

# *“Calling Upon Jesus in Our Urgent Need!”*

## **Week 9 - 100 Days of Prayer**

**May 22 - 28, 2020**

### **“A Time for Heart Searching”**

By Mark Finley

*“Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.” – Psalm 139:23-24*

Years ago, early in my ministry, I was invited to conduct a Week of Spiritual Emphasis at a Christian elementary school. As the week progressed, it became obvious to me that two of the teachers were having a serious conflict. Their negative attitudes toward one another regularly boiled over in staff meetings. If one suggested an idea, the other opposed it. When both of them were present in a meeting, tension filled the air. It was apparent that they did not like one another at all.

Toward the end of the week, I preached on Christ’s great intercessory prayer in John 17. Jesus was about ready to leave His disciples. Soon He would be betrayed and crucified. He would rise from the grave and ascend to His Father. His earnest prayer reflects what was on His heart. It reveals what was on His mind just before His death on the cross. The Savior was concerned about the unity of the church. He prayed, “That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent me” (John 17:21). Christ longed that the dissension, jealousy, striving for supremacy, and conflict between His disciples cease. He prayed that their unity, in spite of all their differences, would reveal to the world the power of His love.

As I shared the longing of Jesus’ heart with these students and teachers, something remarkable happened. The last night of our Week of Spiritual Emphasis, we scheduled a foot washing and Communion service. The Holy Spirit broke through. God moved powerfully. The two teachers who experienced such division knelt at each other’s feet. The Spirit of God broke down the barriers. They embraced, confessed their negative attitudes and prayed together.

The disciples experienced this same sweet repentance and humility during the 10 days in the upper room that preceded Pentecost. During those ten days, the disciples confessed their petty differences toward one another. They repented of their jealousy and pride. And their hearts were filled with love for Christ who had given His all for them. How they wished they could live the last three and a half years over again.

Have you ever felt that way? Have you ever wished that you could go back and correct your past mistakes?

When we see God's loving-kindness and observe the righteousness of His character, we recognize our weakness, shortcomings, and sins. In the blazing light of His unconditional love and perfection, our hearts are humbled. We are led to deep confession and repentance. We cry out to Him for the salvation and righteousness that only He can provide. When we are overwhelmed with His holiness, with the prophet Isaiah, we cry out, "Woe is me, for I am undone!" (Isa. 6:5). Self-examination may not always be the most pleasant experience, but it is absolutely necessary. In self-examination we ask God, "Is there anything in my life that is not in harmony with Your will?" We pray, "Lord, reveal those attitudes deep within my soul that are not like Jesus."

God's goal in this process is to lead us closer to Him. He does not want us to wallow in guilt or be filled with remorse over our past lives. His goal is to lead us "in the way everlasting." Although it is healthy to take a candid look at our own spiritual lives, it is unhealthy to dwell on the faults of our past lives. Dwelling on our faults and focusing too long on our mistakes only discourages us.

Always remember, our Lord is bigger than our mistakes and greater than our failures. We certainly need to honestly know our condition—but it is much more important to know His grace. Understanding our weakness prepares us to receive His strength. Understanding our sinfulness prepares us to receive His righteousness. Understanding our ignorance prepares us to receive His wisdom. The purpose of the Holy Spirit's conviction is to lead us to Jesus. As we recognize our sins and mistakes through a process of self-examination, we can thank God that the Holy Spirit is leading us closer to Jesus, and as a result to each other. The convicting power of the Holy Spirit is preparing us to receive the fullness of the Spirit in latter-rain power. But before God makes us, He must break us. Before He fills us, He must empty us. Before He is enthroned in our hearts, self must be dethroned.

*Mark Finley is an assistant to the General Conference president.*

**HEART QUESTIONS:** Where is your heart today? Have you experienced the sweet gift of repentance? If so, is your life different from what it was before? Have you come to experience God's grace in a new way? Have you learned to extend that grace to others?

**ACTIVE HEART CHALLENGE:** Ask God to reveal those things in your life that may be taking your time, your attention, and or diverting your affections from Jesus. As you consider Isaiah 59:1-2, and 1 John 1:9, pray and ask God to reveal any spiritual breaches that may be in your life. Pray that He would remove them, and for a deeper filling of the Holy Spirit.

