

*"Experiencing God
Through
Prayer & Praise!"*

Compiled by Jerry and Janet Page

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STATEMENTS ON PRAYER AND EMPOWERED MINISTRIES

Inspired writings and experience make it clear that two principles must be applied for all our ministries to be most fully used and empowered by the Holy Spirit: 1) Much personal and united prayer; 2) Much lay member involvement.

1. "What the Lord did for His people in that time (early church), it is just as essential, and more so, that He do for His people today. All that the apostles did, every church member today is to do.* And we are to work with as much more fervor, to be accompanied by the Holy Spirit in as much greater measure, as the increase of wickedness demands a more decided call to repentance." 7T p. 33
2. **"A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work"** . . . Our heavenly Father is more willing to give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him, than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their children. But it is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessings. **A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer.*"** 1SM p. 121
3. "At the sound of fervent prayer, Satan's whole host trembles." 1T p. 346
4. "It is part of God's plan to grant us in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow if we did not thus ask." GC p. 525
5. "It is the order of God that those who bear responsibilities should often meet together to counsel with one another and pray earnestly for that wisdom which He alone can impart." Unitedly make known your troubles to God. Talk less: much precious time is lost in talk that brings no light. Let brethren unite in fasting and prayer* for the wisdom that God has promised to supply liberally." 1T p. 624
6. *"If two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in Heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them" Matthew 18:19, 20 "Ask of Me, and I will answer your requests."**

The promise is made on condition that the united prayers of the church are offered, and in answer to these prayers there may be expected a power greater than that which comes in answer to private prayer.* The power given will be proportionate to the unity of the members and their love of God and for one another. —Letter 32, 1903, p. 5 (To Brother and Sister Farnsworth, January 28, 1903.) White Estate Washington D.C. October 22, 1979 (9MR 303.3) —*MR No. 748 The Power of United Prayer.*

7. **"The greatest victories gained for the cause of God are not the result of labored argument, ample facilities, wide influence, or abundance of means;*** they are gained in the **audience chamber with God,*** when with earnest, agonizing faith men lay hold upon the mighty arm of power." GW p. 259
8. The word of the living God is not merely written, but spoken. The Bible is God's voice speaking to us, just as surely as though we could hear it with our ears. If we realized this, with what awe would we search its precepts! The reading and contemplation of the Scriptures would be regarded as an audience with the Infinite One. 6T p. 393
9. "An intensity, such as never before was seen, is taking possession of the world. In amusement, in moneymaking, in the contest for power, in the very struggle for existence, there is a terrible force that engrosses body and mind and soul. In the midst of this maddening rush, God is speaking. He bids us come apart and commune with Him. **'Be still, and know that I am God.'**"* Ps. 46:10

“Many, even in their seasons of devotion, fail of receiving the blessing of real communion with God. They are in too great haste. With hurried steps they press through the circle of Christ’s loving presence, pausing perhaps a moment within the sacred precincts, but not waiting for counsel. They have no time to remain with the divine Teacher. With their burdens they return to their work.*

“These workers can never attain the highest success until they learn the secret of strength. They must give themselves time to think, to pray, to wait upon God for a renewal of physical, mental, and spiritual power. They need the uplifting influence of His Spirit. Receiving this, they will be quickened by fresh life. The wearied frame and tired brain will be refreshed; the burdened heart will be lightened.

“Not a pause for a moment in His presence, but personal contact with Christ, to sit down in companionship with Him—this is our need.”* ED p. 260-261

10. *“Parents have a great and responsible work to do, and they may well inquire: ‘Who is sufficient for these things?’ But God has promised to give wisdom to those that ask in faith, and He will do just as He said He would. He is pleased with the faith that takes Him at His Word.”**

“The mother of Augustine prayed for her son’s conversion. She saw no evidence that the Spirit of God was impressing his heart, but she was not discouraged. She laid her finger upon the texts, presenting before God His own words, and pleaded as only a mother can. Her deep humiliation, her earnest importunities, her unwavering faith, prevailed and the Lord gave her the desires of her heart. Today He is just as ready to listen to the petitions of His people. His hand is not shortened that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy that it cannot hear; and if Christian parents seek Him earnestly, He will fill their mouths with arguments and for His name’s sake will work mightily in their behalf in the conversion of their children.” 5T p. 322-323*

11. *“When the mind dwells upon self, it is turned away from Christ, the source of strength and life. Hence, it is Satan’s constant effort to keep the attention diverted from the Saviour and thus prevent the union and communion of the soul with Christ.**

The pleasures of the world; life’s cares, perplexities, and sorrow; the faults of others; or your own faults and imperfections—to any or all of these he will seek to divert the mind. Do not be misled by his devices. Many who are really conscientious and who desire to live for God, he too often leads to dwell upon their own faults and weaknesses and thus by separating them from Christ, he hopes to gain the victory. We should not make self the center and indulge anxiety and fear as to whether we shall be saved. All this turns the soul away from the source of our strength. Commit the keeping of your soul to God, and trust in Him. **Talk and think of Jesus. Let self be lost in Him!*** SC p. 71-72

12. *“The greatest help that can be given our people is to teach them to work for God, and to depend on Him, not on the ministers.” 7T p. 19*
13. *“There is no influence in our land more powerful to poison the imagination, to destroy religious impressions, and to blunt the relish for the tranquil pleasures and sober realities of life, than theatrical amusements. The love of these scenes increases with every indulgence as the desire for intoxicating drink strengthens with its use. The only safe course is to shun the theater and every other questionable amusement.” 4T p. 653*
14. *“The secret of success is the union of divine power with human effort. Those who achieve the greatest results are those who rely most implicitly upon the almighty arm. The man who commanded, ‘Sun, stand still upon Gibeon; and thou, moon, in the Valley of Ajalon,’ is the man who for hours lay prostrate upon the earth in prayer in the camp at Gilgal. The men of prayer are the men of power.” PP p. 509*

*Note: All **bolding**, *italicizing*, and underlining in this document are supplied by the compiler.

