

*Part 5*

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# Competitive Christianity: Sports and Spirituality

The Impact of Competition on  
our Righteousness by Faith  
Experience

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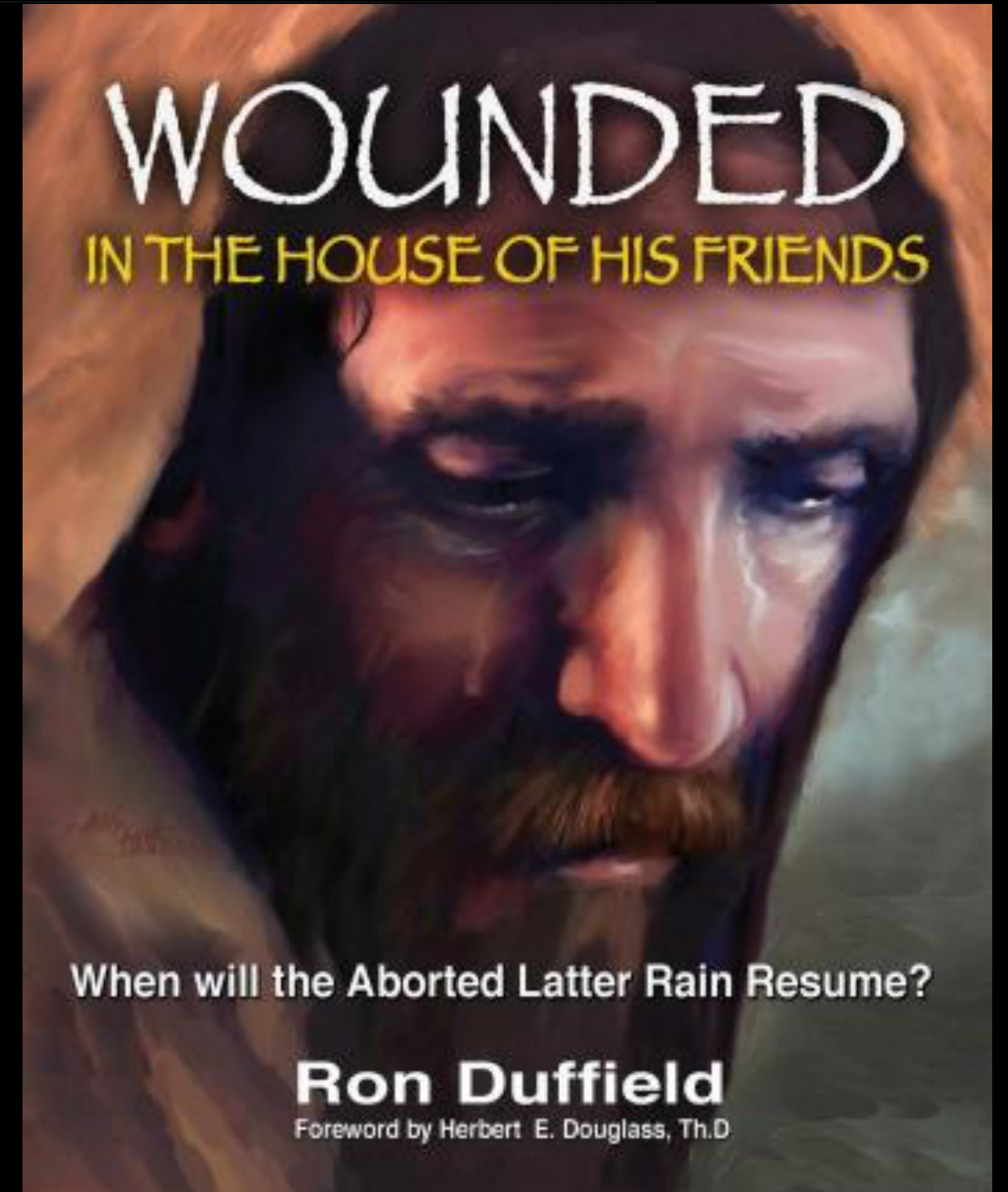


# 1893 General Conference Session

## Wounded in the House of His Friends

By Ron Duffield

Chapters 7-9



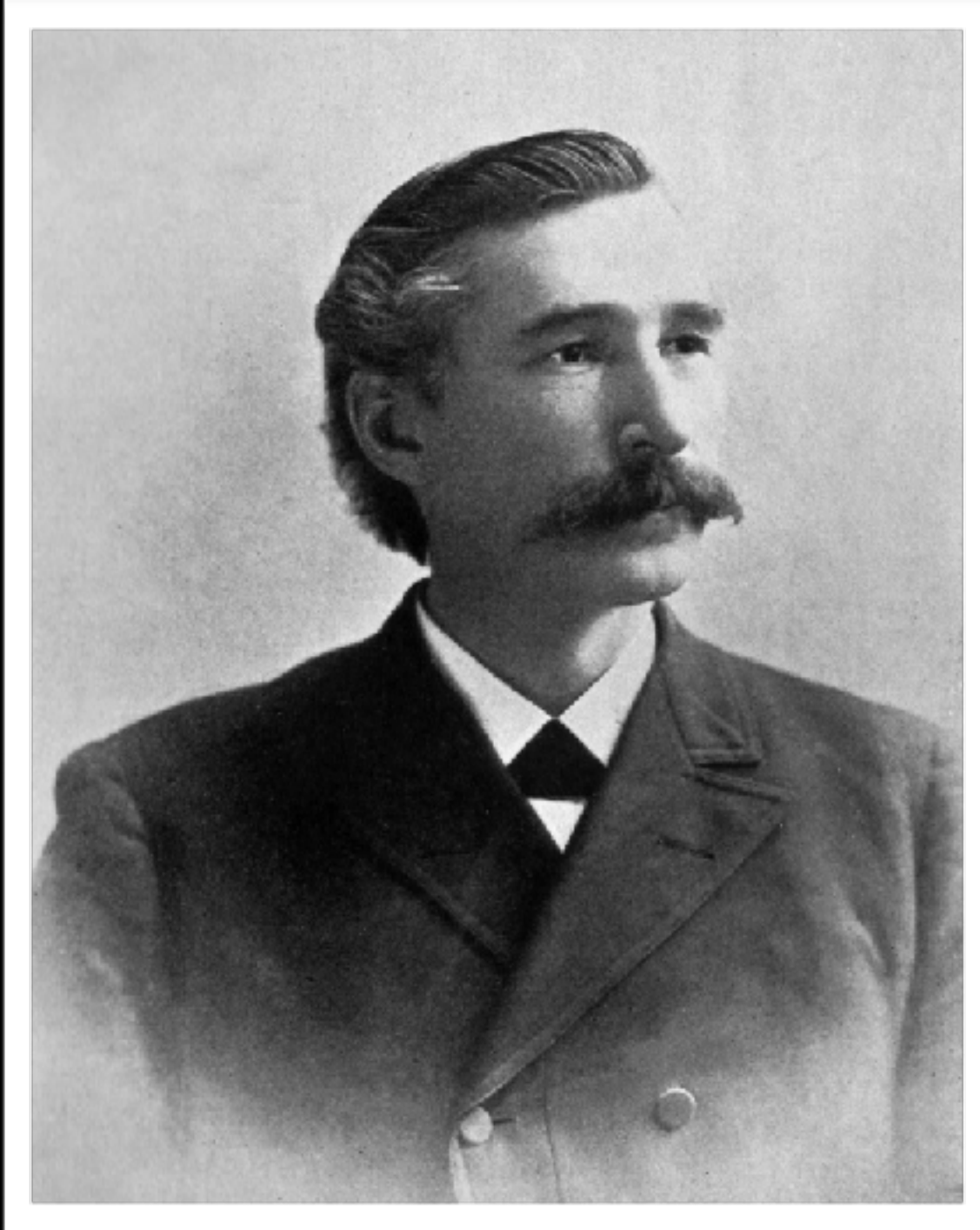
# 1893 General Conference Session

- ❖ 13th Session of the General Conference
- ❖ Battle Creek, MI beginning February 17, 1893
- ❖ 120 Delegates from Australia, Great Britain, Central Europe, Scandinavia, and South Africa
- ❖ One of the greatest sessions ever held in our church





