

# THE TEACHINGS OF MORRIS VENDEN

## HARVEST INSPIRATION DISCOVERIES LECTURE SERIES

[WWW.PRODISCOVERIES.COM](http://WWW.PRODISCOVERIES.COM)

### CHAPTER FIVE: GENUINE OBEDIENCE IS NATURAL?

#### Table of Contents

<b>LISTING OF VENDEN'S BOOKS-MAGAZINES-CAMPMEETING TRANSCRIPTS.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b><i>BOOKS INCLUDED IN THIS TOPICAL STUDY.....</i></b>	<b>1</b>
<b><i>MAGAZINE ARTICLES INCLUDED IN THIS TOPICAL STUDY.....</i></b>	<b>2</b>
<b><i>CAMPMEETING SERIES TRANSCRIPTS INCLUDED IN THIS TOPICAL STUDY .....</i></b>	<b>2</b>
<b>CHAPTER 5: GENUINE OBEDIENCE IS NATURAL? .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b><i>IMPULSIVE OBEDIENCE - GENUINE OBEDIENCE IS NATURAL.....</i></b>	<b>2</b>
<b>OBEDIENCE YES, BUT ONLY SPONTANEOUSLY.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>IMPULSIVE OBEDIENCE.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SPONTANEOUS OVERCOMING: HOW TO OVERCOME ALCOHOLISM.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SPONTANEOUS FAITH: FAITH IS TOTALLY SPONTANEOUS .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>AUTOMATIC FAITH.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>FAITH A SPONTANEOUS QUALITY .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>DEEPENING FAITH: DON'T EXPECT HELP.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>DON'T TRY TO INCREASE FAITH.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>BELIEVING: WORKING ON FAITH.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>MAKING YOURSELF BELIEVE SOMETHING.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ABUNDANCE OF FORGIVENESS: FALSE OBEDIENCE.....</b>	<b>4</b>

## LISTING OF VENDEN'S BOOKS-MAGAZINES-CAMPMEETING TRANSCRIPTS

### BOOKS INCLUDED IN THIS TOPICAL STUDY

[SBF] - "Salvation by Faith and Your Will," Morris L. Venden, Southern Publishing Association, 1978, 128 pages, paperback.

[FTW] - "Faith that Works," Morris L. Venden, Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1980, 375 pages, hardback.

[ROE] - "The Return of Elijah," Morris L. Venden, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1982, 110 pages, paperback.

[DO] - "Defeated Demons," Morris L. Venden, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1982, 16 pages, paperback booklet.

[GN] - "Good News and Bad News About the Judgment," Morris L. Venden, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1982, 96 pages, paperback.

[TP] - "The Pillars," Morris L. Venden, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1982, 109 pages, paperback.

[MCR] - "How to Make Christianity Real," Morris Venden, Concerned Communications, 1982, 168 pages, paperback.

[OOF] - "Obedience of Faith," Morris Venden, Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1983, 95 pages, paperback.

[TKG] - "To Know God," Morris Venden, Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1983, 125 pages, paperback.

[NWI]- "Never Without an Intercessor." (Boise, ID: Pacific Press Publishing Assn, 1996).

**I've added the review of this book at the end of this document.**

### **MAGAZINE ARTICLES INCLUDED IN THIS TOPICAL STUDY**

[TTI-1] - "Morris Venden Talks to Insight, Part 1," Morris Venden and Editor, "Insight" Magazine, May 8, 1979, pages 7-11.

[TTI-2] - "Morris Venden Talks to Insight, Part 2," Morris Venden and Editor, "Insight" Magazine, May 15, 1979, pages 6-11.

[TCT] - "The Christmas Tree," Morris L. Venden, "Adventist Review," December 24, 1981, pages 4-5.

[SAS] - "What Jesus said about sanctification," Morris L. Venden, "Ministry" Magazine, January, 1982, pages 6-7.

[SAFR] - "What Jesus said about faith and relationship," Morris L. Venden, "Ministry" Magazine, March, 1982, pages 8-9.

[SAH] - "What Jesus said about Himself," Morris L. Venden, "Ministry" Magazine, May, 1982, pages 18-19.

[JSAP] - "What Jesus said about perfection," Morris L. Venden, "Ministry" Magazine, July, 1982, pages 8-9.

[SAPJ] - "What Jesus said about a pre-Advent judgment," Morris L. Venden, "Ministry" Magazine, September, 1982, pages 14-16.

[SITP] - "What Jesus said about the prophets," Morris L. Venden, "Ministry" Magazine, November, 1982, pages 22-23.

### **CAMPMEETING SERIES TRANSCRIPTS INCLUDED IN THIS TOPICAL STUDY**

[1-7 AUC CM] - Sermon Series at Atlantic Union Conference Campmeeting, Summer, 1979. (This was a seven-part lecture series, and each sermon is numbered: 1 AUC CM, 2 AUC CM, etc.)

Of the above materials, "Good News and Bad News About the Judgment," and "The Pillars," are among Venden's best books, for they tend to deal with doctrinal aspects on which he is more in agreement with traditional Adventism. To these two books should be added nearly all of the August through December sections of "Faith that Works." By the end of July, Venden had covered the means of salvation and had turned to other topics. Thinking, doubtless, that his audience was smaller, he gave some unusual material in his "Insight" articles and AUC Camp meeting Series. Seven of his nine published books were issued since 1981.