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PRAISING GOD

1. **Gratitude and praise should be cultivated**—1 Chron. 16:8-36

“When the ten lepers were healed, only one returned to find Jesus and give Him glory. Let us not be like the unthinking nine, whose hearts were untouched by the mercy of God” (5T, 315). “Let us educate our hearts and lips to speak the praise of God for His matchless love”. MH 253

NOTE: Ellen White suggested to publishing house employees that “as often as once a week a praise meeting should be held” (4T 461). At camp meetings a simple service of thanksgiving should be held daily. 6T p. 62

2. **The power of praise**—2 Chron.20-30

“Begin to educate your tongues to praise Him and train your hearts to make melody to God; and when the evil one begins to settle his gloom about you, sing praise to God. When things go crossways at your homes, strike up a song about the matchless charms of the Son of God, and I tell you, when you touch this strain, Satan will leave you”. *Review and Herald*, 8/5/1900

“Unbelievers are often converted as they listen to pure words of praise and gratitude to God” MYP p, 424
“No more effective means (telling about and praising God for blessings received) can be employed for winning souls to Christ”. COL p. 300

“Let there be singing in the home, of songs that are sweet and pure, and there will be fewer words of censure, and more of cheerfulness and hope and joy. Let there be singing in the school, and the pupils will be drawn closer to God, to their teachers, and to one another”. ED p. 168

3. **Some of the benefits of praise**—Prov. 17:27

Increase of joy (MH p. 253)

More bestowed to praise God (5T p. 17)

Banishment of discouragement (MH p. 254)

Steady increase of courage, hope, and faith (PK p. 202)

Far more power in prayer (5T p. 317)

Greater realization of God’s love (5T p. 317)

Health of body and soul promoted (MH p. 251)

NOTE: “No tongue can express, no finite mind can conceive, the blessing that results from appreciating the goodness and love of God: MH p. 253

4. **A few of the many things to praise God for**– Lam. 3:22, 23

The Gift of God's son (SD p. 243)

God's goodness and mercies (4T p. 461)

The fresh blessings of each new day (MH p. 253)

God's peace in our hearts (MH p. 253)

The protection given by angels (6T p. 63)

The water we drink water purchased by Christ's blood (MH p. 660)

Temporal Blessings and comforts (CG p. 148)

The matchless charms of Christ (2T p. 593)

The bread we eat the cross of Calvary stamped on every loaf (DA p. 660)

Being kept through the night (MH p. 253)

God's acceptance of the humble (FE p. 370)

The second coming of Jesus (EV p. 218)

NOTE: "The thought that Christ died to obtain for us the gift of everlasting life, is enough to call forth from our hearts the most sincere and fervent gratitude, and from our lips the most enthusiastic praise." SD p. 238 "The greatness of this gift was to furnish men with a theme of thanksgiving and praise that would last through time and eternity". SD p. 243

Memorize stanzas 1, 3, and 6 of "When Morning Gilds the Skies...". *Church Hymnal*, 43

Develop a plan for "educating" your heart and lips to praise God. See Daniel 6:10.

"Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!". Ps. 150:6

"Here are my directions: pray much for others; plead for God's mercy upon them; give thanks for all He is going to do for them." 1 Tim. 2:1, LB

"Let us praise God for an opportunity to live for the glory of His name. Let the fresh blessings of each new day awaken praise in our hearts for these tokens of His loving care. When you open your eyes in the morning, thank God that He has kept you through the night. Thank Him for His peace in your heart. Morning, noon, and night, let gratitude as a sweet perfume ascend to heaven." MH 253

"No tongue can express, no finite mind can conceive, the blessing that results from appreciating the goodness and love of God...Then let us educate our hearts and lips to speak the praise of God for His matchless love." MH 253

BENEFITS WHICH RESULT FROM PRAISING GOD

1. **Praise increases faith, hope, and courage.** "If more praising of God were engaged in now, hope and courage and faith would steadily increase." PK p. 202
2. **Praise increases our power in prayer.** "We do not pray any too much, but we are too sparing of giving thanks. If the loving kindness of God called forth more thanksgiving and praise, we would have far more power in prayer." 5T p. 317
3. **Praise increases our love for God.** "If the loving kindness of God called forth more thanksgiving and praise, we . . . would abound more and more in the love of God." 5T p. 317

4. **Praise increases our power in witnessing.** “Far more than we do, we need to speak of the precious chapters in our experience. After a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit, our joy in the Lord and our efficiency in His service would be greatly increased by recounting His goodness and His wonderful works in behalf of His children... Such a testimony will have an influence upon others. No more effective means can be employed for winning souls to Christ.” COL p. 300
5. **Praise results in greater blessings being bestowed.** “If the loving kindness of God called forth more thanksgiving and praise, we would . . . have more bestowed to praise Him for.” 5T p. 317
6. **Praise promotes health.** “Nothing tends more to promote health of body and of soul than does a spirit of gratitude and praise.” MH p. 251
7. **Praise brings us nearer to heaven.** “The soul may ascend nearer heaven on the wings of praise. God is worshiped with song and music in the courts above, and as we express our gratitude, we are approximating to the worship of the heavenly hosts”. SC p. 104

PRAISE GOD IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES!

1. “The soul may ascend nearer Heaven on the wings of praise.” SC p. 104
2. “In the future life the mysteries that here have annoyed and disappointed us will be made plain. We shall see that our seemingly unanswered prayers and disappointed hopes have been among our greatest blessings.” MH p. 474
3. “The way of the Lord’s helping we may not know; but this we do know: He will never fail those who put their trust in Him.” PK p. 576
4. “Could Christians realize how many times the Lord has ordered their way that the purposes of the enemy concerning them might not be accomplished, they would not stumble along complainingly. Their faith would be stayed on God, and no trial would have power to move them.” PK p. 576
5. “The fact that we are called upon to endure trial shows that the Lord Jesus sees in us something precious which He desires to develop. If He saw in us nothing whereby He might glorify His name, He would not spend time in refining us. He does not cast worthless stones into His furnace. It is valuable ore that He refines.” MH p. 471
6. “All that has perplexed us in the providences of God will in the world to come be made plain. The things hard to be understood will then find explanation. The mysteries of grace will unfold before us. Where our finite minds discovered only confusion and broken promises, we shall see the most perfect and beautiful harmony. We shall know that infinite love ordered the experiences that seemed most trying.” 9T p. 286
7. “Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish and a plain path before their feet.” MH p. 481
8. “To all who are reaching out to feel the guiding hand of God, the moment of greatest discouragement is the time when divine help is nearest. They will look back with thankfulness upon the darkest part of their way. “The Lord knoweth how to deliver the Godly.” 2 Peter 2:9. From every temptation and every trial He will bring them forth with firmer faith and a richer experience. DA p. 528

