

“Calling Upon Jesus in Our Urgent Need!”

Week 7 - 100 Days of Prayer

May 8 - 14, 2020

“The Best to Be Had”

By Ron Clouzet

In 2001, I nearly died. The emergency doctor said that I was probably three hours away from death. I contracted falciparum malaria while doing evangelism with my students in West Africa, and the symptoms showed up just days after my return to the United States. I developed a very high fever, I was dehydrated, and I had a terrific headache. I felt so sick I thought I would simply pass out and die any minute. When the symptoms surfaced, I was away on church business. I went early to the airport to catch my return flight, begging God to allow me to make it home for what would come next. If I were to die, I preferred that it happen at home.

My wife rushed me to the hospital emergency room. By then, I was having hallucinations, and could hardly keep water down without vomiting it. I passed out shortly after I was wheeled into the emergency room. Once conscious again, I remember life as in slow motion. Every minute seemed like an hour and every hour like a day. I remember my wife, Lisa, bringing over our children, at that time only 14, 12, and 10 years old, and seeing them quietly weeping. I recall nurses and others checking me out for the sole purpose of taking a look at the malaria patient, since the disease is so rare in the United States.

It was clear to me that I was dying. Later, I learned that this type of malaria is the most virulent. It will most likely kill you, though, if you survive it, you won't have recurring symptoms unless you get infected again. Many people began to pray. My wife and our children prayed. My parents and other family members prayed. Our colleagues at Southern Adventist University where I taught prayed. My students prayed. My friends from many parts of the world prayed. And countless numbers of pastors across the country prayed. I have calculated that maybe some 2,000 people were praying for me during those days.

But making it wasn't going to be easy. The appropriate medicine was not available. Medical doctor friends began putting pressure on the hospital doctors to move swiftly before it was too late. Finally, quinine was found in Atlanta, and they were able to get some. Quinine is an old medication used to treat malaria and other very nasty diseases, but rarely used today. It is quite toxic and can have serious side effects. But it will take care of malaria. Forty-eight hours after I was admitted to the hospital, I was given quinine, but it did not produce the expected miracle. A day later, on a Sabbath, I was just as sick as ever.

In my wasting, sickly state, I prayed also. But my prayer was more gratitude than petition. I had given my life into God's hands and was ready to say good-bye if it was my time to go. My only regret, for which I also prayed, was leaving my wife with three young children, and leaving the children without a father. But that, too, was in God's hands. I had peace that all would be all right.

On Sabbath afternoon, several of university colleagues and my church pastor came. They had an anointing service and prayed for me again, according to Scripture (James 5:13-15). That night, Lisa stayed with me all night. She genuinely feared it would be my last.

At 5:00 a.m. the next morning, a nurse came to draw blood, as they did each morning. Four hours later, the specialist came to my room. For the first time I was able to sit up. He told me that they could not find a trace of malaria in my system. Somehow, it was all gone. He expressed surprise that the medicine had worked so well, so fast. But I knew there was another reason why I was malaria-free. It was the prayers of my loved ones and the prayers of the saints. God graciously consented to heal me, I believe, simply because His people asked Him to.

“The same compassionate Savior lives today, and He is as willing to listen to the prayer of faith as when He walked visibly among men . . . It is a part of God's plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask.” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 525) Jesus did not need to heal me. He owed me nothing. I owed Him everything, and still do. But He did it anyway.

Not every life-threatening case ends the same way. But the God who heals is the same, regardless. He can be trusted. He can be thanked either way, for in no case will He answer our prayers in a way that would be injurious to our souls. Whatever we receive from Him is the best there is to be had.

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HEART QUESTIONS: Do you believe God can heal diseases of all kinds, including and most importantly the infection of sin? Is your life right with God today? Are you at peace with Him in this very moment?

ACTIVE HEART CHALLENGE: Sickness is part of this broken world. Nobody is safe from it. But we have a choice in how we go through it. We can cling to Jesus in times of most urgent need, praying for spiritual and physical healing, and we can rest assured that whatever the outcome of the sickness will be, as long as we look to Him, we can be at peace. Having a strong faith in times of sickness starts by exercising faith in times of health. Will you choose to have faith in Him today? Are you willing to accept, even death, knowing that ultimately all diseases will be healed on resurrection morning for those who believe?

“Our Lord Jesus Christ came to this world as the unwearied servant of man's necessity. He 'took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses,' that He might minister to every need of humanity. The burden of disease and wretchedness and sin He came to remove. It was His mission to bring to men complete restoration; He came to give them health and peace and perfection of character.” – Ministry of Healing, p.17

Going Deeper: Additional reading suggestions for this week

- Ellen White, *Ministry of Healing*, chapter 16, “Prayer for the Sick”
- Ron Clouzet, *Adventism's Greatest Need: The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit*



Day 43 – Prayer Focus – Friday, May 8, 2020

PRAISE REPORT:

- Brittney and Vanessa B.: “Our church started meeting online every night to pray. This has brought everybody closer to each other since we see each other daily. Such a blessing!”
- Mico F.: “This situation has helped us realize that church is not a structure, it is people!”

