no need”. And again, others say they have no time to bother themselves with this topic.

This shows that behind our central problem – the lack of the Holy Spirit – there is another serious problem: The Bible calls it “blindness”.

What is blindness?

God's Word says in 2 Corinthians 4:3-4: *“But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.”*

Blinded can mean: to obscure, to cover visibility. It can also mean: to delude or bewitch. This means that the view is obscured and a person is impressed or distracted by a false view and thinks it is correct.

Does Satan succeed in concealing the view or conveying a false view only to unbelievers? Doesn't he also have good chances with carnal Christians? Doesn't he even try it with the elect? (Matthew 24:24b) Can the evil one even “blind” us?

Ellen G. White says: “Sin no longer appears repulsive because you are blinded by Satan.” (*Testimony Treasures, vol. 2, p. 75.2*)

Meanwhile, could such blindness be the general trend? Don't the Laodicean Christians also belong to the unbelievers, who in reality don't maintain a personal relationship with Jesus?

If they don't change their mindset and don't include Jesus in their personal thoughts, plans, desires and actions, then they will be lost (Revelation 3:16,20).

Jesus describes the “no need attitude” in Revelation 3:17 (NKJV) *“Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’ – and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.”*

* Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide, 4th Quarter 1989, Dr. Phillip G. Samaan, comments on question 8 in lesson 2.

Jesus counsels the “no need attitude” in Revelation 3:18 (NKJV): *“I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.”*

In the Bible gold means saving faith (1 Peter 1:7), a vibrant trust in God, which is active through love. White garments mean the perfect righteousness / uprightness of Christ, which is given to believers through forgiveness and reconciliation with God (Revelation 6:11; 7:9; 19:8; Romans 8:4). What do we need the eye salve for? Clearly, it is the Holy Spirit, because only He can heal a false viewpoint and operate away the “haze of cataracts” from our eyes.

The Central Problem of Laodicea

Jesus says in Revelation 3:20: *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”* Jesus ascertains that the believers in Laodicea haven't really let Him in their “hearts” (= thoughts, feelings, desires, actions). He is standing outside “in front of the door”.

This shows the critical problem: He hasn't been accepted as God, Creator, Redeemer and Lord in their lives (John 1:12-13). Have you let Him in as Lord of your life? Will you joyfully submit to His loving guidance in all things?

Our faith and our trust in God are required for our complete surrender to Christ. Jesus' righteousness is given to those, in whose hearts HE lives through the Holy Spirit. Thereby, the false viewpoint is healed.

This is a fundamental and subsequently an essential daily procedure (Luke 9:23; 2 Corinthians 4:16).

No one should worry about the consequences of a complete surrender and about a life with Christ through the Holy Spirit. This is an attractive faith, the best faith that there is. Whoever experiences this, will never want to go back. Please take my advice: take the time and cultivate a life with close contact with the Holy Spirit – a life in the Spirit.

What can we do for those people who haven't yet taken this matter seriously? Dennis Smith says:* “An important question, then, is How can this unveiling happen in the lives of the lost? Intercessory prayer will remove from the mind of the unbeliever the veil causing spiritual blindness.”

It can remove a veil of spiritual blindness from unbelievers. Their false perceptions and thoughts are like a fortress that Satan has erected in their minds.

* For more information see: Dennis Smith, *40 Days Prayers and Devotions to Prepare for the Second Coming*, Day 23, p. 111

But the wonderful news is: God has empowered His followers to tear down Satan's strongholds and bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ (according to 2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

Another thought to "no time to bother myself with the topic". Make your quiet time in the morning your priority over everything else. Put first things first and you will find that you have lost no time, but rather the opposite – you gain time (Matthew 6:33)!

The Laodicean attitude is deadly if it isn't changed.

Let us take a close look at our personal spiritual life: *"But let a man examine himself..."* (1 Corinthians 11:28 NKJV) Let us pray for those, who we have the impression that they control their lives with egoistic wishes instead of letting the Holy Spirit lead their lives.