9. The Father's presence encircled Christ, and nothing befell Him but that which infinite love permitted for the blessing of the world. Here was His source of comfort, and it is for us. He who is imbued with the Spirit of Christ abides in Christ. Whatever comes to him comes from the Savior, who surrounds him with His presence. Nothing can touch him except by the Lord's permission. All our sufferings and sorrows, all our temptations and trials, all our sadness and grief's, all our persecutions, privations, in short, all things work together for our good. All experiences and circumstances are God's workmen whereby good is brought to us." MH pp. 488-489
10. "Moses had a deep sense of the personal presence of God.....The presence of God was sufficient to carry him through the most trying situations in which a man could be placed. Moses did not merely think of God; he saw Him. God was the constant vision before him; he never lost sight of His face. He saw Jesus as his Savior, and he believed that the Savior's merits would be imputed to him. This faith was to Moses no guesswork; it was a reality. This is the kind of faith we need, faith that will endure the test. Oh, how often we yield to temptation because we do not keep our eye upon Jesus! Our faith is not continuous because, through self-indulgence, we sin, and then we cannot endure "as seeing Him who is invisible."
- My brother, make Christ your daily, hourly companion, and you will not complain that you have no faith. Contemplate Christ. View His character. Talk of Him. The less you exalt self, the more you will see in Jesus to exalt. God has a work for you to do, keep the Lord ever before you." 5T pp. 651-653
11. "Begin to educate your tongues to praise Him and train your hearts to make melody to God; and when the evil one begins to settle his gloom about you, sing praise to God. When things go crossways at your homes, strike up a song about the matchless charms of the Son of God, and I tell you, when you touch this strain, Satan will leave you." RH8/5/1900
12. "Unbelievers are often converted as they listen to pure words of praise and gratitude to God" (MYP 424). "No more effective means (telling about and praising God for blessings received) can be employed for winning souls to Christ." COL p. 300

FOR FORGIVENESS

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1 John 1:9 | If we confess our sins, He will forgive us, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. |
| Matt. 11:28-30 | Come to Christ with your burdens. |
| John 6:37 | Whoever comes to Christ will not be cast out. |
| 1 Tim. 1:15 | Christ came to save sinners. |
| Luke 19:10 | Christ came to seek and to save the lost. |
| Rom. 8:1 | No condemnation to those in Christ. |
| Isa. 1:18 | Your sins can be made as white as snow. |
| Isa. 38:17 | He casts our sins behind His back. |
| Isa. 44:22 | God sweeps away your transgressions. |

FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Phil. 4:19 | God will supply your every need. |
| Matt. 6:33 | Seek first the kingdom of God, and all your needs will be taken care of. |
| 2 Cor. 9:6 | He who sows bountifully will reap bountifully. |
| 1 Cor. 10:13 | God will not allow you to be tempted beyond your strength. |
| Rom. 8:32 | Through Christ we have "all things". |
| Jude 24 | He is able to keep you from falling. |
| 2 Cor. 12:9 | God's grace is sufficient for you. |
| Phil. 4:7 | The peace of God will keep your hearts and minds. |
| Isa. 26:3, 4 | God will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are stayed on Him. |

FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

Luke 11:13	We will be given the Holy Spirit if we ask.
John 14:26	The Holy Spirit teaches us and brings things to our remembrance.
John 16:8	He convicts of sin.
John 15:26	He testifies of Christ.
John 16:7	He comes as the Counselor.
Eph. 3:16	He strengthens you.
Rom. 8:26	Helps in our weakness.

FOR CHRISTLIKENESS

2 Cor. 5:17	If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
Eze. 36:26, 27	God promises to give you a new heart.
2 Cor. 6:16	God will dwell in you.
Eph. 3:16, 17	Through the Holy Spirit Christ will dwell in your heart.
2 Pet. 1:4	Through Christ's promises you can become a partaker of the divine nature.
2 Cor. 10:4, 5	Every thought can be made captive to Christ.
2 Cor. 3:18	By beholding the Lord we are changed into His likeness.
Phil. 1:6	God will complete the work He began in you.

FOR WISDOM AND STRENGTH

James 1:5, 6	Wisdom will be given if you ask in faith.
Prov. 3:5, 6	Rely on God for guidance.
Ps. 32:8	God will teach you the way to go.
Ex. 33:14	God's presence will go with you and give you rest.
Isa. 58:11	He will guide you continually.
Phil. 4:13	I can do all things in Christ.

Jer. 1:7	He will give you words to speak.
Prov. 14:26	In the fear of the Lord you can have strong confidence.
Isa. 41:10	God will strengthen, God will help, God will uphold.
Isa. 41:13	The Lord your God will hold your right hand.
Heb. 4:15, 16	Come with confidence to the throne of grace.
James 4:7	Resist the devil, and he will flee.
James 5:14, 15	The prayer of faith will save the sick.
James 5:16-18	Prayer has great power.
1 Pet. 5:7	Cast all your anxieties on Him.
1 Jn. 5:14, 15	You can know He hears when you ask.

FOR OTHERS

Eze. 11:19, 20	God promises to give others a new heart that they may keep His laws.
1 John 5:16	God promises to give spiritual life to those for whom you pray.
John 12:32	Christ uplifted on the cross draws people to Him.
Acts 5:31	Repentance is a gift.
John 16:8	The Holy Spirit convicts of sin.
Heb. 4:12	God's word reaches the heart.
Jer. 32:40, KJV	"I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me."
Jer. 33:3	If we call, God will answer with great things.
Isa. 49:24, 25	God promises to deliver those who are captives of Satan.