## Powerful Preaching Revealing Our True Condition

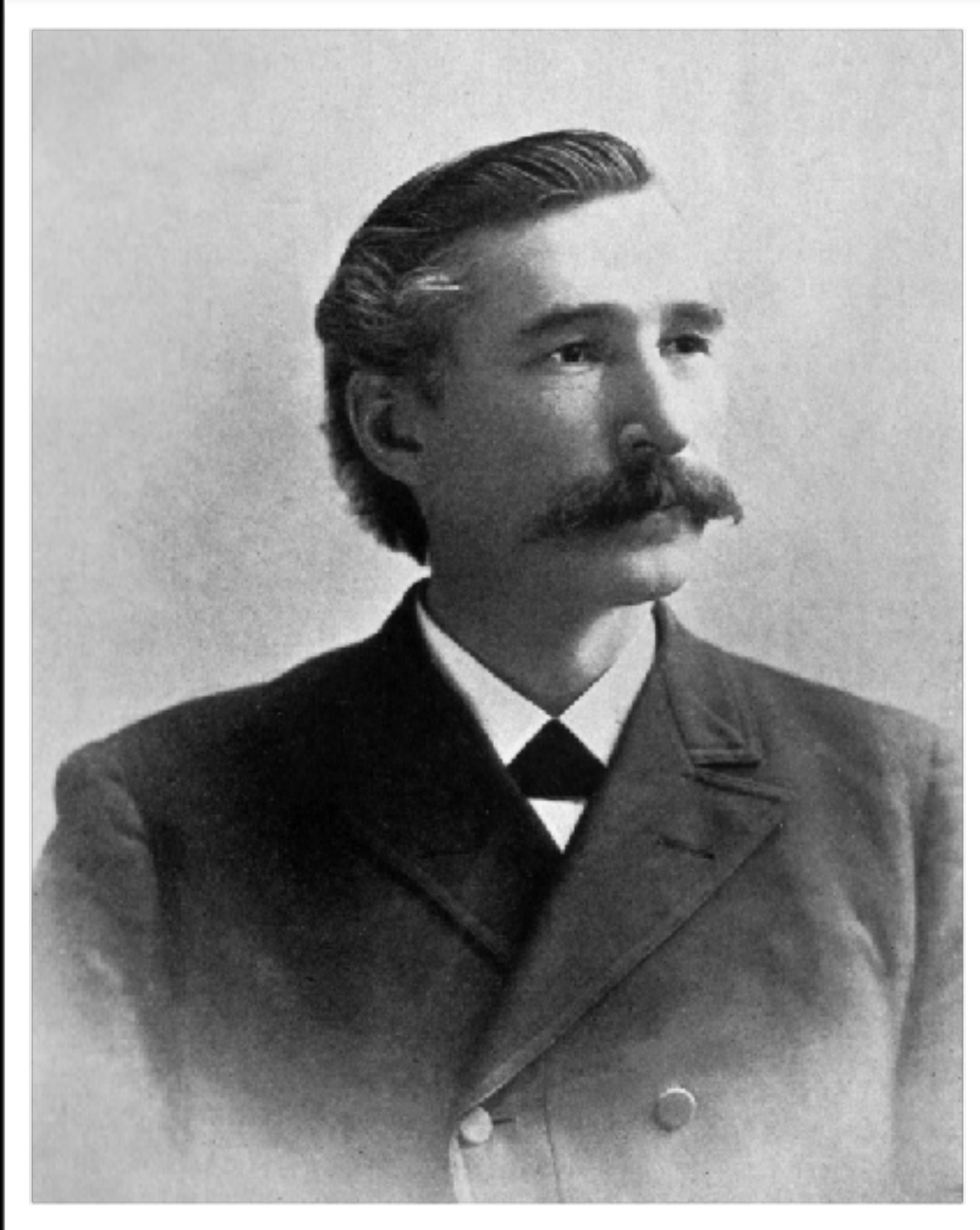


*Elder A.T. Jones*

**“Many who have a nominal connection with the truth do not fully appreciate it. If they did, there would be an abandonment of self, a laying hold of divine power, and a seeking for a living connection with God that would take no denial. We pray that this may be more and more impressed upon every heart.”**

*Duffield, pg 134-135*

# Powerful Preaching Revealing Our True Condition



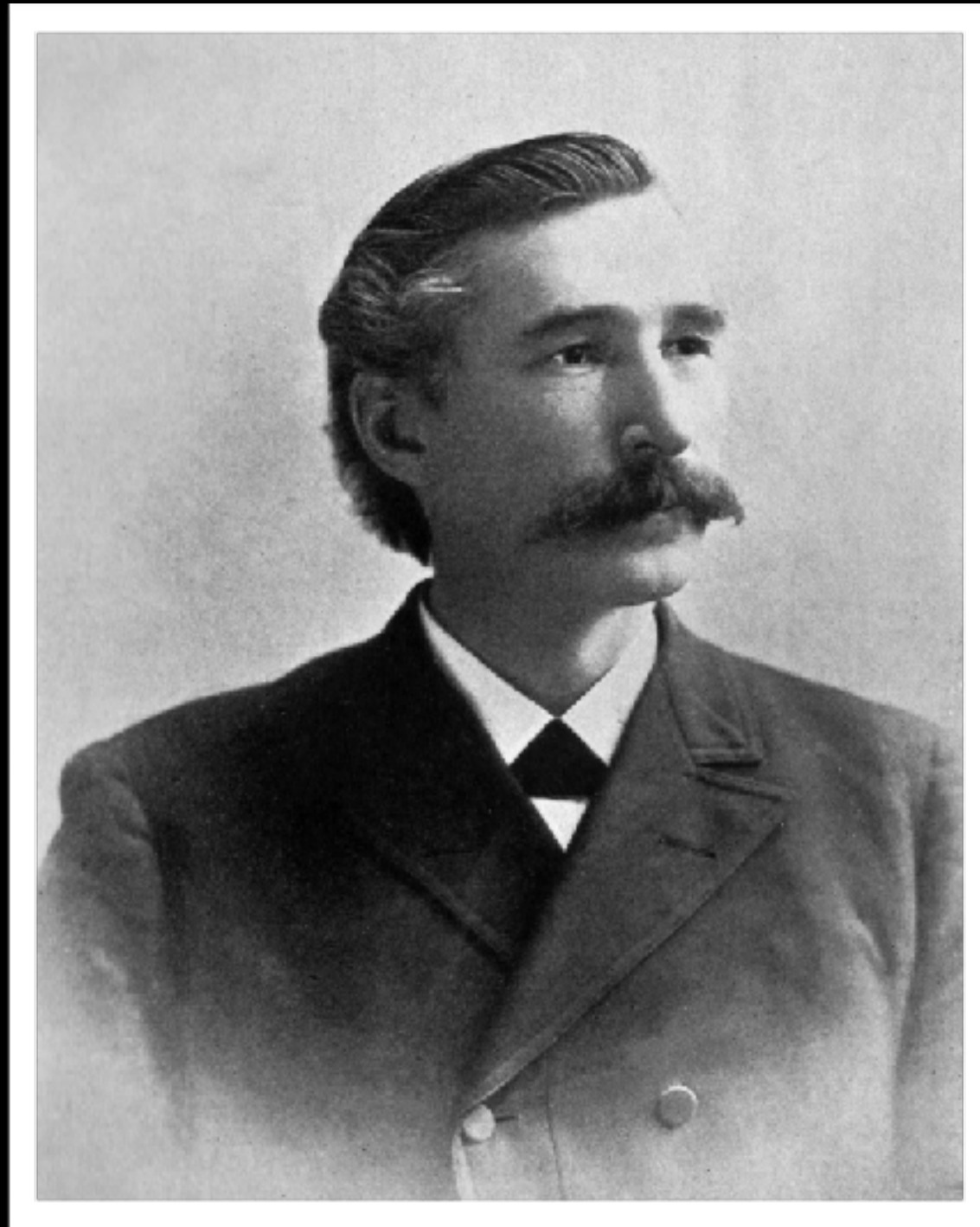
*Elder A.T. Jones*

**“Brethren - if Christ is dwelling in a man’s heart, he will find works to do. Don’t be anxious about works; find the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will find work, more than you can do.”**