*"Repentance includes sorrow for sin and a turning away from it. We shall not renounce sin unless we see its sinfulness; until we turn away from it in heart, there will be no real change in the life. There are many who fail to understand the true nature of repentance. Multitudes sorrow that they have sinned and even make an outward reformation because they fear that their wrongdoing will bring suffering upon themselves. But this is not repentance in the Bible sense ... [Such was the case of Esau, Balaam, Judas Iscariot and even Pharaoh. In contrast] ... David saw the enormity of his transgression; he saw the defilement of his soul; he loathed his sin. It was not for pardon only that he prayed, but for purity of heart" – Steps to Christ, pp. 23-25*

### Going Deeper - Additional Reading Suggestions for this week:

- Ellen White, [\*Steps to Christ, Ch. 3 "Repentance"\*](#)
- Mark Finley, *10 Days in the Upper Room*



## Day 57 – Prayer Focus – Friday, May 22, 2020

### **PRAISE REPORTS:**

- Jinia Y.: "I praise God for the media ministries. The sermons and testimonies that we can watch online help me cope with the pain that I am having during this time of isolation."
- Yvonne L.: "I received a call through my work to assist somebody who I had never met before. I prayed about it and went to see this person. Through the conversation, it turned out that this person used to be an Adventist leader who had left the church. I was able to pray with him and he admitted that he felt the Holy Spirit calling him back. I praise God who not only provides opportunities to witness but instructs us how to respond."

### **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- **Pray** for areas where Covid-19 seems to be flaring up again such as Wuhan, China and other cities and regions in China.
- **Pray** for Adventist teachers in government-run schools across Thailand. There is a good chance that once school starts again, the government will implement Saturday classes to make up for the lost time. Pray for strengthened faith for the teachers and for them to stand as Daniel's three friends stood.
- **Pray** for the small groups, outdoor churches, and evangelistic meetings that have developed across Papua New Guinea due to the closure of churches.
- **Pray** for the Omega Seventh-day Adventist Church's warming center ministry in New Haven, Connecticut, U.S., serving the city's homeless population with adaptations for distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic.



## Day 58 – Prayer Focus – Sabbath, May 23, 2020

### **Blessed Poverty**

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

– Matthew 5:3

*"Those who know that they cannot possibly save themselves, or of themselves do any righteous action, are the ones who appreciate the help that Christ can bestow. They are the poor in spirit, whom He declares to be blessed. Whom Christ pardons, He first makes penitent, and it is the office of the Holy Spirit to convince of sin. Those whose hearts have been moved by the convicting Spirit of God see that there is nothing good in themselves. They see that all they have ever done is mingled with self and sin. Like the poor publican, they stand afar off,*

*not daring to lift up so much as their eyes to heaven, and cry, 'God, be merciful to me the sinner'. . . All who have a sense of their deep soul poverty, who feel that they have nothing good in themselves, may find righteousness and strength by looking unto Jesus."*

– Thoughts from The Mount of Blessing, pp. 7-8

### **HEART QUESTIONS:**

Self-righteousness – the all-permeating and often subconscious attitude that deceives us into thinking and feeling that we are good – is the greatest hindrance in truly receiving personal salvation in Jesus. When we realize our spiritual poverty, our life-long, desperate need for Jesus, and as a result trust solely in Him, moment by moment, to fully and completely heal us from every last trace of selfishness, only then can we have the assurance of salvation.

Today, why not come to Jesus as you are, with your broken, sinful self? Why not claim only His blood, His life and death, as a means for salvation? Why not ask Him to uproot all self-reliance that is still in your heart and replace it with a faith in *His* ability to save you, and to empower you to do good works motivated by selfless love?

### **PRAISE REPORTS:**

- Nolubabalo D.: “Thank you Lord for your hand over Africa. Thank you for your protection. Thank you for taking care of my kids in my absence. You are worthy of all praise.”
- Philippe M.: “In our town of Kananga, there were no radio broadcasts before the Covid-19 lockdowns, but at this time of crisis we have four broadcasts each week on four local radio stations. We praise God for that!”