ALL-INCLUSIVE

Ps. 34:10 If you seek the Lord, you will not lack any good thing.

Ps. 37:3-5 Delight in the Lord, and He will give the desires of your heart. Commit your way to Him, and He will act.

Ps. 84:11 God will withhold no good thing from you if you walk uprightly.

Eph. 3:20 He is able to do far more than we ask.

Luke 1:37 With God nothing is impossible.

Mark 11:24 Believe, and you will receive.

Rom. 8:28 In everything God works for good.

John 16:24 Ask and receive so that your joy may be full.

John 15:7 If you abide in Christ, you can ask whatever you will and it shall be done.

John 15:16 Anything you ask in Christ's name the Father will give to you.

Luke 11:9 Ask and you will be given.

Matt. 28:20 I am with you always.

PLUS: "All God's biddings are enabling!" He never asks us to do anything without giving us the power to do it. Therefore, every command in the Bible is also a promise!

Some Suggestions for Beginning the Experience Of

ABIDING IN JESUS' LOVE

1. Dedicate the first hour to making yourself emotionally available to Jesus. Determine to open the door of your heart every day until Jesus comes.
2. Use *The Gospel of John*, *Desire of Ages*, the *Psalms*, any of Ellen Whites' devotional books or Andrew Murray's book, *Abide in Christ*, etc.
3. Have no agenda (such as reading through the Bible, studying for a presentation, completing a book, etc.) only seek to experience His love.
4. Pray "my mind knows You love me, now I want to know it with my heart, possess me, embrace me, overwhelm me with Your love, live in me, thank You for loving me."
5. Pray, read, listen, write, pray, read, listen, write.
6. At the slightest emotional experience of His love, thank Him and praise Him, thus you express faith, and your awareness of Him will increase joyfully.

SEVEN DAILY ESSENTIALS FOR ABIDING IN CHRIST

1. Take time (first thing in the morning) to be with God alone.
2. Listen through the Word and through two-way prayer.
3. Understand your need - humble yourself until you see that without Jesus you will do nothing but harm.
4. Ask for:
 - a. His life to replace yours.
 - b. His specific traits to manifest in you (name the traits the Spirit convicts you about).
 - c. His will to replace yours (this is surrender of the will).
 - d. His life through the Spirit to remain in you all day - replacing your thoughts and feelings with His.
 - e. His love to be witnessed through you - spontaneously drawing others to Himself.
5. Believe He is doing all that you ask, express your faith (so it will grow strong) by giving thanks for what you cannot see.
6. Live in Jesus love by talking with Him all day long about everything, remember to continually praise Him for every blessing, large and small, and thank Him for His love.
7. Live victoriously by enjoying His love and specifically allowing Him to replace the will of the flesh with the will of the Spirit when you are aware of a conflict.

John 4:14 "But whosoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

Created by Dale Leamon

PRACTICAL STEPS FOR STARTING PRAYER MINISTRIES

1. Pray for a hungering and thirsting after God.
2. Ask God to give others a burden for prayer. Then identify a group of praying people who can provide leadership in a prayer movement.
3. Appoint a prayer coordinator or prayer director in the church who will plan, program, and manage times of prayer. Such an individual's main task is to keep the vision of prayer in the front of the people.
4. Promote prayer in connection with projects of the church, such as ministries, events, the work of the local Adventist school, and evangelistic series.
5. Regularly publish and distribute a church prayer list.
6. Emphasize intercessory prayer for unsaved people. Aim to have at least 50 percent of your congregation praying for others.
7. Have more than one prayer meeting. Develop a whole program of prayer meetings according to ages, agencies, tasks, and needs (prayer of the sick, a ministry to Jewish people, men and women in the armed forces, college students, missionaries, etc.).
8. Plan interesting and special programs with a special emphasis on prayer. Some ideas are:
 - Hold a prayer conference in your church.
 - Provide two or three prayer retreats each year.
 - Host a prayer banquet.
 - At least once a year, preach a series on prayer.
 - Offer a small group Bible study or Sabbath school class on prayer.
 - Establish a men's and women's prayer breakfast group that will meet for prayer every month.
 - Schedule, during the corporate worship hour, testimonies about prayer every two or three weeks.

Taken from Joseph Kidder's book *The Big Four*

THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST

NOTE: This transcript is taken from E. G. White's THE DESIRE OF AGES. The page references have been placed alongside each statement.

	Page #
HIS COMPASSION	
At all times and in all places he manifested a loving interest in men, and shed about Him the light of a cheerful piety.	86
He worked to relieve every case of suffering that He saw.	87
He spoke a word of sympathy here and a word there, as He saw men weary, yet compelled to bear heavy burdens.	90
The life of Christ was marked with respect and love for His mother.	90
The healing power of love went out from Him to the sick and distressed.	92
He manifested an interest in men's secular affairs.	151
He spoke with solemn dignity, and both look and tone expressed such earnest love, that sinners were not offended as they realized their humiliating position.	173
His tender compassion fell with a touch of healing upon weary and troubled hearts.	254
His character expressed love in look and tone, and a sweet sympathetic spirit.	254
When He saw men refuse the message of peace, His heart was pierced to the very depths.	255
His heart, that loved and pitied, was a heart of unchanging tenderness.	319
His heart overflowed with love for the whole human race, but He never became indulgent about sin.	356
He who taught the people the way to secure peace and happiness was just as thoughtful of their temporal necessities as of their spiritual needs.	356
His love was not circumscribed to race or nation.	402
He sought not to condemn, but to save. He spoke words of comfort and hope.	462
He was a lover of children. His gentle and kindly manner won their love and confidence.	511
His tender, pitying heart was ever awakened to sympathy by suffering.	533
His enemies read in His calm, solemn face love, benevolence and quiet dignity.	581

During every hour of His life upon the earth, the love of God was flowing from Him in irrepressible streams. 678

His every feature expressed gentleness, and resignation and the tenderest pity for His cruel foes. 735

HIS UNSELFISHNESS

In principle firm as a rock, His life revealed the grace of unselfish courtesy. 69

From His earliest years He was possessed of one purpose; He lived to bless others. 70