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for churches who have lost members due to COVID-19.
- Pray for members struggling with various health issues like cancer, auto-immune diseases, depression and other issues.
- Pray for former Adventist members who have left the church. Pray for the people in their sphere of influence who might have been led away from God because of it.
- Pray for new members who joined the church through various TMI evangelistic campaigns over the last years.



Day 44 – Prayer Focus - Sabbath, May 9, 2020

The Knowledge of Jesus

“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” – John 17:3

“Christ came to reveal God to the world as a God of love, full of mercy, tenderness, and compassion. The thick darkness with which Satan had endeavored to enshroud the throne of Deity was swept away by the world’s Redeemer, and the Father was again manifest to men as the light of life.” – 5T 738.4

HEART QUESTIONS:

Eternal life is not just simply about living forever, but eternal life is the continual deepening of your love relationship with God. Do you mostly know facts *about* Jesus, or do you *know* Him personally as your Savior and Friend?

Why not start eternity today by asking Jesus to reveal Himself on a deeper level to you, as you spend time in prayer, the Bible and in sharing His love and truth with others?

PRAISE REPORT:

- Thierry T.: “I am sharing the ‘100 Days of Prayer’ with 90 of my friends. I was also able to share the book ‘Great Controversy’ to many of my contacts. One non-Adventist asked me to study the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation with him.”
- Gloria D.: “God has blessed us to be able to run our food distribution program in spite of this pandemic.”

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for members around the world who are starting or running Life Hope Centers of Influence.

- Pray for the people in the Fiji and Vanuatu islands who have been affected by the most recent cyclone.
- Pray for our educational institutions around the world. Pray that they are able to find ways to provide Christian education through online classes and other methods. Pray that they will be able to continue to be a positive spiritual influence to the students, and able to remain financially stable.



Day 45 – Prayer Focus - Sunday, May 10, 2020

The Ministry of Jesus

“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” – Hebrews 4:14-16

“The Son of God ... has fulfilled His pledge, and has passed into the heavens, to take upon Him the government of the heavenly host. He fulfilled one phase of His priesthood by dying on the cross for the fallen race. He is now fulfilling another phase by pleading before the Father the case of the repenting, believing sinner, presenting to God the offerings of His people. Having taken human nature, and in this nature having overcome the temptations of the enemy, and having divine perfection, to Him has been committed the judgment of the world. The case of each one will be brought in review before Him. He will pronounce judgment, rendering to every man according to his works.” – Manuscript 42, 1901

HEART QUESTIONS:

Jesus became human, died, and resurrected, and is right now standing in the heavenly sanctuary as a representative to all who have surrendered their lives to Him. When you pray, He is listening. When you seek forgiveness for sins, and victory, He hears you and will supply instantly the power needed to overcome.

As we live in the light of the judgment, have you made Jesus, the compassionate High Priest, your Advocate (1 John 2:1)? Have you sought refuge in His righteousness? Will you let Him not only *cover* you in His righteousness, but also *fill* you with His righteousness by doing the works He has prepared for you (Ephesians 2:10)?

PRAISE REPORT:

- Sheril M.: “I thank God! The ‘100 Days of Prayer’ have strengthened my faith in this hard time.”
- Rose S.: “Because of this pandemic our ‘Power of Prayer Chat Group’ became more alive as we have more time to pray together virtually, 5-6 times daily!”

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for the homeless people in all regions of the world who are relying on the greater population for help but are now in desperate need due to lockdowns.
- Pray for elderly members who are not able to connect with their families during this crisis. Pray for those who are struggling with dementia and are very confused during this time.

- Pray for marriages who are currently under extra pressure. Pray that struggling spouses will find healing, help and humility as they focus on Jesus.



Day 46 – Prayer Focus - Monday, May 11, 2020

The Love of Jesus

“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.” – John 15:9

“I shall, if saved in the kingdom of God, be constantly discerning new depths in the plan of salvation. All the redeemed saints will see and appreciate, as never before, the love of the Father and the Son, and songs of praise will burst forth from immortal tongues. He loved us, He gave His life for us. With glorified bodies, with enlarged capacities, with hearts made pure, with lips undefiled, we shall sing the riches of redeeming love.” – Letter 27, 1890

HEART QUESTIONS:

God is love. He is the Originator of love. There can be no purer love than the love within the Godhead. If Jesus loves us as much as the Father loves Jesus, what could possibly be more attractive than being with Him in full harmony? Jesus’ love is without comparison!

Are there currently things in your life that you love more than Jesus? Is there something that has captivated the affections of your heart?

Ask Jesus to impress you with the perfect love with which you are loved by Him. Why not choose today to accept this love into your heart and make it the supreme motivation for your walk of faith?

PRAISE REPORT:

- Some countries and some states in the U.S. have begun to reopen businesses (with restrictions).
- Covid-19 case rates and death rates have been somewhat lower than earlier projections predicted.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for various building projects such as churches and schools around the world. Pray for continued sacrificial giving and faithfulness in tithes and offering.
- Pray for the islands of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines who are facing one of the worst droughts on top of the pandemic. Pray for rain, and God’s blessings on the mission of the local churches.
- Pray for members who are plagued by fear during this crisis.
- Pray for discernment in understanding the difference between adherence to sanitary measures promoted by the government and enforcement of false worship.