### **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- **Pray** for Jesus to cleanse you from all self-righteousness and give you a realization of your great daily and lifelong need of Him.
- **Pray** for evangelists in South Africa who are struggling with various health issues and stress. Pray that they will be healed and enabled to find ways to preach the gospel even now.
- **Pray** for Brother Samuel S. He is suffering from excruciating pain in his lower body and doctors do not know what is wrong. Also, pray for Sister Tabitha N. who has been diagnosed with a hole in her heart and is in great pain. Pray for their healing and the healing of many others who are suffering at this time.
- **Pray** for the Chinese Ministry Center in Jakarta, Indonesia as they are conducting online evangelistic meetings every Sabbath from May 9 until June 20, 2020. The first meeting drew around 3000 viewers and more than 260 signed up for Bible studies.



## **Day 59 – Prayer Focus – Sunday, May 24, 2020**

### **Mourning Has Broken**

*“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” – Matthew 5:4*

*“The mourning here brought to view is true heart sorrow for sin . . . And as one is drawn to behold Jesus uplifted on the cross, he discerns the sinfulness of humanity. He sees that it is sin which scourged and crucified the Lord of glory. He sees that, while he has been loved with unspeakable tenderness, his life has been a continual scene of ingratitude and rebellion. He has forsaken his best Friend and abused heaven’s most precious gift. He has crucified to himself the Son of God afresh and pierced anew that bleeding and stricken heart. He is separated from God by a gulf of sin that is broad and black and deep, and he mourns in brokenness of heart. Such mourning ‘shall be comforted.’ God reveals to us our guilt that we may flee to Christ, and through Him be set free from the bondage of sin, and rejoice in the liberty of the sons of God. In true contrition we may come to the foot of the cross, and there leave our burdens.” – Thoughts from The Mount of Blessing, pp. 9-10*

### **HEART QUESTIONS:**

Have you ever taken time to fully realize what Jesus accomplished for you in the darkest hours of His dying? As you behold the uplifted, crucified, sin-bearing Savior, will you let these scenes penetrate your heart? As you internalize His agony of experiencing the second death in your place, will you let it open your eyes to see the filthiness of your favorite sins? Why not today start mourning for your sins, especially for those which you have been unwilling to give up? Confess them to Jesus! He will gladly forgive you. He will comfort you. And He will give you victory.

### **PRAISE REPORTS:**

- Diane T.: “Praising God for the opportunity to attend the Virtual ARME Bible Camp! What a rich blessing during this time.”
- Iris R.: “I was addicted to binge-watching Netflix. I would read a few Bible verses and try to justify myself, and then continue watching. After a week of prayer at our school God convicted me to delete the app. After a while I went back on and started to watch only Bible movies, but I couldn’t control myself, I was back under Satan’s control. I cried out to God. The next day my pastor gave me as a present the Andrews Study Bible. I rejoiced, and with tears thanked God for His intervention. He reminded me of Philippians 2:13 *‘for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.’* I praise God for convicting me and fulfilling His promise.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- **Pray** for a clearer understanding of what really happened at the cross. Pray for God to help you hate sin, and love righteousness.
- **Pray** for the canvassing work in Malawi as well as for financial support to start a sanitarium and medical missionary work in that region.
- **Pray** that people won’t get derailed with conspiracy theories, but fix their eyes upon Jesus, and His truth.
- **Pray** for the members of the Peter’s Rest Seventh-day Adventist Church on St. Croix, Virgin Islands. Their church building completely burned down. Pray for wisdom as to how to move forward. Pray that this loss will be turned into a victory for Jesus.



## Day 60 – Prayer Focus – Monday, May 25, 2020

### Rewarding Meekness

*“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” – Matthew 5:5*

*“Human nature is ever struggling for expression, ready for contest; but he who learns of Christ is emptied of self, of pride, of love of supremacy, and there is silence in the soul. Self is yielded to the disposal of the Holy Spirit. Then we are not anxious to have the highest place. We have no ambition to crowd and elbow ourselves into notice; but we feel that our highest place is at the feet of our Saviour. We look to Jesus, waiting for His hand to lead, listening for His voice to guide.” – Thoughts from The Mount of Blessing, p. 15*

#### **HEART QUESTIONS:**

There is no happier place in life than knowing that you are in harmony with God in all you do. This harmony exists when Jesus is sought after, and the exaltation of self is abandoned, recognizing that the sinful *“heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick.”* (Jeremiah 17:9). Humility, meekness, is the key to letting the Holy Spirit develop in you a truly beautiful, Christ-like character.