*Duffield, pg 134*



## Powerful Preaching Revealing Our True Condition

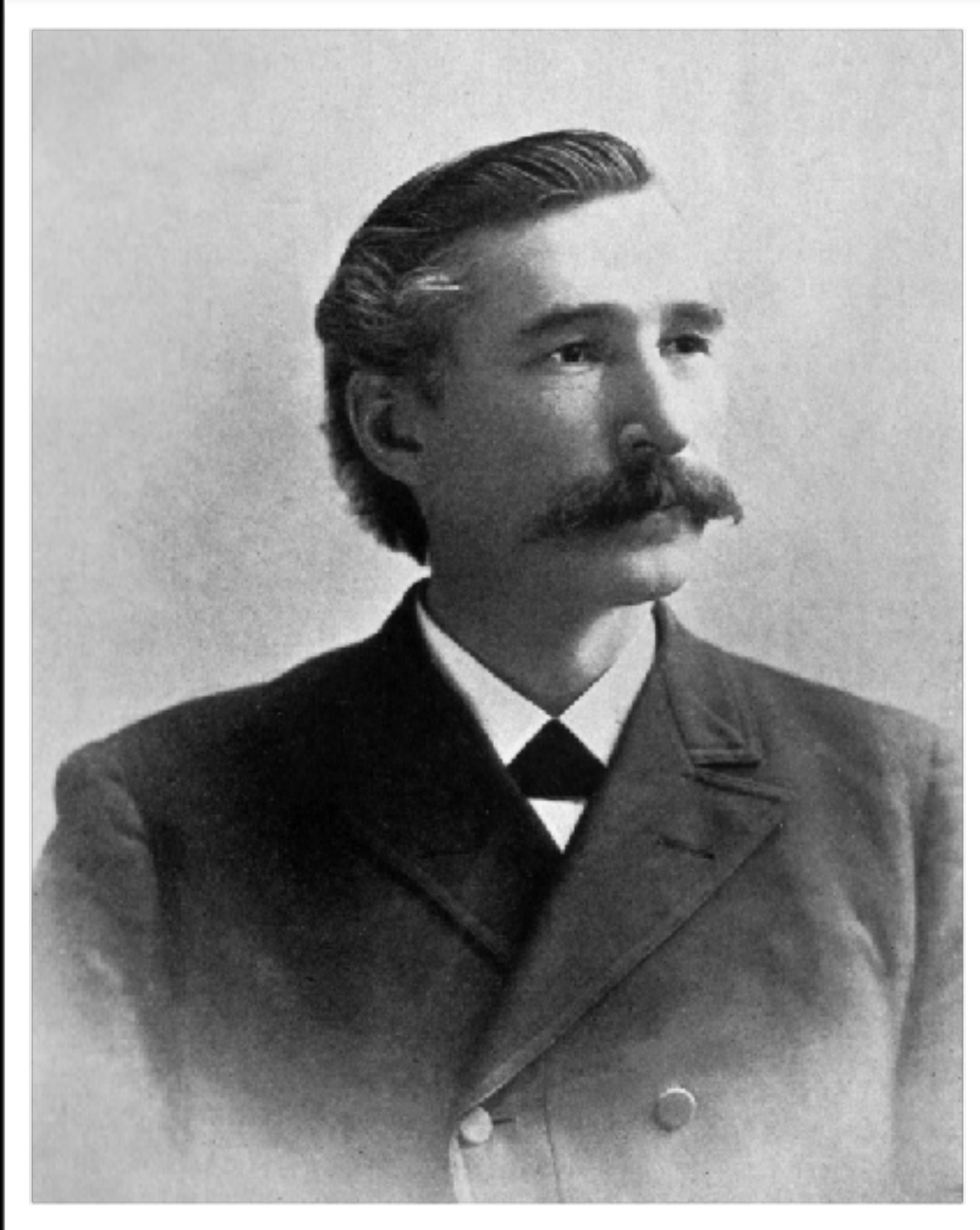


*Elder A.T. Jones*

**"But there has been one great trouble with us as individuals, and it has been plainly set before us in the Laodicean message. We have felt ourselves so rich and increased with goods, that we have not realized our need of God. O, that a sense of soul poverty might come to every heart! That is the redeeming quality, brethren."**

*Duffield, pg 135*

# Powerful Preaching Revealing Our True Condition



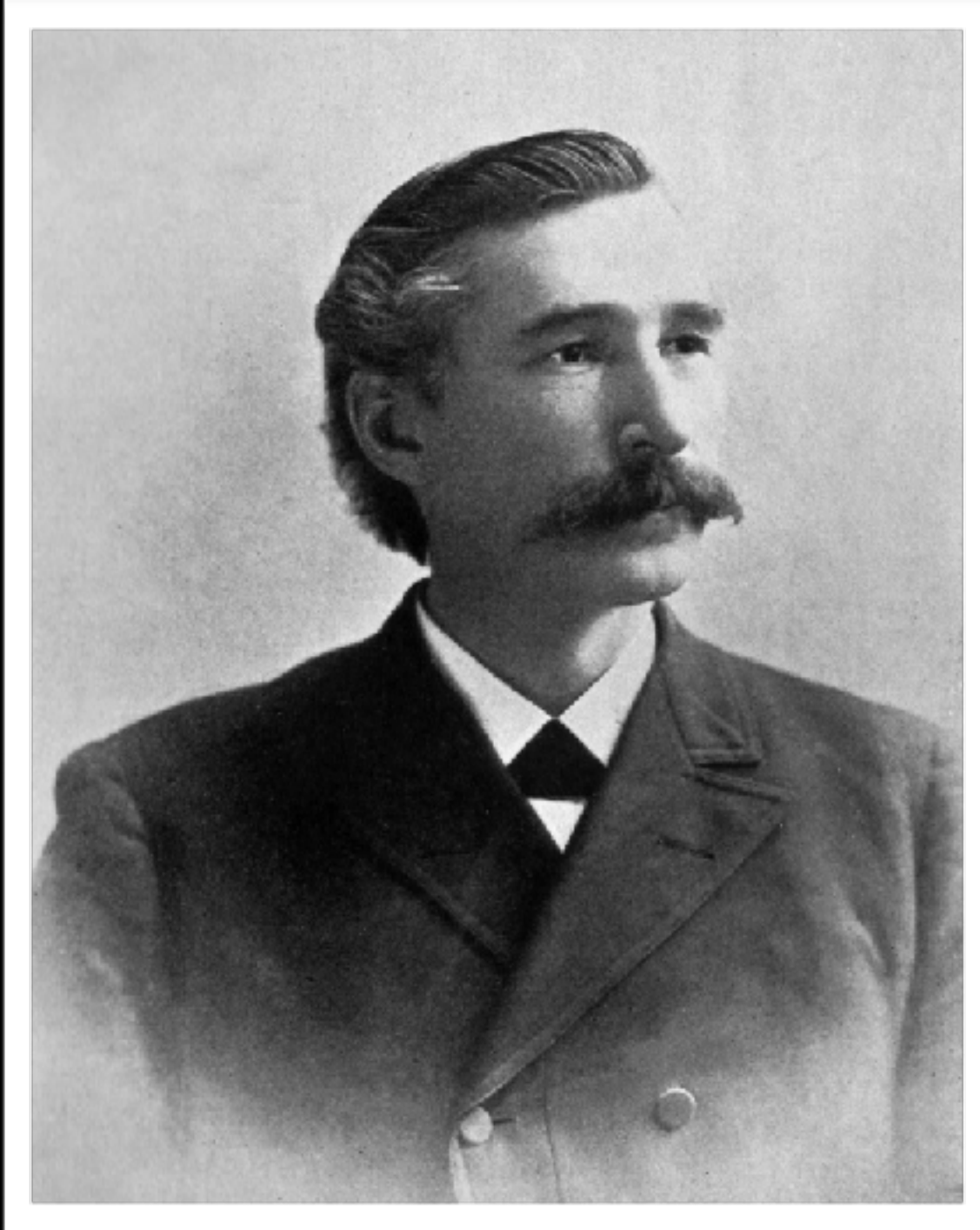
*Elder A.T. Jones*

**“Our goodness, our wisdom, our ability, are nothing; but God can work and will work with a heart that is emptied of self, a heart that has made no reserve...one that has yielded all to God, and laid all upon His altar.”**

*Duffield, pg 135*



## Powerful Preaching Revealing Our True Condition



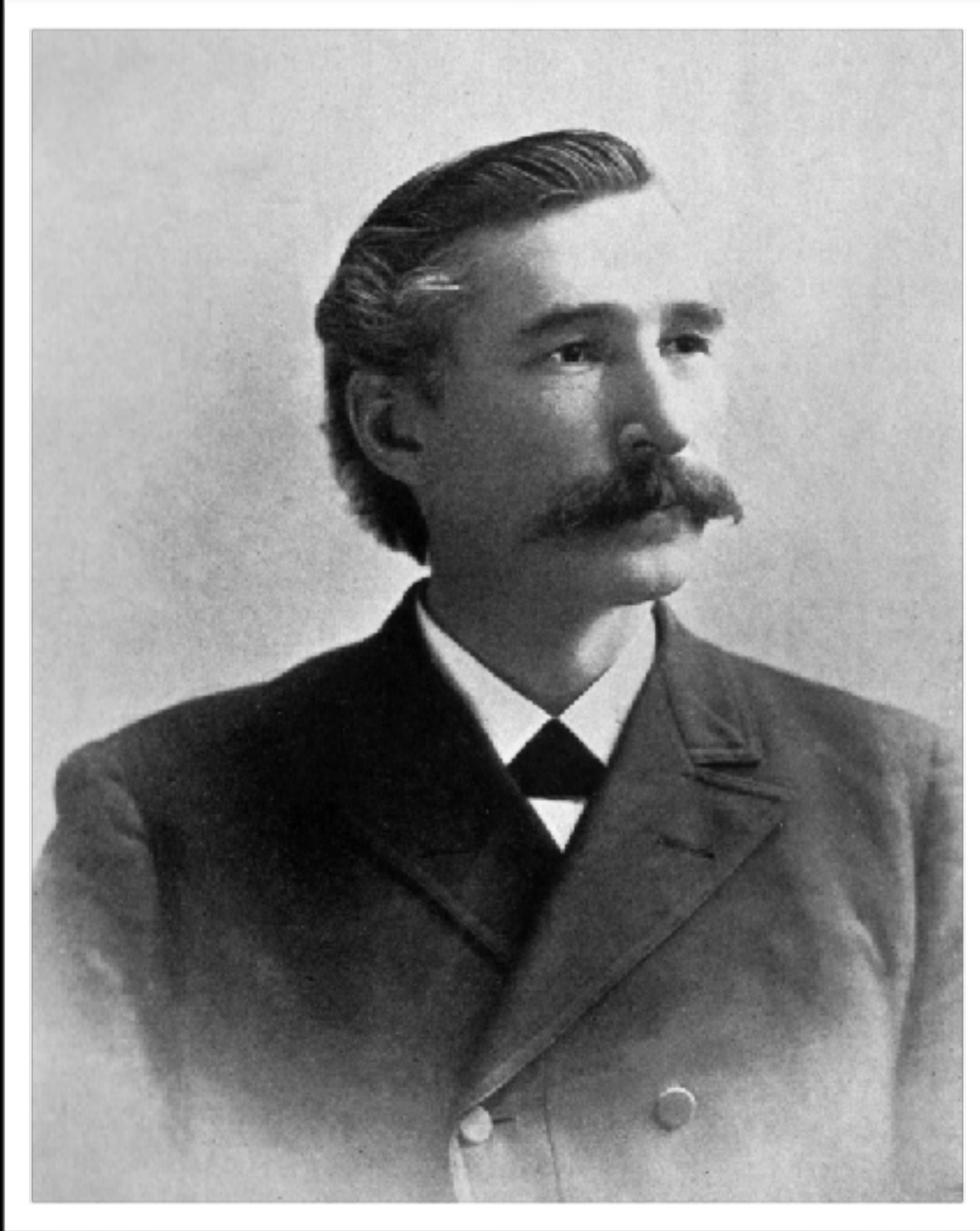
*Elder A.T. Jones*

**“What is our condition? You know well enough that our efforts have not accomplished much. Everyone has tried to do his very best - you know yourself that it was the most discouraging thing that you ever tried to do in this world. You have sat down and cried b/c you could not do well enough to risk the judgment...”**