He labored earnestly for humanity. 86

He did not contend for His rights. 89

He was always sacrificing Himself for the good of others. 90

He was so emptied of self that He made no plans for Himself. 208

He was so fully surrendered to the will of God that the Father alone appeared in His life. 389

He did not manifest selfish sorrow. 576

His whole life was a life of unselfish service. 642

He did not think of Himself. His care for others was uppermost in His mind. 643

HIS TACTFULNESS

Jesus carried into His labor cheerfulness and tact. 73

He reached the hearts of the people by going among them as one who desired their good. 151

His strong personal sympathy helped to win hearts. 151

He did not meet argument with argument. 171

He had tact to meet the prejudiced minds. 254

He made truth beautiful by presenting it in the most direct and simple way. 253

In all His contacts with rude and violent men, He did not use one unkind or discourteous expression. 515

When He reproved, His words were spoken with the utmost gentleness. 535

It was not His purpose to humiliate His opponents. 594

HIS HUMILITY AND MEEKNESS

He shunned display. 74

He did not strive for worldly greatness, and in even the lowest position He was content.	88
He did not contend for His rights.	89
He weeded all vanity from life.	91
He took no measures to bring Himself into notice.	137
His manners were gentle and unassuming.	138
In that life there was no noisy disputation, no ostentatious worship, no act to gain applause.	261
He was never elated by applause, nor dejected by censure or disappointment.	330
He remained true to the humble lot He had accepted.	571
His every feature expressed gentleness and resignation and the tenderest pity for his cruel foes.	735

HIS PATIENCE AND COURAGE

We never manifested an impatient word or look.	88
In His work He was willing and uncomplaining.	89
He did not retaliate when roughly used, but bore insult patiently.	89
He never became discouraged.	89
He was still of good courage when amid the greatest opposition and most cruel treatment.	330
He was not impatient even though interrupted and robbed of rest.	364
He spoke no words of retaliation.	619
His heart was patient and gentle, and would not be provoked.	700

HIS PURITY

Neither gain nor pleasure, applause nor censure, could induce Him to consent to a wrong act.	72
He was wise to discern evil, and strong to resist it.	72
He hated but one thing in the world, and that was sin.	88
He could not witness a wrong act without pain, which it was impossible to disguise.	88
His presence brought a purer atmosphere into the home, and His life was a leaven working amid the elements of society.	90
He was the embodiment of purity.	243

He dwelt among men as an example of spotless integrity.	243
His language was pure, refined, and clear as a running stream.	253
He was surrounded with an atmosphere of peace, even amid the turbulence of angry enemies.	254
In the heart of Christ, where reigned perfect harmony with God, there was perfect peace.	330
His life was a rebuke to men's sins.	587
HIS DIGNITY AND MANLINESS	
In principle He was firm as a rock.	69
He possessed a dignity and individuality wholly distinct from earthly pride and assumption.	88
He spoke with solemn dignity.	173
He never purchased peace by compromise.	356
His enemies read in His calm, solemn face, love, benevolence, and dignity.	581
Even under disgraceful treatment, He bore Himself with firmness and dignity.	742
HIS DILIGENCE AND INDUSTRIOUSNESS	
In His industrious life there were no idle moments to invite temptation.	72
He was perfect as a workman, as He was in character.	72
He labored earnestly for humanity.	86
A wise purpose underlay every act of Christ's life on earth.	206
His life was crowded with labor and responsibility.	362
HIS MINISTRY	
He would not enter into controversy, yet His example was as constant lesson.	89
He passed by no human being as worthless, but sought to apply the saving remedy to every soul.	91
To the discouraged, sick, tempted, and fallen, Jesus would speak words of tenderest pity, words that were needed and could be understood.	91
He would not betray secrets that were poured into His sympathizing ear.	92
He saw in every soul one to whom must be given the call to His kingdom.	151
He did not sermonize as men do today.	152

As people heard His words they were warmed and comforted. He spoke of God not as an avenging judge, but as a tender Father.	205
He had nothing to do with subjects of dissension among the Jews. It was His work to present the truth.	253
He taught the Scriptures as of unquestionable authority.	253
He was earnest rather than vehement.	254
He loved to gather the people about Him under the blue heavens, on some grassy hillside, or on the beach beside the lake.	291
He rested by faith in His father's care.	336
His life was crowded with labor and responsibility; yet how often He was found in prayer.	362
He taught men not to place themselves needlessly in antagonism to establish order.	434
He was not presumptuous, nor would He rush into danger or hasten a crisis.	451
It was not His purpose to humiliate His opponents.	594

“Christ is sitting for His portrait in every disciple.” DA 827

“He is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.” COL 69

THE JOYS OF BEING DEAD

1. "It is love of self that destroys our peace. While self is all alive, we stand ready continually to guard it from mortification and insult; but when we are dead, and our life is hid with Christ in God, we shall not take neglects or slights to heart. We shall be deaf to reproach and blind to scorn and insult." *Mount of Blessing*, p 16
2. "Those who are dead to self will not feel so readily and will not be prepared to resist everything which may irritate. Dead men cannot feel. You are not dead. If you were, and your life were hid in Christ, a thousand things which you now notice, and which afflict you, would be passed by as unworthy of notice; you would then be grasping the eternal and would be above the petty trials of this life." *Testimonies*, Vol 2, p 425
3. "There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart and lives a life wholly consecrated to God. All who consecrate body, soul, and spirit to His service will be constantly receiving a new endowment of physical, mental, and spiritual power. The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command. Christ gives them the breath of His own Spirit, the life of His own life. The Holy Spirit puts forth its highest energies to work in mind and heart. Through the grace given us we may achieve victories that because of our own erroneous and preconceived opinions, our defects of character, our smallness of faith, have seemed impossible." *Ministry of Healing*, p 159
4. "We cannot afford to let our spirits chafe over any real or supposed wrong done to ourselves. Self is the enemy we most need to fear. No form of vice has a more baleful effect upon the character than has human passion not under the control of the Holy Spirit. No other victory we can gain will be so precious as the victory gained over self." *Ministry of Healing*, p 485
5. "If pride and selfishness were laid aside, five minutes would remove most difficulties." *Early Writings*, p 119
6. "In the heart of Christ, where reigned perfect harmony with God, there was perfect peace. He was never elated by applause, nor dejected by censure or disappointment. . . . It is the love of self that brings unrest." *Desire of Ages*, p 330
7. "The new birth is a rare experience in this age of the world. This is the reason why there are so many perplexities in the churches. Many, so many, who assume the name of Christ are unsanctified and unholy. They have been baptized, but they were buried alive. Self did not die, and therefore they did not rise to newness of life in Christ." *Manuscript 148, 1897; SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol 6 p 1075
8. "There is nothing so offensive to God or so dangerous to the human soul as pride and self-sufficiency. Of all sins it is the most hopeless, the most incurable." *Christ's Object Lessons*, p 154