Will you ask Jesus to take away your prideful desires, your self-centered ambitions, and your love of supremacy? Will you ask Him to replace them by enabling you to practice gentleness, meekness, and humility, starting today?

#### **PRAISE REPORTS:**

- Claudia P.: “I praise God for His tender mercies are new not only every morning, but every moment! He has been good toward my family and me beyond what words can express. I praise you Lord!”
- Rose K.: “Praise God for the 100 Days of Prayer! Every day I am prompted to do something new, or I see new changes in other believers. Afterward, I realize that what I saw was actually an answer to the prayer request in the 100 Days of Prayer. It is amazing to see how the Holy Spirit is working!”

#### **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- **Pray** for Jesus to make you humble and meek.
- **Pray** for members in Uganda who are affected by recent floods. The flash floods have left many houses destroyed. Many are now homeless amidst the lockdown.
- **Pray** for Adventist teachers around the world as many are facing financial difficulties due to not being able to work.
- **Pray** for young people to realize the importance of serving God and not the world.



## Day 61 – Prayer Focus – Tuesday, May 26, 2020

### **A Righteous Diet**

*“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”*  
– Matthew 5:6

*“Righteousness is holiness, likeness to God, and ‘God is love.’ 1 John 4:16. It is conformity to the law of God, for ‘all Thy commandments are righteousness’ (Psalm 119:172), and ‘love is the fulfilling of the law’ (Romans 13:10). Righteousness is love, and love is the light and the life of God. The righteousness of God is embodied in Christ. We receive righteousness by receiving Him.”– Thoughts from The Mount of Blessing, p. 18*

#### **HEART QUESTIONS:**

Do you hunger and thirst for Christ’s righteousness?

His life of perfect selfless love and His substitutional death provides you with a twofold gift of justifying grace: 1.) His imputed righteousness, which is the promise that you are covered by His perfect life through faith in that promise. 2.) His imparted righteousness, which is the promise that He will transform you from a being of selfishness, into a being that reflects the selfless love of Jesus, through living faith in that promise.

This twofold gift will fulfill you; it will truly satisfy you; it will save you! Why not accept it today and start living a happy and Jesus-filled life in the awareness of this amazing reality of God’s redemptive love?

#### **PRAISE REPORTS:**

- Jane D.: “God healed the sick who I prayed for. He also amazingly touched the hearts of my family.”
- Marcia N.: “My daughter has been addicted to drugs for many years, was homeless and even went to jail. Our prayer group started praying for her and as a result she is now in a facility getting help, her health is improving, she has a renewed interest in God, and she is reading Spirit of Prophecy books. She said that it is God who helped her. I praise God for His love for us and helping us through these heartbreaking years. Weeping endures for a night, but JOY comes in the morning!”

#### **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- **Pray** for Christ’s righteousness to cover and fill you.
- **Pray** for God to intervene in the outbreak of cerebrospinal meningitis in the upper west region of Ghana. This outbreak has already killed many people in that region.
- **Pray** for churches that have become inactive since the Covid-19 outbreak. Pray for pastors, church leaders, and members to know how to best connect at this time. Pray for a new focus on the importance of prayer.
- **Pray** for members in Myanmar as they utilize the internet to spread the gospel in this time of crisis.



## Day 62 – Prayer Focus – Wednesday, May 27, 2020

### Have Mercy!

*“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.” – Matthew 5:7*

*“God is Himself the source of all mercy. His name is ‘merciful and gracious.’ Exodus 34:6. He does not treat us according to our desert. He does not ask if we are worthy of His love, but He pours upon us the riches of His love, to make us worthy. He is not vindictive. He seeks not to punish, but to redeem . . . He yearns with intense desire to relieve the woes of men and to apply His balsam to their wounds . . . The merciful are ‘partakers of the divine nature,’ and in them the compassionate love of God finds expression. All whose hearts are in sympathy with the heart of Infinite Love will seek to reclaim and not to condemn. Christ dwelling in the soul is a spring that never runs dry. Where He abides, there will be an overflowing of beneficence.”*

*– Thoughts from The Mount of Blessing, p. 22*

#### **HEART QUESTIONS:**

Take a moment and think about God’s mercy upon your life. He only looks out for your best, despite your unfaithfulness. He is not requiring you to prove your worth to Him in order to receive His gift of salvation. He treats you with love.