*Duffield, pg 136*



## Powerful Preaching Revealing Our True Condition



*Elder A.T. Jones*

**“...We ourselves were able to see our nakedness when we had tried our best to cover ourselves. Now the Lord wants us to be covered so that the shame of our nakedness shall not appear. He wants us to have his perfect righteousness and character that will stand the test of the judgement. Let us accept it from Him as the free blessed gift it is.”**

*Duffield, pg 137*

## Powerful Preaching Revealing Our True Condition

**“The Lord wants us to receive His Spirit right now; He wants our hearts open all the time to receive it. The heart is open by confession and repentance of our sins, by a spirit of contrition, and by a permanent sense of unworthiness. Not by being lifted up when He gives us of His grace and His power. And we are to receive the Spirit in that fullness and rejoice in the Lord all the time.”**

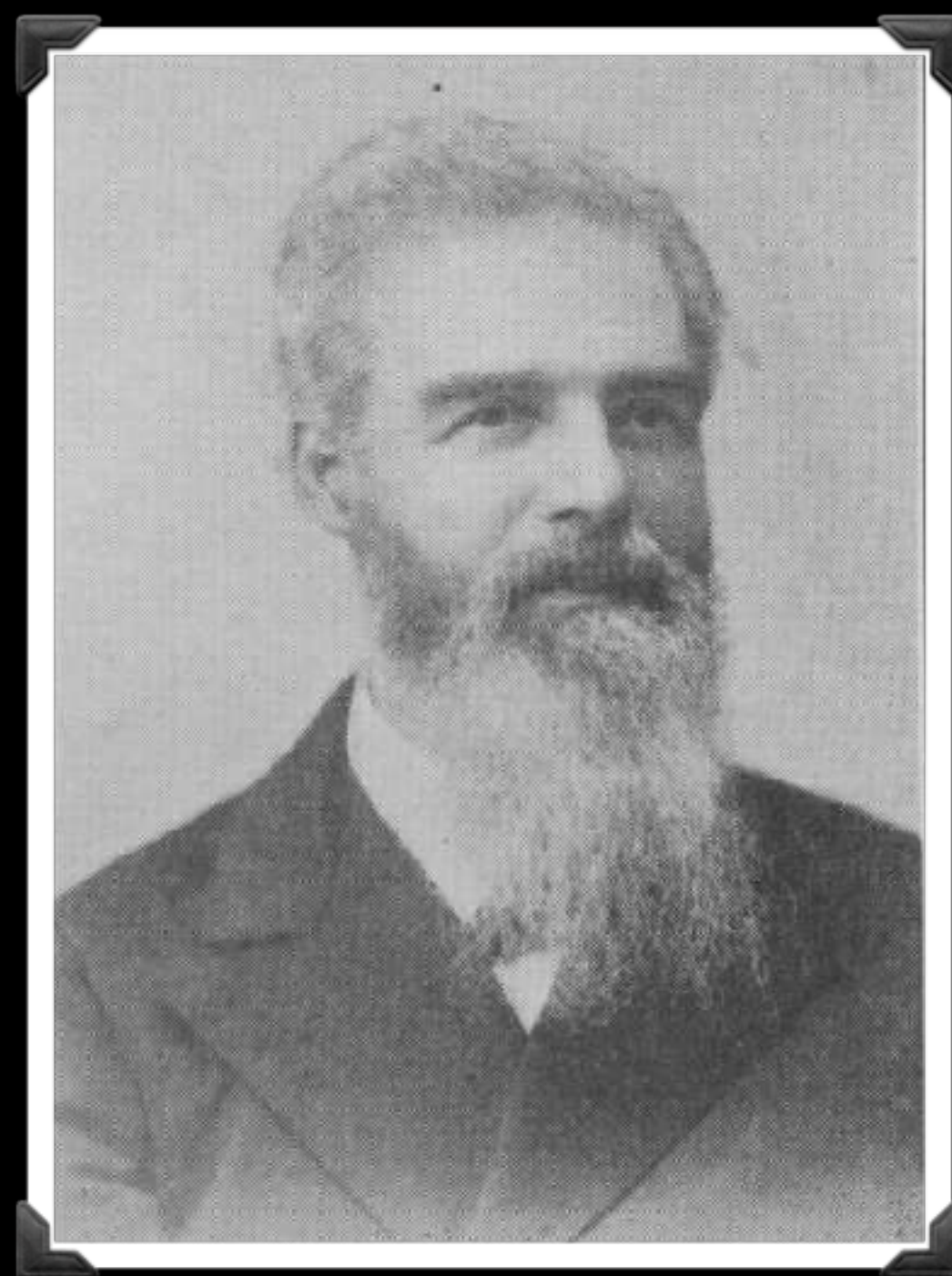