9. “Jesus emptied Himself, and in all that He did, self did not appear. He subordinated all things to the will of His Father. . . . And He bids us, ‘Learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart.’ ‘If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself’ (Matt. 11:29; 16:24); let self be dethroned and no longer hold the supremacy of the soul. . . . The independence and self-supremacy in which we glory are seen in their true vileness as tokens of servitude to Satan. 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.” *Mount of Blessing*, pp 14-15

10. “. . . The drunkard is despised and is told that his sin will exclude him from heaven; while pride, selfishness, and covetousness too often go unrebuked. But these are sins that are especially offensive to God; for they are contrary to the benevolence of His character, to that unselfish love which is the very atmosphere of the unfallen universe. He who falls into some of the grosser sins may feel a sense of his shame and poverty and his need of the grace of Christ; but pride feels no need, and so it closes the heart against Christ and the infinite blessings He came to give.” *Steps to Christ*, p 30

11. “If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tenderhearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one. But, though professing to be converted, we carry around with us a bundle of self that we regard as altogether too precious to be given up. It is our privilege to lay this burden at the feet of Christ and in its place take the character and similitude of Christ. The Saviour is waiting for us to do this.” *Testimonies*, Vol 9, pp 189-190

GUIDELINES FOR PERSONS DESIRING ANOINTING

“Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.” James 5:13-14

WHAT IS ANOINTING?

Anointing is a biblical rite established in the Old Testament and carried on into the New Testament. Priests and Kings in the Old Testament were anointed with oil as a symbol of the Holy Spirit coming upon them to lead God’s people. Jesus enlarged the rite of anointing by inviting believers to engage in this when sick.

WHEN IS ANOINTING APPROPRIATE?

Contrary to what some people believe, anointing is **not** a last rite. The Bible invites us to pray with anointing **whenever** there is a need, not only on one’s deathbed.

WHO CAN BE ANOINTED?

Any believer in Christ who has a need for healing and a desire to be prayed for and anointed.

WHY DOES THE PASTOR OR ELDER ANOINT WITH OLIVE OIL?

Oil represents the Holy Spirit. Olive oil was used for anointing in Bible times.

WHAT CAN I BE ANOINTED FOR?

Any sickness including physical, emotional, spiritual, mental, and social, as well as uncontrollable or addictive behaviors. People have been anointed for depression, bad habits, mental problems, handicaps, anything they feel Satan is bothering them with as well as physical illness.

HOW SHOULD I PREPARE FOR ANOINTING?

Psalms 66:18 says, “If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.” All known sin must be confessed. God cannot bless you in your sins. “If any who are seeking health have been guilty of evil speaking, if they have sowed discord in the home, the neighborhood, or the church, and have stirred up alienation and dissension, if by any wrong practice they have led others into sin, these things should be confessed before God and before those who have been offended. . . . When wrongs have been righted, we may present the needs of the sick to the Lord in calm faith, as His Spirit may indicate.” MH p. 229

If you feel like you cannot gain victory over a sin problem, this can be made a subject of prayer in the anointing service. Put your trust in the Lord and His grace. Jesus is able to heal every need. Besides searching your life for sins and confessing them, you may study and read the following:

James 5:13-16	Psalms 107:17-20
Psalms 66:18	Psalms 41:10
Jeremiah 30:17	Jeremiah 17:14
Isaiah 61:1-3	Psalms 103

Also, you may wish to read the chapter “Prayer for the Sick” in *The Ministry of Healing*.

WILL I HAVE TO DISCLOSE WHY I’M BEING ANOINTED?

You do not have to mention specifically why you wish to be anointed. But those praying for you will need to know your need in a general way so they know how to pray for you.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE SERVICE?

You will have opportunity to share your reason for requesting the anointing with a small group of people conducting the anointing. These people will kneel in a circle around you praying and claiming specific promises of healing for you. You may request special friends to accompany you and pray for you as well. One person will close the prayer time by praying and touching your forehead with oil. Sometimes the group chooses to quietly sing a song after the anointing is finished.

HOW CAN I KNOW IF I WILL BE HEALED?

You can trust God to bring you healing, even if it is not in the way you want or expect. (Remember healing is not only physical but can come with forgiveness, peace of mind, emotional well-being, etc.) Realize God sometimes chooses to heal in stages. Some have lost their pain. Others have found relief through doctors and surgeries. Know that on every occasion of anointing, blessings can be received. Trust God will heal you as He sees fit-even if you must wait until eternity. You can claim James 5:15, "And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well (whole)". Prepared by Peggy Casebier

References: God's Word

The Ministry of Healing

"Anointing: the lost rite" *Ministry Magazine* (Sept. '89)

ENCOURAGING PROMISES AND QUOTES ON HEALING

"I call on the Lord in my distress, and he answers me." Ps.120:1

"Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits-who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases." Psalms 103:3

"Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear." Isa. 65:24

"He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak." Isa. 40:29

". . . He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion-to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair." Isa. 61:1-3

"Heal me, O Lord, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for you are the one I praise."
Jer. 17:14

"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." Mark 11:24

"For the pardon of sin, for the Holy spirit, for a Christ-like temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work for any gift He has promised, we may ask; then we are to believe that we receive, and return thanks to God that we have received." ED p. 258

"Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up." James 5:14-15

TO KNOW HIM

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. John 17:3

By God's grace I want to set a faith objective (not a promise to be guilty over!).