## **CHAPTER 5: GENUINE OBEDIENCE IS NATURAL?**

### **IMPULSIVE OBEDIENCE - GENUINE OBEDIENCE IS NATURAL**

"Genuine obedience is natural. Natural obedience comes as a result of the faith relationship." FTW, 183.

**[By this, Morrie means that genuine obedience comes naturally and spontaneously by itself. It will come easy to all who are "in Christ," without any effort on their part, ever.]**

### **OBEDIENCE YES, BUT ONLY SPONTANEOUSLY**

"Obedience is possible. Obedience is necessary. Obedience is important. If, we depend upon Jesus as He depended upon His Father, we will have Him dwelling in us and obedience will come naturally, spontaneously." FTW, 186. .

### **IMPULSIVE OBEDIENCE**

"There is only one true kind of obedience. It is obedience that comes from being controlled by God. That sounds like impulsive obedience to me. Do you like the sound of impulsive obedience? Would I have to try hard to obey? I would have to try hard not to obey." 5 AUC CM.

### **SPONTANEOUS OVERCOMING: HOW TO OVERCOME ALCOHOLISM**

"Because of her absolute surrender, her longing for drink left her completely. Why was this possible? Because she had admitted her sin and given up on herself and God could help her when she came to that point.

"Perhaps our problems aren't as noticeable as Alice's, but the principle remains the same. We cannot do anything ourselves apart from Christ. Yet we often hinder His power to help us by getting in the way."

"You see, there are two ways to fight God. There's the atheistic way in which the person says, 'I'm against God. In fact, I'm not even sure He exists. I'm fighting the idea that He cares about us and is active in our world.'

"The more subtle way is getting involved in His work, His business, trying to get His job done yourself." MCR, 130.

### **SPONTANEOUS FAITH: FAITH IS TOTALLY SPONTANEOUS**

"One of the greatest evidences of genuine faith is that it is totally spontaneous. It is not something that we work on or something that we work up. If we could get that one point straight, it would save us from accepting the counterfeit faith so prevalent today." OOF, 19.

### **AUTOMATIC FAITH**

"The methods of becoming acquainted with God are the elements of a vital devotional life. And when I am in a meaningful relationship with God, day by day, I learn to trust Him automatically, spontaneously, naturally. This is faith, trusting in its highest sense." MCR, 34.

### **FAITH A SPONTANEOUS QUALITY**

"What we need to remember is that faith is never something we work on or something we work up. It is never self-generated. It is a spontaneous quality that comes from knowing God. Therefore, we don't put our attention toward getting faith, we put our attention toward knowing God, and the faith comes naturally." ROE, 101.

### **DEEPENING FAITH: DON'T EXPECT HELP**

"Some have thought that the way to exercise faith is to force yourself to believe that something out of the ordinary is going to happen, or to get yourself into a bind, and then try to believe that God will help you out. But it is not exercising faith to write a rubber check, for example, and then wait to cover it. That's presumption. Any time that we attempt to increase our faith by struggling hard to make ourselves believe a certain thing is going to occur, we are not really exercising faith." OOF, 20.

### **DON'T TRY TO INCREASE FAITH**

"Faith is a very misunderstood word. There are people who think that faith is something you work up, something you generate yourself. But I'd like to propose that faith is never worked up by the person, faith is the gift of God." TKG, 71.

### **BELIEVING: WORKING ON FAITH**

"Genuine faith is never something that is worked up mentally. Try to make yourself believe something will happen, get yourself out on a limb, so God will work, pray for the sick, take their hand and say, 'Get up and walk.' But what if it doesn't happen?" 2 AUC CM.

### **MAKING YOURSELF BELIEVE SOMETHING**

"The common denominator or counterfeit faith, regardless of what form it takes, is the idea that you can make yourself believe something and that if you believe hard enough this will cause God to move. It boils down to a type of mental gymnastics, or positive thinking, and perhaps its greatest danger is that it inevitably becomes self-centered, just as working hard on trying to overcome your sins makes you become self-centered." MCR, 23,24.

### **ABUNDANCE OF FORGIVENESS: FALSE OBEDIENCE.**

"Shall we never (in this campmeeting series) talk about obedience? Yes, because there is false faith and false obedience and so we must talk about it. There is a nominal faith of most of the Christian world. That's why Ellen White talks so much about obedience. But if you have genuine faith, and if you believe by faith that you are genuinely forgiven, you don't ever have to worry about 'cheap grace,' as some people call it. [Luke 17:3-4] If I trespass against God seven times in a day, that He will turn. and forgive me seven times in a day? Do you believe that? Oh, won't that lead to cheap grace? Can you hear the 'cheap grace people' saying, 'That's good news; live it up, do what you want and so on.' Is that what happens?. God's forgiveness is unlimited for anyone who comes to Him. The more we are forgiven, the more we love and the more we love, the more we will keep His commandments." 3 AUC CM.

NOTE: ANY REFERENCES NOTED WILL BE FOUND IN THE MAIN DOCUMENT