When you experience and internalize God’s mercy, the Holy Spirit will enable you to become an agent of mercy; treating those around you with the same kind of love and mercy. Especially those who have wronged you.

Will you choose today, with the help of Jesus, to extend God’s mercy to people in your life? Forgiving them before they ask for it, loving them before being given a reason to? Desiring their best no matter if they are worth it or not?

#### **PRAISE REPORTS:**

- Elham L.: “I have been asking God for a deeper relationship with him. Since incorporating the 100 Days of Prayers on a daily basis into my daily devotions using a prayer journal my prayer life has been revitalized. It’s mind-blowing!”
- Sherma J.: “God answered a prayer for a missing member. She ignored my attempts to call her. When I visited, she would just talk about her problems and not let me say anything. I prayed for God to work on her heart and instead of me trying to call her that she would call me. Two weeks later she called and said that her problems are gone and she wants to come back to church and recommit her life to God!”

#### **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- **Pray** for God to make you an agent of mercy to the people in your life.
- **Pray** for students who are struggling to come up with school fees in order to receive an education. Pray that they will experience God’s leading in their education.
- **Pray** for the people and members in Zimbabwe. The majority of them can not afford to stay on lockdown. The health care system is unable to deal with the Covid-19 crisis.
- **Pray** for various pastors in Indonesia who have contracted Covid-19.



- **Pray** for God to bless the outreach of students in Brazil who are volunteering to produce hand sanitizer for the elderly.



## **Day 63 – Prayer Focus – Thursday, May 28, 2020**

### **Pure Vision**

*“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” – Matthew 5:8*

*“The Holy Spirit takes the truth concerning God and Him whom He hath sent, and opens it to the understanding and to the heart. The pure in heart see God in a new and endearing relation, as their Redeemer; and while they discern the purity and loveliness of His character, they long to reflect His image. They see Him as a Father longing to embrace a repenting son, and their hearts are filled with joy unspeakable and full of glory.”*

– Thoughts from The Mount of Blessing, p. 26

#### **HEART QUESTIONS:**

When we faithfully walk with God, He continually opens our eyes to more and more of an understanding of His character of love, His will, and His beauty. In the realization of His perfect holiness and purity our impurities come to light and we are invited to receive the cleansing only He can give. On this side of heaven, we see with the eye of faith, but one day soon, we shall see Him face to face! That will be a glorious day.

Until then, why not ask Him to cleanse our hearts from all impurity and filth? Why not actively search for an ever-clearer vision and understanding of our God and His will?

#### **PRAISE REPORTS:**

- Shana S.: “During the 100 Days of Prayer I started praying for a friend of 20 years who, out of the blue, started to ignore me in 2017. Blocked me on her phone, etc. I had tried to reach out many times. No response. Our prayer leader encouraged us to cry out to God. I did. I called again. No response. The next day she called me back! She unblocked me and told me that I hadn’t done anything wrong. We reconnected and reconciled. God answers our prayers!”
- John K.: “Here in Uganda the lockdown has left many starving. During a 100 Days of Prayer session, God gave me wisdom to help the starving children. I sent a message to 100 families from church and asked them to share food with starving people near them. This simple idea spread across the entire region through a journalist who shared it online. With the new connections we made we now started WhatsApp based evangelistic meetings!”

#### **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- **Pray** for a pure heart, free from sin, cleansed from all impurity.
- **Pray** for funeral directors, morticians, embalmers and funeral service staff as they are in direct contact with many who have died of Covid-19.
- **Pray** for the church in Fiji, as they are considering structural changes and stronger empowerment of the laity in taking ownership of various responsibilities.

- **Pray** for the ministry of the Harvest Seventh-day Adventist Church in Alabama, USA. They are located in a low income, high crime area, and have seen very little fruit in their soul-winning efforts. Pray for God to bring a breakthrough.