*Duffield, pg 142*



*Elder W. W. Prescott*



# Heartfelt Confessions: When God Moved:



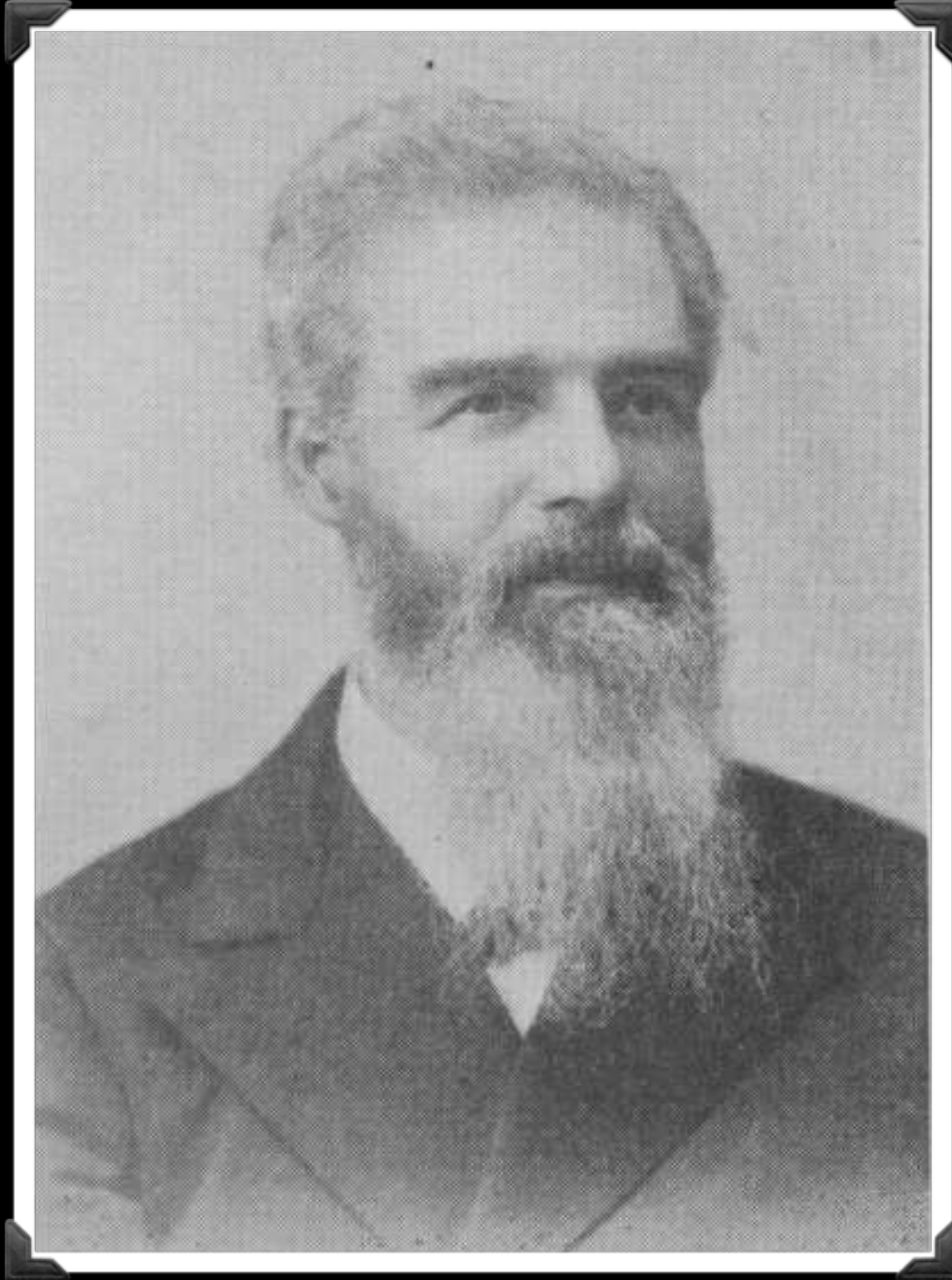
*Elder I.D. Van Horn*



*Ellen White's  
Testimony to Elder  
Horn*



## The Result:



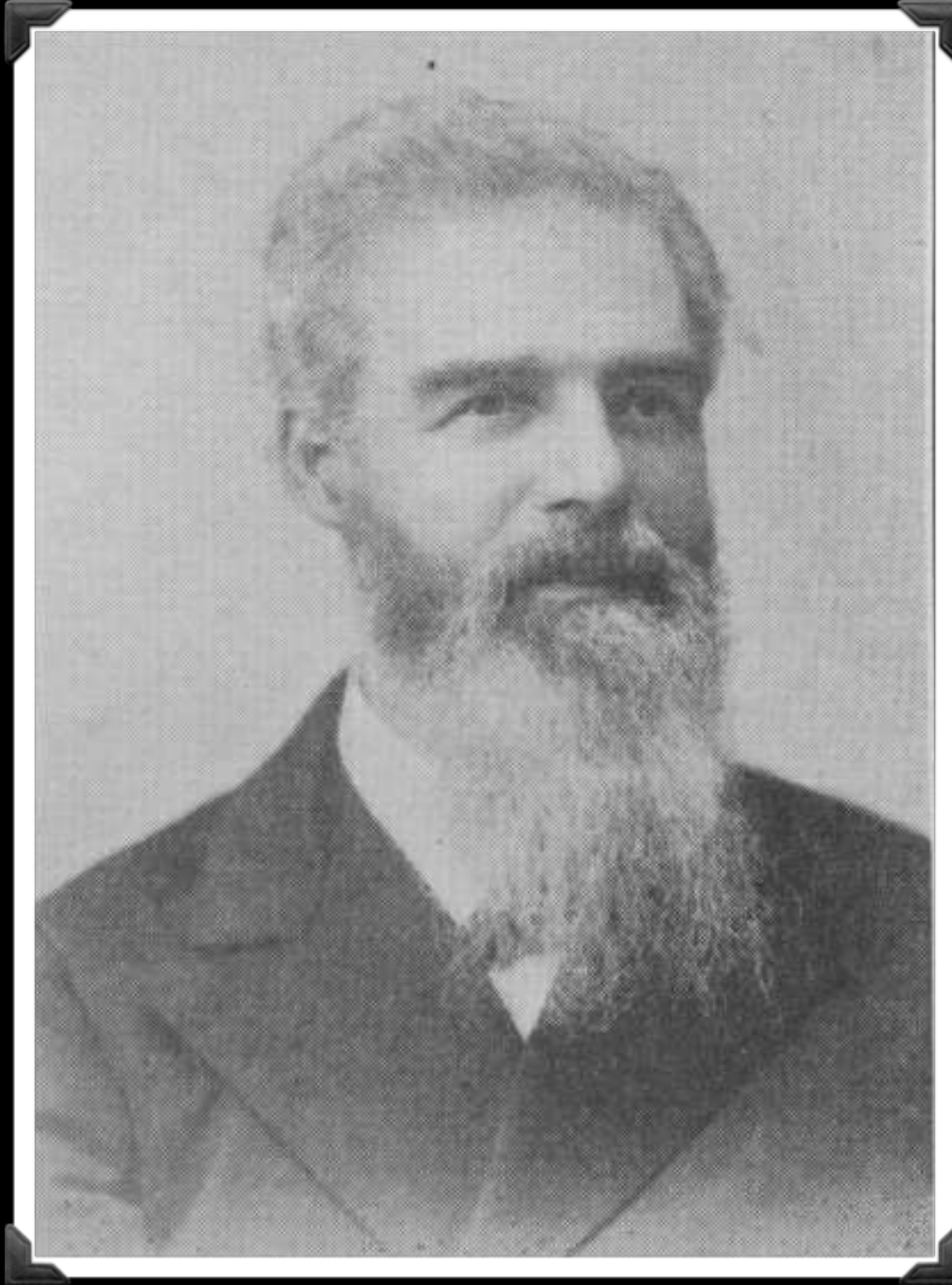
*Elder I.D. Van Horn*

**“I am now heartily ashamed of the part I took in the merriment, satire, sarcasm, and wit that was indulged in by myself and others in Minneapolis. It was very wrong and displeasing to the Lord who witnessed it all.”**

*Duffield, pg 146*



## The Result:



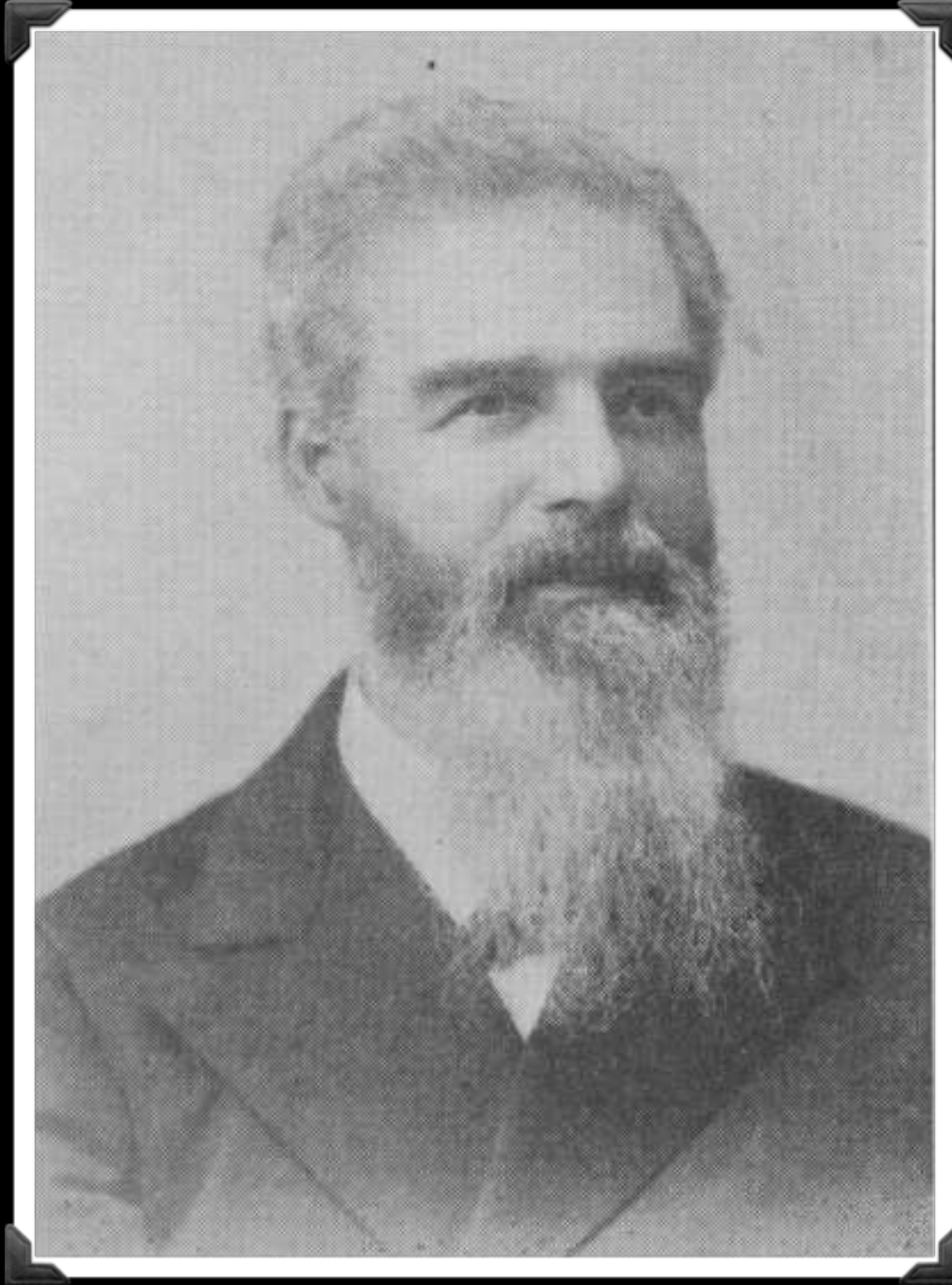
*Elder I.D. Van Horn*

**“I see how much I have lost in these four years of darkness and unbelief. I will now make haste and buy the gold, the white raiment, and the eye salve, that I may stand before my fellow men, not in my own strength, but with the righteousness of Christ.”**

