

# 10 Days of Prayer 2017

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## Day 2—The Altar of Burnt Offering

*“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.” Rom. 12:1*

### Suggested Format for the Prayer Time

#### *Praise (approximately 10 minutes)*

- Begin your prayer by praising God for who He is.
- Praise God for the gift of salvation.
- Thank God for the sacrifice of Jesus.
- Praise God for the life of Jesus that showed us how to sacrifice self and surrender our will to God.

#### *Confession and Claiming Victory Over Sin (approximately 5 minutes)*

- Ask God to show you which sins you need to confess openly and which you need to confess privately. Claim His victory over those sins.
- Ask God for forgiveness for times when you were afraid to sacrifice that which causes you to stumble.
- Thank God that He forgives you according to 1 John 1:9.

#### *Supplication and Intercession (approximately 35 minutes)*

- Pray that just as the altar of burnt offering was anointed with the holy oil (Ex. 40:10), your life will be anointed with the Holy Ghost, so that whatever you offer and sacrifice to the Lord will be acceptable to God.
- Ask God to take away anything that hinders you from surrendering your time, money, strength, abilities, fears, hopes, and will. Tell Him you want to belong wholly to Christ.
- Does anything in your heart hinder you from giving yourself wholly to Him? Tell Him about it. Ask Him to make you willing to surrender anything.
- Pray for your family members and friends who are afraid to place their whole lives on the altar of sacrifice. Ask God to make them willing to give Him everything.
- Pray that your local pastor and church leaders at different levels will make an unreserved surrender to God and His service.
- Pray that we spend more time on eternal values through Bible study and prayer. Pray for God’s will to be done rather than our own, and ask that the Holy Spirit will keep us from worldly influences and trends that threaten our daily spiritual experience.
- Pray that the young people of our church will not be afraid to crucify self.
- Pray for all peoples of non-Christian backgrounds. Pray that God’s people will learn how to build whatever bridges are necessary to reach them.
- Ask God for godly, teachable, and humble church leaders who will portray Christ-centered leadership in the church’s mission to proclaim the three angels’ messages. And pray that Christ’s righteousness will be at the core of these messages.
- Pray that we will organize many “centers of influence” in large cities around the world. Pray that these centers make a real difference in lives as people discover God’s truth through Christian service.
- Pray that the seven (or more) people on your list will see their need and open their hearts for the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for any personal needs you have.

#### *Thanksgiving (approximately 10 minutes)*

- Thank God that He will answer according to His will and in His time.
- Thank God that He is willing to take your sinful heart and make it pure and holy.
- Thank God that Jesus was willing to live and die, not for Himself but for the One who sent Him.
- Thank God for revealing Himself in a special way in your life during these ten days of prayer.

#### **Suggested Songs to Sing**

“Live Out Thy Life Within Me” (*SDA Hymnal* #316); “Yes, Lord, I Give My Life to You”; “I Need Thee Every Hour” (*SDA Hymnal* #483); “Seek Ye First”; “Draw Me Nearer” (*SDA Hymnal* #306); “I Surrender All” (*SDA Hymnal* #309); “Near, Still Nearer” (*SDA Hymnal* #301); “Wholly Thine” (*SDA Hymnal*, #308).

## The Altar of Burnt Offering

*“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.” Rom. 12:1*

Every morning and evening a lamb of a year old was burned upon the altar, symbolizing the daily consecration of the nation and their constant dependence upon the atoning blood of Christ. Only an offering “without blemish” could be a symbol of His perfect purity who was to offer Himself as “a lamb without blemish and without spot.” 1 Peter 1:19. The apostle Paul says, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” Romans 12:1. Those who love Him with all the heart will desire to give Him the best service of the life, constantly seeking to bring every power of their being into harmony with His will. (*From Eternity Past*, pp. 244, 245)

In order for us to reach this high ideal, that which causes the soul to stumble must be sacrificed. It is through the will that sin retains its hold upon us. . . . Often it seems to us that to surrender the will to God is to consent to go through life maimed or crippled. But it is better, says Christ, for self to be maimed, wounded, crippled, if thus you may enter into life. That which you look upon as disaster is the door to highest benefit. (*Reflecting Christ*, p. 377)

God will accept nothing less than unreserved surrender. Half-hearted, sinful Christians can never enter heaven. There they would find no happiness; for they know nothing of the high, holy principles that govern the members of the royal family. (*This Day with God*, p. 145)

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Gal. 2:20)

It will require a sacrifice to give yourself to God; but it is a sacrifice of the lower for the higher, the earthly for the spiritual, the perishable for the eternal. God does not design that our will should be destroyed, for it is only through its exercise that we can accomplish what He would have us do. Our will is to be yielded to Him, that we may receive it again, purified and refined, and so linked in sympathy with the Divine that He can pour through us the tides of His love and power. However bitter and painful this surrender may appear to the willful, wayward heart, yet “it is profitable for thee.” (*Reflecting Christ*, p. 377)

The Lord has a great work for us to do, and He invites us to look to Him, to trust in Him, to walk with Him, to talk with Him. He invites us to make an unreserved surrender of all that we have and are to Him, that when He shall call upon us to sacrifice for Him, we may be ready and willing to obey. We shall enjoy the fullness of divine grace only as we give all to Christ. We shall know the meaning of true happiness only as we keep the fire burning on the altar of sacrifice. God will bequeath the most in the future to those who have done the most in the present. . . . Each day, under different circumstances, He tries us; and in each truehearted endeavor He chooses His workers, not because they are perfect, but because they are willing to work unselfishly for Him, and He sees that through connection with Him they may gain perfection. (*Our High Calling*, p. 191)

Christ’s call to sacrifice and unreserved surrender means crucifixion of self. In order to obey this call, we must have unquestioning faith in Him as the perfect Example, and we must have a clear realization that we are to represent Him to the world. Those who work for Christ are to work in His lines. They are to live His life. His call to unreserved surrender is to be to them supreme. They are to allow no earthly tie or interest to prevent them from giving Him the homage of their hearts and the service of their lives. Earnestly and untiringly they are to labor with God to save perishing souls from the power of the tempter. (*The Upward Look*, p. 235)

The call to place all on the altar of service comes to each one. We are not all asked to serve as Elisha served, nor are we all bidden to sell everything we have; but God asks us to give His service the first place in our lives, to allow no day to pass without doing something to advance His work in the earth. He does not expect from all the same kind of service. One may be called to ministry in a foreign land; another may be asked to give of his means for the support of gospel work. God accepts the offering of each. It is the consecration of the life and all its interests, that is necessary. Those who make this consecration will hear and obey the call of Heaven. (*Prophets and Kings*, p. 221)