

Gilbert Cranmer's Open Letter

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My Experience

I feel it my duty to inform the readers of the Hope of Israel, how I came to occupy the position that I now do, as a professed teacher of the Bible. About 34 years ago, I first made a profession of the religion of Christ. For one year I stood aloof of any creed, seeking for the true people of God. I then thought I had found them. I was baptized into the Christian Church, and remained with them until 1842 when I became an Adventist. All know we met with a sad disappointment in 1844. Our Lord did not come as expected, and we were left without a star to light our pathway, for some time. At last God removed his hand and light broke in upon our minds, and we discovered that our disappointment was in perfect harmony with the teachings of the prophets.

About ten years ago [1853] a Seventh-day Adventist minister, by the name of [Joseph] Bates, came to our town and advocated the whole Law, the gifts of the Spirit, and many other glorious truths. The gifts belonging to the Church, I had believed in for over twenty years. Hence I felt to rejoice, supposing I had found the people I had been so long looking for. He told me that the gifts were realized among them, that they had the gift of prophecy and the gift of healing the sick. **But as long as I was with them I never knew of any being healed.** I have known them to try but they always failed. In this I was disappointed. **I also found the spirit of prophecy, with them, was confined wholly to a woman.** By this time I became suspicious that I had gotten on board the wrong ship. I then commenced to giving her visions a thorough investigation. **I found they contradicted themselves, and that they contradicted the Bible.** My doubts concerning the visions I made known to the brethren. At once they gave me the cold shoulder, and I was held at bay. Not knowing any people I could unite with, I remained with them for years, hoping they would get sick of the visions of E.G. White, and that we could yet walk together in unity of spirit. But instead of rejecting them, as I hoped they would, they only drew the reins the tighter. At last I made up my mind I would not belong to a church that was ruled by a woman any longer. From that time the Bible has been my creed, with Christ at the head of the Church. I started alone, with my Bible in my hand. God has blessed my labors beyond my utmost expectations. We have some eight ministers and some hundreds of members in the state of Michigan. God has manifest His power among us in a wonderful manner. The eyes of the blind have been opened; the deaf have been made to hear and almost every disease incident to the climate, has been cured through faith, to the number of about one hundred cases. We still feel determined never to lay down the two-edged sword, until the victory is gained, and we are called to exchange the armor for the crown.

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