*Duffield, pg 146*



# The Result:



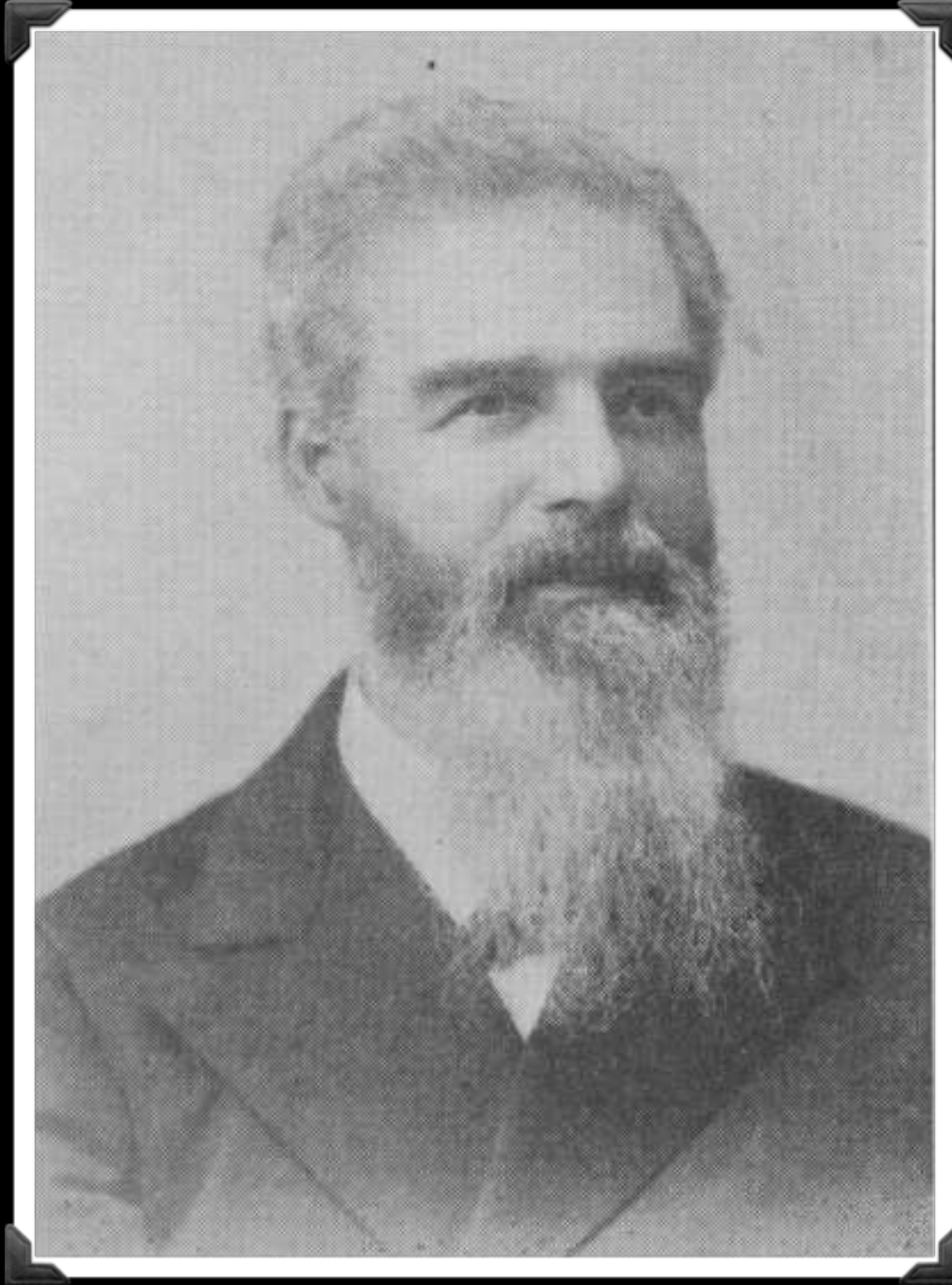
*Elder I.D. Van Horn*

**“I will walk softly before the lord, and will cherish His presence in my heart, that I may have power from Him, who has all power, to resist Satan, shun his snares, and gain the victory at last.”**

*Duffield, pg 146*



# The Result:



*Elder I.D. Van Horn*

**“Repentance and confession are the only ways out of sin and darkness.”**

*Duffield, pg 143*

# Finding the Solution to Our Condition:

**“But when we receive the righteousness of Christ, in its fullness, right with that comes the fullness of the Spirit, and there is the outpouring of the Spirit. Now, it is of no use for us to pray and pray for the Spirit apart from the righteousness and character of Christ.”**



*Elder W. W. Prescott*

*Duffield, pg 147*



# Finding the Solution to Our Condition:

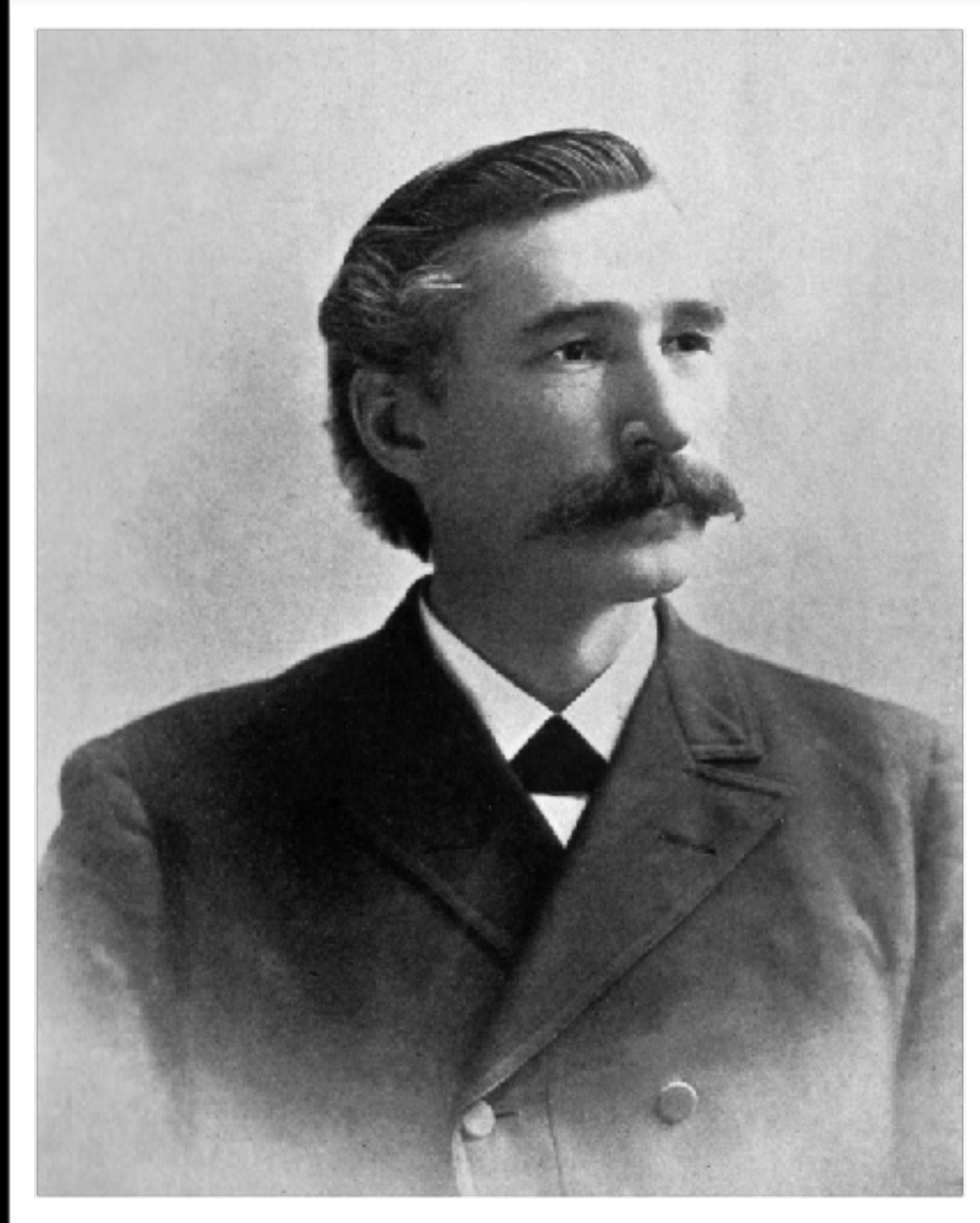
**“What can I say about this matter? These things are as plain as A, B, and C. That righteousness is the gift of God; that all in the world He asks us to do is to submit to the receiving of it, to open the door by confession and repentance, closing every door to Satan, opening the door wide to Christ, and accepting Him in simplicity.”**