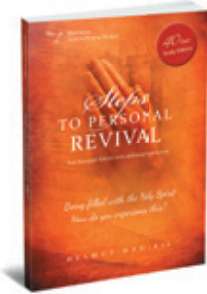
Are you astounded by the great significance of the prophetic mission in the last days? What is its significance in your life?

I wish you much clarity for these important questions!

Best wishes and blessings,

Helmut

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BOOK 1: STEPS TO PERSONAL REVIVAL

Being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Our lord himself has given the command:¹ Let yourselves be consistently and repeatedly filled anew with the spirit!²

1 Ellen G. White, *Mount of Blessing*, MB 20.3 (egwwritings.org)

2 Johannes Mager, *Auf den Spuren des Heiligen Geistes* (Lüneburg, 1999), p. 101

www.steps-to-personal-revival.info

FOREWORD FOR LEADERS AND FUTURE LEADERS MULTIPLYING THE RESULTS

CHAPTER 1: JESUS' MOST PRECIOUS GIFT

What did Jesus teach about the Holy Spirit?

Are you acquainted with Jesus' most powerful message?

CHAPTER 2: WHAT IS THE CENTER OF OUR PROBLEMS?

Is there a spiritual cause to our problems? Is the cause a lack of the Holy Spirit?

What is the main problem with being a carnal Christian?

CHAPTER 3: OUR PROBLEMS ARE SOLVABLE

What is God's solution for our problems? How can we grow to be happy and strong Christians? What is the relationship between baptism and the Holy Spirit?

CHAPTER 4: WHAT DIFFERENCES CAN WE EXPECT?

What advantage do we have with a life filled with the Holy Spirit

What do we lose when we don't pray for the Holy Spirit?

CHAPTER 5: THE KEY TO PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

How can I implement and experience God's solution for me?

How should I pray so that I am sure of being filled with the Holy Spirit?

CHAPTER 6: WHAT EXPERIENCES LIE AHEAD OF US?

Personal experiences, as well as experiences from churches, a conference and a union

CHAPTER 7: INTEREST AND SHARING

The Joy that we give returns to our own hearts. (German Proverb)

How can I help others to experience "Life in Abundance"?

How do we pass on the message? Which ways are there?

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BOOK 2: STEPS TO PERSONAL REVIVAL

ABIDE IN JESUS – HOW DO YOU DO THAT?

“Abide in Me, and I in you.” Abiding in Christ means a constant receiving of His Spirit, a life of unreserved surrender to His service.

Ellen G. White (*Desire of Ages, DA, p.676.2*)

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Abiding in Him is not a work that we have to do as a condition in order to enjoy His salvation. Rather it is our consent to let Him do everything for us, in us, and through us. It is a work He does for us – the result and the power of His redeeming love. Our part is simply to yield, to trust, and to wait for Him to accomplish what He has promised. (Andrew Murray)

CHAPTER 1: JESUS’ MOST PRECIOUS GIFT

Are you acquainted with Jesus’ most powerful message?

What functions does the Holy Spirit have?

How can our character be changed?

Jesus on the Holy Spirit in the Parable. About the Leaven

CHAPTER 2: SURRENDER TO JESUS

Do I lose my own will? Or will I become stronger? What can prevent us from surrendering?

Does surrender to God mean that we have to give up our own will?

CHAPTER 3: JESUS ABIDING IN YOU

What effects does “Christ in me” have on my life?

The ultimate achievement: being imbued with the fullness of God.

The Effects of “Christ in you”. How do we get deliverance from the power of sin?

Will we become “carnal” again by sinning?

CHAPTER 4: OBEDIENCE THROUGH JESUS?

How can I live in joyful obedience? What is joy? How does obedience through “Jesus in me” work?

God has designed: Collaboration between God and Man.

CHAPTER 5: ATTRACTIVE FAITH THROUGH JESUS

How can oneness be achieved among believers?

What makes our faith appealing to our family and the world?

What changes in us make us witnesses? How does revival generate mission?