1. _____ Seeking to know Jesus better each day.
(Amount of time)
2. _____ To ask God to help me find someone or a small group to pray with regularly.

Please keep this commitment in your Bible as a prayer request reminder.

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GOD'S POWER UNLEASHED!

A Study of United Prayer and Church Growth in Acts

1. Acts 1:14, 15 — The Upper Room — They continued in one accord in prayer — These days of repentance, confession and humility, as well as seeking the Lord's vision, power and the Holy Spirit are followed by Pentecost — one of the most powerful events of Scripture! — 120 believers add 3,000 in 1 day!
2. Acts 2:42-47 — Those baptized continued daily to study, fellowship, worship and pray together and “the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”
3. Acts 4:18-33 — Peter and John were threatened not to speak or teach about Jesus. The church cries out in one accord prayer to God for boldness and the place where they were was shaken, they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God boldly! They gave witness with great power and grace!
4. Acts 6:1-8 — The Early Church had practical problems — Apostles decide they must focus on the ministry of prayer and the word — 7 deacons chosen and prayed over—and the word of God spread, the number of disciples increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the Word!
5. Acts 8:15-25 — Peter and John interceded for those who had not yet received the Holy Spirit—and He came on them. After this praying — Peter and John preached the gospel in many Samaritan villages. Prayer—the Word of God goes forward!
6. Acts 10:9-48 — Peter and Cornelius — Prayers, fasting and a vision leads to the gospel being given to the Gentiles!
7. Acts 12:1-25 — Herod puts Peter in prison — But “constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.” — Angel sets him free and he goes to Mary's home “where many were gathered together praying” No small stir — Herod searches for him — But “the Word of God grew and multiplied!” (verse 24)
8. Acts 13:1-48 — As the prophets and teachers were fasting and praying, the Holy Spirit called Paul and Barnabas to go on their first missionary journey. The church prayed before sending them out —
 - They went to begin churches and proclaim the gospel in Cyprus.
 - Antioch in Pisidia where almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.
 - “When the Gentiles heard this . . . all who were appointed to eternal life believed.”
 - The Word of the Lord spread through the entire region.
 - And the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

9. Acts 14:23-28 — Paul and Barnabas appointed elders in every church and prayed with fasting commending them to the Lord –
 - They reported all that God had done through them, and that the Lord opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

10. Acts 16:13-34 — Paul looks for places where united prayer is happening and God works –
 - Paul on Sabbath looking for a place where united prayer is being offered – meets Lydia – God opened her heart and her whole household is baptized.
 - They are going to a place of prayer when Paul casts the demon out of a slave girl –
 - Paul in prison for casting the spirit out – he and Silas praying and singing about midnight –
 - ✓ Earthquake
 - ✓ Chains loosed
 - ✓ Jailer draws sword to kill himself if all had escaped
 - ✓ Jailer and his whole family all converted and baptized!!!

Constant process we see in Acts

- Situation/Problem
- Gather/Pray/Fast
- Holy Spirit's power is poured out
- Problem is overcome
- Leads to proclamation of God's Word
- People obey
- People criticize
- Word of God spreads more!

The united prayer of God's people leads to the growth and spread of God's church.

PRINCIPLES OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER

I. WHY SHOULD WE INTERCEDE?

If God is infinitely loving, all knowing, and all powerful, why do I need to be involved in intercessory prayer? Since He is already involved in everyone's life for their good, isn't He already doing all that needs to be done? While we may never understand all the issues involved, the following principles about God's call for us to intercede do seem clear:

A. Intercession is our Lord's plan and command for us.

1. Jesus called us to intercession - Luke 11:1-13
 - a. Jesus teaches the disciples to intercede in the Lord's prayer. Luke 11:1-4
 - b. He stresses the importance of persistent intercession in the parable of the persistent friend. Luke 11:5-8
 - c. He promises it will be effective:
"And I say unto you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and it will be opened unto you. For everyone who asks receive, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." Luke 11:9-10
 - d. Jesus promises the Holy Spirit will be given "to those who ask Him!" Luke 11:11-13
2. Jesus Himself interceded much.
 - a. He was often found in prayer - Mark 1:35, Luke 11:1
 - b. He interceded much for his followers - John 17
3. The prophets also confirm it is God's plan.
 - a. Paul - *"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men...For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior."* 1 Tim. 2:1-3
 - b. James - *"...You do not have because you ask not."* James 4:2
 - c. Ellen White - *"Ministering angels are waiting about the throne to instantly obey the mandate of Jesus Christ to answer every prayer offered in earnest living faith."* 2SM p. 377

B. Intercession opens doors in the Great Controversy to release God's power. He has limited Himself in some ways to our prayers.

1. *"It is part of God's plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow if we did not thus ask!"* GC p. 525

2. *"Satan cannot endure to have his powerful rival appealed to, for he fears and trembles before his strength and majesty. At the sound of fervent prayer, Satan's whole host trembles. 1T 346*
3. *"Only the work accomplished with much prayer, and sanctified by the merit of Christ will in the end prove to have been efficient for good." DA p. 362*

C. Intercessory prayer changes me in positive ways. It intensifies my desire for the things prayed for and opens my mind to the prompting and communications of the Holy Spirit.

1. *"Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him." SC p. 93*

D. Intercessory prayer works!!! - Taste and see!

1. *"Now this is the confidence we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him." 1 John 5:14,15*

E. Okay - The Lord has called us to intercede - But how??

II. HOW TO INTERCEDE - PRACTICAL METHODS FOR EFFECTIVE INTERCESSION.

A. Pray in faith, claiming the promises of God's word. The "ABC's of Prayer".

1. Claim His promises - *"...by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2 Pet. 1:4*
2. Give thanks in advance of seeing the answer –
 - a. *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God; and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Philip. 4:6,7*
 - b. *"For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift that He has promised, we may ask; then we are to believe that we receive, and return thanks to God that we have received. We need to look for no outward evidence of the blessing. The gift is in the promise, and we may go about our work assured that what God has promised He is able to perform, and that the gift, which we already possess, will be realized when we need it most." ED p. 258*
 - c. *"We do not pray any too much, but we are too sparing of giving thanks. If the lovingkindness of God called forth more thanksgiving and praise, we would have far more power in prayer. We would abound more and more in the love of God and have more bestowed to praise Him for. You who complain that God does not hear your prayers change your present order and mingle praise with your petitions. When you consider His goodness and mercies you will find that He will consider your wants." 5T 317*

B. Unite with others in intercession for greater power.

1. *"Again, I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."*
Matt. 18:19,20
2. Use short sentence prayers or "conversational prayer" when interceding in a group for better interest level and ministry to each other.

