

Weimar Institute College Retreat, October 16-19, 2003, Presenter: Pr. Larry Kirkpatrick
Synergism in Ellen G. White, *Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 482-483

	What man does	What God does
<p>Paul holds up the standard of perfection and shows how it may be reached. "Work out your own salvation," he says, "for it is God which worketh in you." {AA 482.1}</p> <p>The work of gaining salvation is one of copartnership, a joint operation. There is to be co-operation between God and the repentant sinner. This is necessary for the formation of right principles in the character. Man is to make earnest efforts to overcome that which hinders him from attaining to perfection. But he is wholly dependent upon God for success. Human effort of itself is not sufficient. Without the aid of divine power it avails nothing. God works and man works. Resistance of temptation must come from man, who must draw his power from God. On the one side there is infinite wisdom, compassion, and power; on the other, weakness, sinfulness, absolute helplessness. {AA 482.2}</p> <p>God wishes us to have the mastery over ourselves. But He cannot help us without our consent and co-operation. The divine Spirit works through the powers and faculties given to man. Of ourselves, we are not able to bring the purposes and desires and inclinations into harmony with the will of God; but if we are "willing to be made willing," the Saviour will accomplish this for us, "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:5. {AA 482.3}</p> <p>He who would build up a strong, symmetrical character, he who would be a well-balanced Christian, must give all and do all for Christ; for the Redeemer will not accept divided service. Daily he must learn the meaning of self-surrender. He must study the word of God, learning its meaning and obeying its precepts. Thus he may reach the standard of Christian excellence. Day by day God works with him, perfecting the character that is to stand in the time of final test. And day by day the believer is working out before men and angels a sublime experiment, showing what the gospel can do for fallen human beings.</p>	<p>—Man works with God</p> <p>—copartnership —a joint operation</p> <p>—make earnest efforts —(yet wholly dependent on God) —human effort (yet of itself is not sufficient) —man works —resistance of temptation must come from man —he has only weakness, absolute helplessness —man gives his consent and cooperation</p> <p>—if we are willing to be made willing</p> <p>—man must give all</p> <p>—daily he must learn the meaning of self-surrender —He must learn and obey —day by day the believer is working</p>	<p>—God works in man</p> <p>—copartnership —a joint operation</p> <p>—God provides divine power —God works —God must permit man to draw upon His power —He has infinite power</p> <p>—The divine Spirit works through the powers and faculties given to man —Jesus brings purposes, desires, inclinations into harmony with the will of God —Jesus casts down imaginations, every high thing in opposition to God, brings every thought into captivity</p> <p>—day by day God works with him, perfecting the character</p>
<p>—There is a "work of gaining salvation," and a "standard of perfection" and "it may be reached." —It is "necessary for the formation of right principles in the character." —"God wishes us to have the mastery over ourselves." —"Day by day the believer is working out before men and angels a sublime experiment, showing what the gospel can do for fallen human beings."</p>		