*Duffield, pg 147*



*Elder W. W. Prescott*

# Called to Decision:



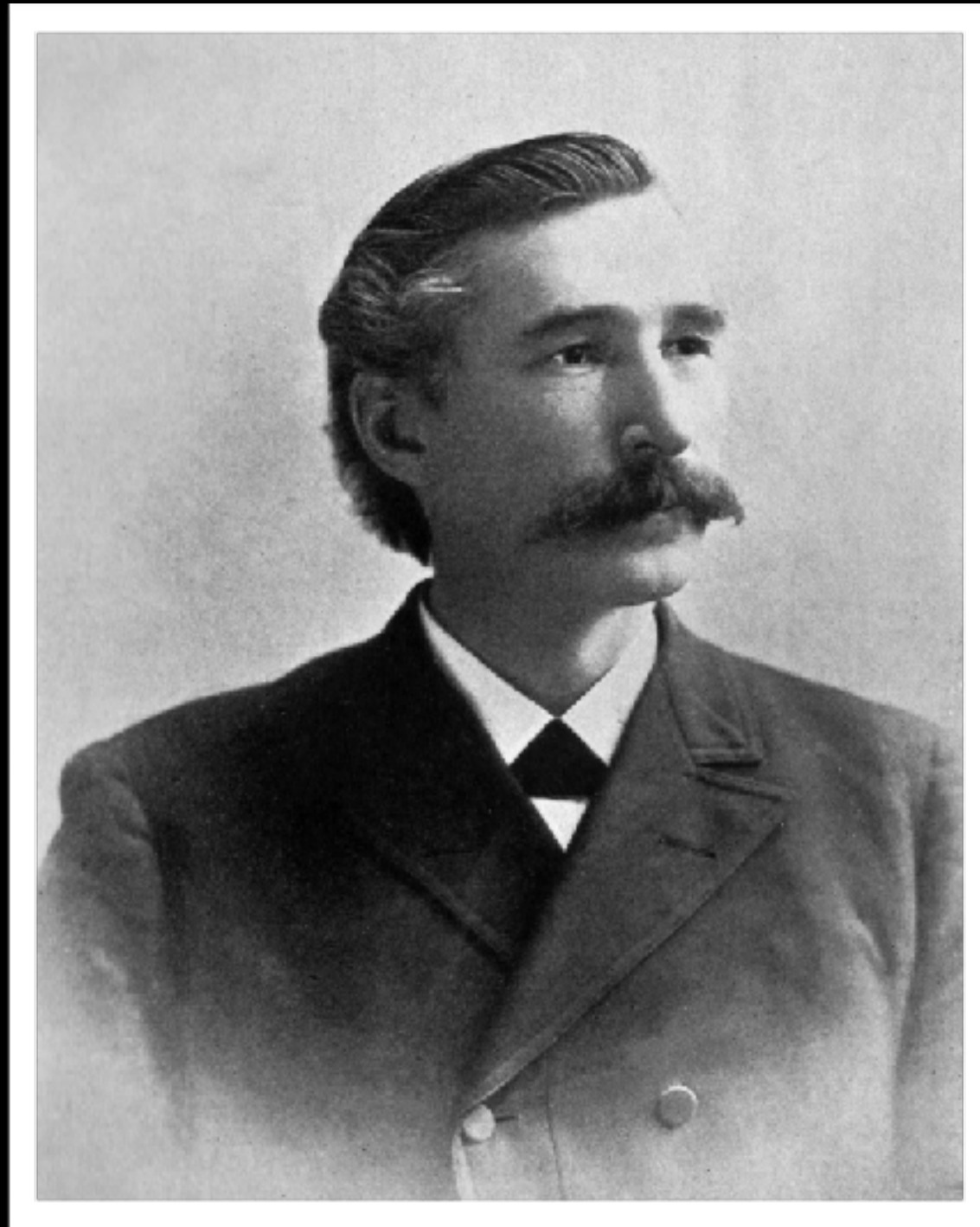
*Elder A.T. Jones*

**“The danger is that there will be some here who have resisted this for years who will now fail to come to the Lord in a way to recieve it, and fail to recieve it as the Lord gives it, and will be passed by. A decision will be made by ourselves at this meeting. On which side are you going to be found?”**

*Duffield, pg 149*



## It Was Recieved in 1893 by the Leaders:

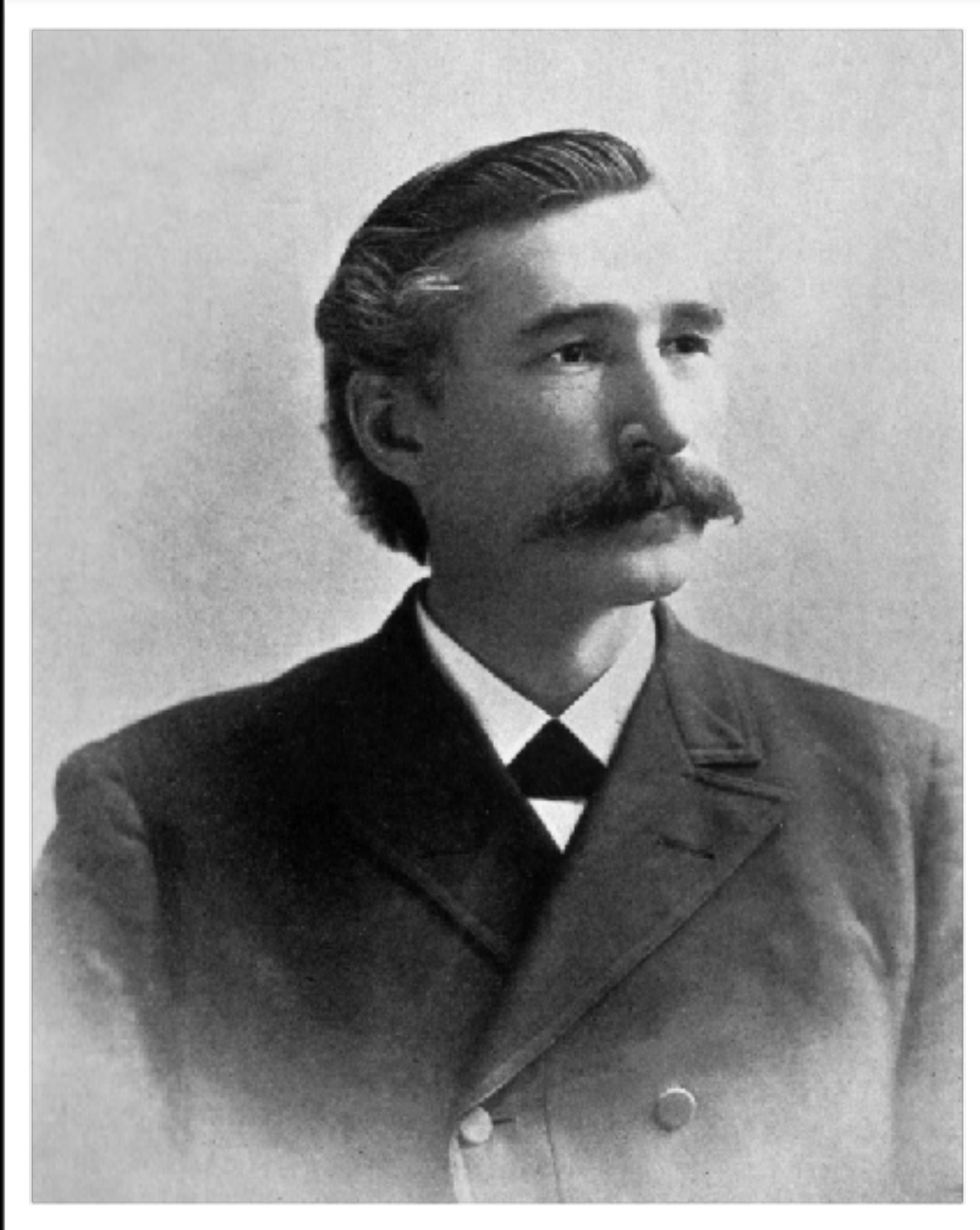


*Elder A.T. Jones*

**“I was so wretched, so completely a captive, and in such a bondage, that nobody could deliver me but the Lord Himself. So miserable was I that all I could ever do was have the Lord constantly to comfort me; so poor as to beg from the Lord, so blind that no one but the Lord could cause me to see; so naked that no one could clothe me but the Lord Himself.”**

*Duffield, pg 154*

## It Was Recieved in 1893 by the Leaders:



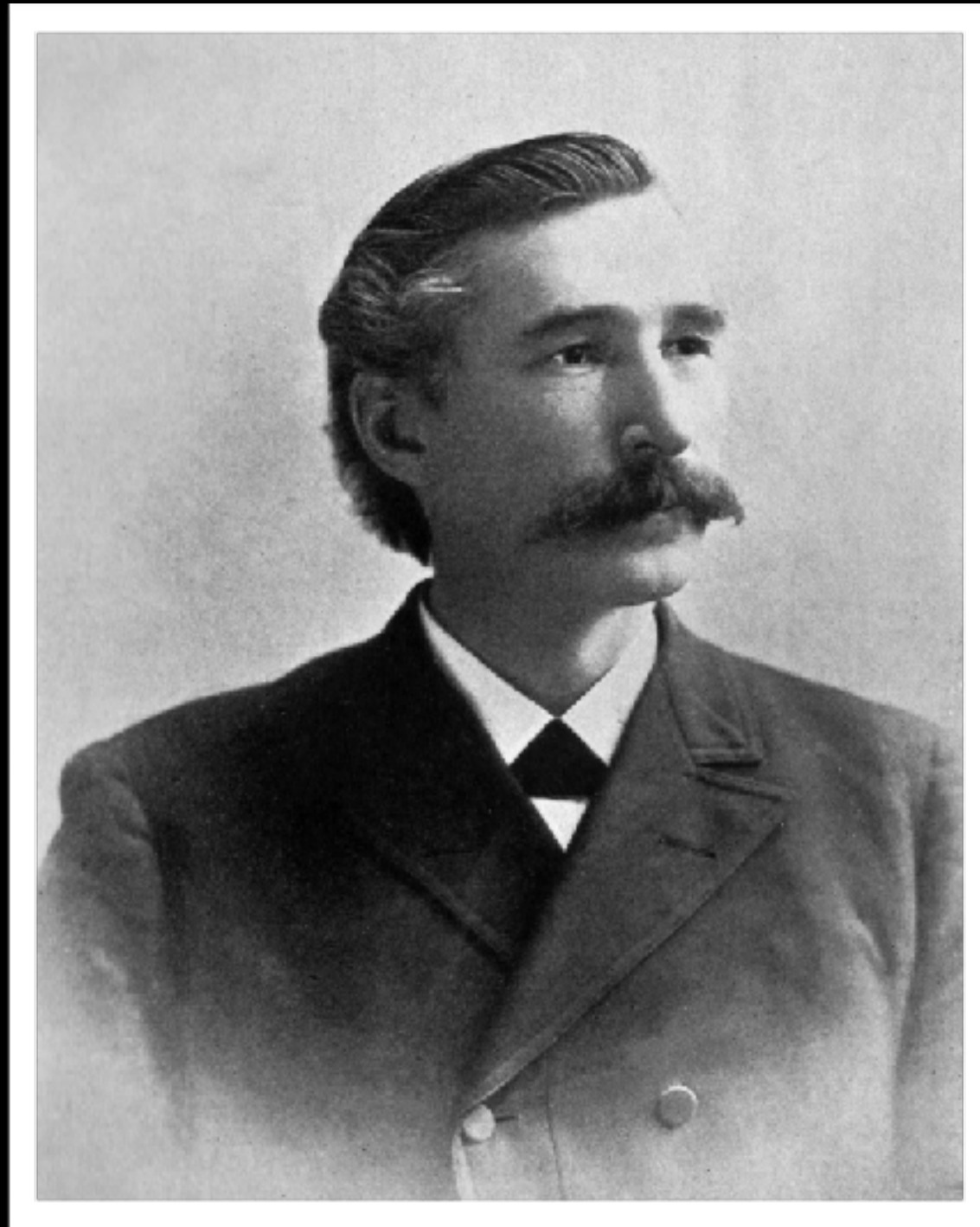
*Elder A.T. Jones*

**“All the claim I have is what Jesus has done for me. But the Lord loved me. When in my wretchedness I cried, he delivered me; when in my misery, He comforted me all the way. When in my poverty, he gave me riches. When in my blindness, he let me see.”**