Day 47 – Prayer Focus - Tuesday, May 12, 2020

The Faith of Jesus

“Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” – Revelation 14:12

“[F]aith in the ability of Christ to save us amply and fully and entirely is the faith of Jesus.” – 3SM 172.3

HEART QUESTIONS:

We are living in the last days. Now is the time, more than ever, where utmost trust in God’s ability to get us through is needed! Jesus has provided His life, death, resurrection and His Word with His promises and directions for you. He has pledged Himself to the task of saving you. Amazing, isn’t it?

Do you desire to truly believe this and accept this reality with its transformational consequences into your life? Do you want Jesus to take your small, weak faith and transform it into an unshakable faith? Why not ask Him to do this work in you as you follow His will day by day?

PRAISE REPORT:

- It is encouraging to hear how many of our churches, pastors, elders, and other members are being creative and placing worship, fellowship and prayer opportunities for their local members online regularly. This will be a great benefit to the church as we move forward. It is causing us to think in new and positive ways how to reach those around us needing Jesus.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for various mission projects and evangelism efforts in North Sulawesi, Indonesia.
- Pray for Adventist students in Cairo, Egypt who are struggling with being able to receive food donations from members due to certain local restrictions.
- Pray for the brave members in the Northwest region of Nigeria who are upholding the gospel message despite the dangers coming from terrorist groups, bandits and criminals who are very active in that territory.
- Pray for students in the Philippines who are facing issues relating to classes on the Sabbath due to new schedules during the pandemic.



Day 48 – Prayer Focus - Wednesday, May 13, 2020

The Presence of Jesus

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.” – John 16:7

“Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” – Matthew 28:20

"Henceforth through the Spirit, Christ was to abide continually in the hearts of His children. Their union with Him was closer than when He was personally with them. The light, and love, and power of the indwelling Christ shone out through them, so that men, beholding, 'marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.' Acts 4:13." – Steps to Christ, p. 74.1

HEART QUESTIONS:

Have you ever wished to be alive during the time when Jesus was on Earth? To walk and talk with Him? The powerful goal of the gospel is to give you something even better! Jesus wants to live *inside* of you, making you like Him through the transformational ministry of the Holy Spirit. Have you asked Jesus to baptize you with the Holy Spirit so that His presence would be felt and seen in you? Jesus told us to ask for the gift of His Spirit daily (Luke 11:13). Why not invite Christ to dwell in you through His Spirit right now?

PRAISE REPORT:

- So many, many around us are open and receptive to our witness and understandings of Scripture because of this crisis. Praise God He is saving many for eternity with Him during this pestilence!

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for individuals dealing with demonic oppression and possession. Pray that they will be released from Satan's power. Pray for their families, especially children whose parents are affected.
- Pray for the thousands of new groups and churches planted around the world to remain strong and vibrant despite the current crisis.
- Pray for pastors and church leaders in countries with very poor healthcare.
- Pray for Adventist radio stations around the world, reaching the unreached.



Day 49 – Prayer Focus - Thursday, May 14, 2020

The Compassion of Jesus

"The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion." – Psalm 116:5

"The souls who came to Jesus felt in His presence that even for them there was escape from the pit of sin. The Pharisees had only scorn and condemnation for them; but Christ greeted them as children of God, estranged indeed from the Father's house, but not forgotten by the Father's heart. And their very misery and sin made them only the more the objects of His compassion. The farther they had wandered from Him, the more earnest the longing and the greater the sacrifice for their rescue." – COL 186.2

HEART QUESTIONS:

God's grace to us is a direct result of His great compassion towards all who suffer under sin and its consequences. Realizing His compassion towards you, as revealed in Jesus, what is hindering you to come to Him, as you are, and surrender the darkest corners of your life to Him, today? Jesus understands your burdens, struggles, and temptations. He is more than willing to help, heal, forgive, uplift, and strengthen you. Will you let His love, grace and compassion melt any resistance or indifference you might be feeling towards Him today?

PRAISE REPORT:

- Many Adventists and other Christians are realizing we had become too comfortable and were running our churches too humanly. We needed a wakeup call to help us live the life of faith, prayer, and miracles like the early church did in Acts. At that time believers had no finances, degrees, buildings or institutions, yet because of the trials and even persecution and by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit they changed the world and took the gospel to the whole world in just a few years.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for the churches in Jamaica. Pray for members who are facing financial difficulties as well as the Andrews Memorial Hospital staff and patients during this crisis.
- Pray for church members and family members who are struggling with addictions to pornography, alcohol, sugar, movies, music, and other substances and behaviors. Pray for them to gain victory in Christ.
- Pray for the Windhoek South Church in Namibia who has been trying for ten years to receive approval to buy land to build a church for them to meet in.
- Pray for the Adventist bakery in Gränna, Sweden, to be able to reach the many people in their city with the gospel message.