

10 Days of Prayer 2017

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Day 6—The Altar of Incense

*“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men.”
1 Tim. 2:1*

Suggested Format for the Prayer Time

Praise (approximately 10 minutes)

- Begin your prayer time by praising God for who He is (His character).
- Thank God for Jesus, who showed us that we need to intercede for others.
- Thank God that He gave us the great privilege of interceding.

Confession and Claiming Victory Over Sin (approximately 5 minutes)

- Ask God to show you which sins you need to confess privately. Claim His victory over those sins.
- Pray for forgiveness for the times when you did not pray for others.
- 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 incense was anointed with oil (Ex. 40:9), your prayers will be inspired and guided by the Holy Ghost.
- Is there anyone for whom God has laid a burden on your heart? Lift them up in prayer.
- Are there people in your life whom you have a hard time accepting? Pray for them and ask God to give you love for them.
- Intercede for those who have given themselves to preaching the Word.
- Lift up in prayer the leadership of your church, conference, union, and General Conference.
- Do you know anyone who has chosen to go away from God? Lift them up in prayer.
- Lift up in prayer those you know who are discouraged and burdened.
- Intercede for church members who live in challenging areas of the world and face daily harassment for the faithful practice of their beliefs. Let the Lord fill them with power to live their lives as a total witness to God’s redeeming and eternal power.
- Pray for every Seventh-day Adventist worldwide to be used by the Holy Spirit in outreach and evangelism, whether it be in small groups, personal witnessing, or public evangelism.
- Pray for the Global Mission Urban Centers of Influence in cities around the world as they bring education, healthcare, healthy lifestyles, and other connecting ministries to their communities. Pray that they can meet people’s real needs and then connect them to Jesus.
- Pray for Adventist business leaders to witness to Christ’s love with the 691 people groups within the 8 countries of Northern Asia-Pacific Division.
- Pray for unity in every church and entity worldwide based on humble respect for God’s Word, respect for one another, respect for accepted church policy and process, and on earnest prayer and the Holy Spirit’s power. Pray also for full engagement in the mission of the church in proclaiming the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14 and the fourth angel of Revelation 18.
- Pray for God’s love to be perfected in His church.
- Pray that the seven (or more) people on your list will see their need and open their hearts to the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for any personal needs you have.

Thanksgiving (approximately 10 minutes)

- Thank God that He loves the people you prayed for more than you love them.
- Thank God that the Holy Spirit “makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered” (Rom. 8:26).
- Thank God that Christ intercedes for us in the heavenly sanctuary.

Suggested Songs to Sing

“For You I Am Praying” (*SDA Hymnal* #590); “Standing on the Promises” (*SDA Hymnal* #518); “I Need the Prayers” (*SDA Hymnal* #505); “Take Time to Be Holy” (*SDA Hymnal* #500); “’Tis the Blessed Hour of Prayer” (*SDA Hymnal* #501).

The Altar of Incense

*“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men.”
1 Tim. 2:1*

As the priests morning and evening entered the holy place at the time of incense, the daily sacrifice was ready to be offered upon the altar in the court without. This was a time of intense interest to the worshipers who assembled at the tabernacle. Before entering into the presence of God through the ministration of the priest, they were to engage in earnest searching of heart and confession of sin. They united in silent prayer, with their faces toward the holy place. Thus their petitions ascended with the cloud of incense, while faith laid hold upon the merits of the promised Saviour prefigured by the atoning sacrifice. The hours appointed for the morning and the evening sacrifice were regarded as sacred, and they came to be observed as the set time for worship throughout the Jewish nation. . . . In this custom Christians have an example for morning and evening prayer. While God condemns a mere round of ceremonies, without the spirit of worship, He looks with great pleasure upon those who love Him, bowing morning and evening to seek pardon for sins committed and to present their requests for needed blessings. (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 353, 354)

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:14-16)

Brethren, pray at home, in your family, night and morning; pray earnestly in your closet; and while engaged in your daily labor, lift up the soul to God in prayer. It was thus that Enoch walked with God. The silent, fervent prayer of the soul will rise like holy incense to the throne of grace and will be as acceptable to God as if offered in the sanctuary. To all who thus seek Him, Christ becomes a present help in time of need. They will be strong in the day of trial. (*Adventist Home*, pp. 212, 213)

We should pray to God much more than we do. There is great strength and blessing in praying together in our families, with and for our children. (*Child Guidance*, p. 525)

Our prayers are not to be a selfish asking, merely for our own benefit. We are to ask that we may give. The principle of Christ's life must be the principle of our lives. “For their sakes,” He said, speaking of His disciples, “I sanctify Myself, that they also might be sanctified.” John 17:19. The same devotion, the same self-sacrifice, the same subjection to the claims of the word of God, that were manifest in Christ, must be seen in His servants. Our mission to the world is not to serve or please ourselves; we are to glorify God by co-operating with Him to save sinners. We are to ask blessings from God that we may communicate to others. The capacity for receiving is preserved only by imparting. We cannot continue to receive heavenly treasure without communicating to those around us. (*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 142, 143)

There are souls who have lost their courage; speak to them, pray for them. There are those who need the bread of life. Read to them from the Word of God. There is a soul sickness no balm can reach, no medicine heal. Pray for these, and bring them to Jesus Christ. And in all your work Christ will be present to make impressions upon human hearts. (*Welfare Ministry*, p. 71)

As we seek to win others to Christ, bearing the burden of souls in our prayers, our own hearts will throb with the quickening influence of God's grace; our own affections will glow with more divine fervor; our whole Christian life will be more of a reality, more earnest, more prayerful. (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 354)

When self dies, there will be awakened an intense desire for the salvation of others,—a desire which will lead to persevering efforts to do good. There will be a sowing beside all waters; and earnest supplication, importunate prayers, will enter heaven in behalf of perishing souls. (*Gospel Workers*, p. 470)

Oh, that the earnest prayer of faith may arise everywhere, Give me souls buried now in the rubbish of error, or I die! Bring them to the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus. (*This Day With God*, p. 171)

Souls are to be sought for, prayed for, labored for. Earnest appeals are to be made. Fervent prayers are to be offered. Our tame, spiritless petitions are to be changed into petitions of intense earnestness. (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 12)

Begin to pray for souls; come near to Christ, close to His bleeding side. Let a meek and quiet spirit adorn your lives, and let your earnest, broken, humble petitions ascend to Him for wisdom that you may have success in saving not only your own soul, but the souls of others. (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 513)