*Duffield, pg 154*



## It Was Recieved in 1893 by the Leaders:



*Elder A.T. Jones*

**“When I was naked, He gave me this garment of righteousness. And so all I can present, all I have to present as that upon which I can enter (heaven), is just what He has done for me. If that will not pass me, then I am left out justly and have no complaint to make. But Oh! Will this garment not entitle me to enter and possess the inheritance?”**

*Duffield, pg 154-155*

## But What About the Rest of the Church?



*Ellen White*

**“The Lord has revealed to us that the Laodicean message applies to the church at this time, and yet how few make a practical application of it to themselves. God has wrought for us; we have no complaint to make of heaven, for the richest blessings have been offered us, but our people have been reluctant to accept them.”**

*General Conference Daily  
Bulletin, Feb 28, 1893*

*Duffield, pg 158*



# But What About the Rest of the Church?



*Ellen White*

**“Those who have been so stubborn and rebellious that they would not humble themselves receive the light of God sent in mercy to their souls, became so destitute of the Holy Spirit that the Lord could not use them. Unless they are converted, they will never enter the mansions of the blessed.”**

*General Conference Daily  
Bulletin, Feb 28, 1893*

*Duffield, pg 158*

# But What About the Rest of the Church?



**“Heavenly agencies have long been waiting for the human agents, the members of the church, to co-operate with them in the great work to be done. They are waiting for you.”**

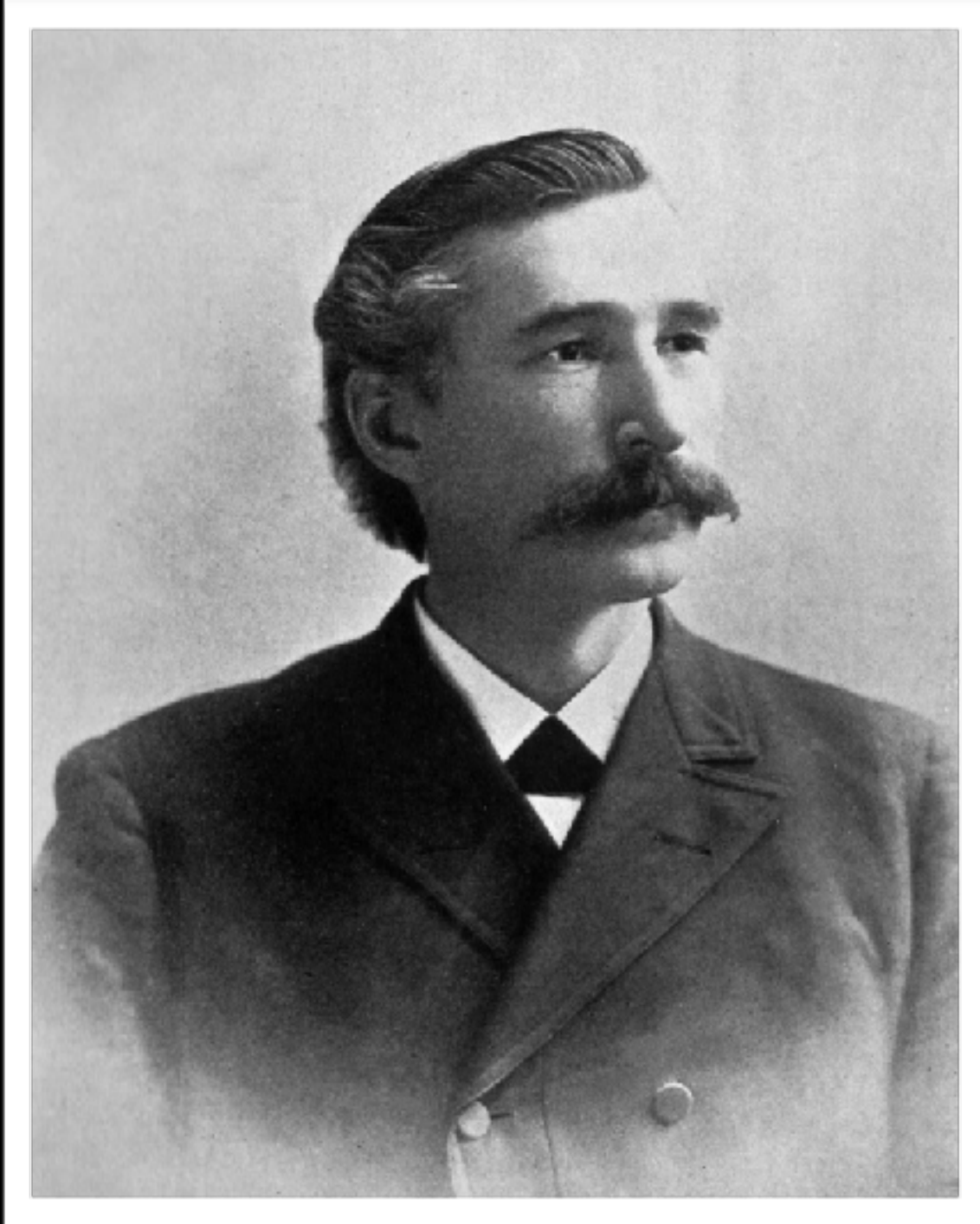
*Ellen White*

*General Conference Daily  
Bulletin, Feb 28, 1893*

*Duffield, pg 158*



# Jones Final Appeal:



*Elder A.T. Jones*

**“The righteousness of God, upon His people, is the one thing, the only thing that can fit up God’s people for receiving the promise of the Holy Spirit, and the outpouring of it. And when that message is recieved and accepted gladly, God tells you and me: ‘Arise, Shine, for thy light is come, and the Glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.”**

*Duffield, pg 166*





**The Joy of the Message  
Received.**



**Revival that followed...**



**Four strategies that Satan brought against the Church following 1893 to divert the revival that made him fear for his life:**

- 1) Fanatical Criticism against the church.
- 2) Succumbing to worliness in the churches and schools.
- 3) Mistakes of the messengers
- 4) Continued resistance by some to the 1888 message.



**Four strategies that Satan brought against the Church following 1893 to divert the revival that made him fear for his life:**

**2) Succumbing to worliness in the churches and schools.**

# Satan's Strategy:

**“At Battle Creek College, there had been a negative reaction to the revival that had previously taken place. A lack of unity and loyalty among some of the faculty had spread to the students. ‘The condition among the students and the college from a religious standpoint was worse than it had ever been.’”**

*Duffield, pg 180*



## Ellen White Points Out the Problem:

**“During 1893, the grace and mercy of God had abundantly bestowed on those in Battle Creek. But while the youth were being moved upon by the Holy Spirit that they might use the rich blessings aright and progress to greater light, nearly all the educators at Battle Creek had lost their clear spiritual discernment, because they did not maintain the victory by determined watchfulness. How easily we can grieve the Holy Spirit, by walking contrary to its enabling, sanctifying influence.”**

*“Peril of Resisting the Holy Spirit,” RH Feb 13, 1894*

*Duffield, pg 180*

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# Great Concern:

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**During the summer of the same year, EGW and others became anxious that the revival and outpouring of the HS would become stagnant, as people fell back into wordiness with a lack of interest for missionary work around the world.**

*Duffield, pg 180*



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## She Then Wrote:

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**“If men and women have received increased light, what are they doing to warn men and women who do not know that the Lord is coming? Who will leave pleasant homes and dear ties of relationship, and carry the precious light of truth to lands afar off?”**

*“The Call from Destitute Fields,” Nov. 1, 1893*

*Duffield, pg 181*

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## She Then Wrote:

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**“The worst feature of the iniquity of this day is a form of godliness without the power thereof. Those who profess to have great light are found among the careless and indifferent, and the cause of Christ is wounded in the house of His professed friends.”**

*“Signs of the Times” Oct. 16, 1893*

*Duffield, pg 182*



ONCE THE DARKNESS HAD TAKEN  
ROOT, AND THE ENEMY WAS  
IMPLEMENTING HIS STRATEGY, WHAT  
DID HE BRING TO THE CHURCH TO  
REPLACE THE EXPERIENCE OF REVIVAL,  
REFORMATION, THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND  
MISSIONARY SERVICE THAT GOD HAD  
DESIRED FOR HIS PEOPLE?

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# Competitive Sports



CAN IT BE THAT THE SAME  
THING THAT HINDERED THEM  
IN THE FULLNESS OF THE  
SPIRIT IS ALSO HINDERING US  
TODAY FROM REVIVAL AND  
REFORMATION?



Jeff Beacham: "THE CLASH OF THE KINGDOMS--THE  
KINGDOM OF SELF AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD"



“Competition is an integral part of life in Western cultures. It has been accepted and celebrated as a very necessary ingredient for a successful life. However, competition ultimately is self-seeking and involves covetousness, which leads to envy, which results in all kinds of strife and war. **As we progress in these times, there is a monumental clash coming between these two Kingdoms as they compete for the souls of humanity.**”