C. Be specific with requests and record the answers.

1. A prayer journal or prayer list helps memory and strengthens our faith as answers come. Write the requests down and record the answers as they come.

D. Be persistent and don't give up!

1. *"Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving."* Col. 4:2
2. *"Perseverance in prayer has been made a condition of receiving. We must pray always, if we would grow in faith and experience."* SC p. 97
3. *"Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His experience testifies to the power of importunate prayer. It is now we are to learn this lesson of prevailing prayer, of unyielding faith. The greatest victories to the church of Christ or to the individual Christian are not those that are gained by talent or education, by wealth or the favor of men. They are those victories that are gained in the audience chamber with God, when earnest, agonizing faith lays hold upon the mighty arm of power."* PP p. 203

E. The importance of heart searching, confession, and obedience.

"For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight." 1 John 3:20-23

F. The priority of personal time with God

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you." John 15:7

G. Trust God - He always answers - but sometimes He says "No" or "Wait"

1. Definition of true faith – Dan. 3:17,18
2. If God really wanted to punish us, He'd answer all our prayers "yes".
3. *"...When we do not receive the very things we ask for, at the time we ask, we are still to believe that the Lord hears, and that He will answer our prayers. We are so erring and short sighted that we sometimes ask for things that would not be a blessing to us, and our heavenly Father in love answers our prayers by giving us that which will be for our highest good - that which we ourselves would desire if*

with vision divinely enlightened we could see all things as they really are. When our prayers seem not to be answered, we are to cling to the promise, for the time of answering will surely come, and we shall receive the blessing we need most.God is too wise to err, and too good to withhold any good thing from them that walk uprightly. Then do not fear to trust Him, even though you do not see the immediate answer to your prayers. Rely upon His sure promise, "Ask, and it shall be given you." Matthew 7:7, SC p. 96

THE POWER OF PRAYING TOGETHER

Quotes from Ellen White's Writings

1. *"If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in Heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them"* Mat. 18:19, 20 *"Ask of Me, and I will answer your requests."*
2. **The promise is made on condition that the united prayers of the church are offered, and in answer to these prayers there may be expected a power greater than that which comes in answer to private prayer.** The power given will be proportionate to the unity of the members and their love of God and for one another.—Letter 32, 1903, p.5 (To Brother and Sister Farnsworth, January 28, 1903.) White Estate Washington D.C. October 22, 1979 (9MR 303.3) —*MR No. 748 – The Power of United Prayer*
3. Our Saviour follows His lessons of instruction with a promise that if two or three should be united in asking anything of God it should be given them. Christ here shows that there must be union with others, even in our desires for a given object. Great importance is attached to the united prayer, the union of purpose. God hears the prayers of individuals, but on this occasion Jesus was giving especial and important lessons that were to have a special bearing upon His newly organized church on the earth. There must be an agreement in the things which they desire and for which they pray. It was not merely the thoughts and exercises of one mind, liable to deception; but the petition was to be the earnest desire of several minds centered on the same point. — 3T p. 429
4. The Lord has promised that where two or three are met together in His name, there will He be in the midst. Those who meet together for prayer will receive an unction from the Holy One. There is great need of secret prayer, **but there is also need that several Christians meet together and unite with earnestness their petitions to God.** HP p. 91
5. It is in the order of God that those who bear responsibilities should often meet together to counsel with one another and to pray earnestly for that wisdom which He alone can impart. **Unitedly make known your troubles to God. Talk less; much precious time is lost in talk that brings no light. Let brethren unite in fasting and prayer** for the wisdom that God has promised to supply liberally. CD p. 188
6. A chain of earnest, praying believers should encircle the world. Let all pray in humility. A few neighbors may meet together to pray for the Holy Spirit. Let those who cannot leave home, gather in their children, and unite in learning to pray together. They may claim the promise of the Savior: *"Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."* Matt. 18:20 —RH January 3, 1907
7. If we would accomplish the great work before us, it is essential that we present to God fervent and effectual prayer; for it availeth much. The prayer needed at this time is the earnest, unbroken, continuous prayer, not fitful, uncertain prayers, wavering as the waves of the sea. If several should meet together with one accord, with hearts burdened for perishing souls, and should offer earnest, fervent prayers, they would prove effectual. RH August 23, 1892, par. 7
8. The Lord has promised that where two or three are met together in His name, there will He be in the midst. Those who meet together for prayer, will receive an unction from the Holy One. There is great need of secret prayer, but there is also need of several Christians meeting together, to unite with earnestness their petitions to God. In these small companies Jesus is present, and the love of souls is deepened in the heart, and the Spirit puts forth His mighty energies, that human agents may be

exercised in regard to saving those who are lost. MR 52, 1894, 1, 2. ("Seeking to Save the Lost," 1894.) 8MR p. 190

9. There is nothing more needed in the work than the practical results of communion with God. **We should hold convocations for prayer**, asking the Lord to open the way for the truth to enter the strongholds where Satan has set up his throne, and dispel the shadow he has cast athwart the pathway of those whom he is seeking to deceive and destroy. We have the assurance, "*The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much*" James 5:16. HP p. 93
10. God would work mightily for His people today if they would place themselves wholly under His guidance. They need the constant abiding of the Holy Spirit. If there were more prayer in the councils of those bearing responsibilities, more humbling of the heart before God, we should see abundant evidence of divine leadership, and our work would make rapid progress. 8T p. 238
11. Solicit prayer for the souls for whom you labor; present them before the church as subjects for their supplication. It will be just what the members of the church need, to have their minds called from their petty difficulties, to feel a great burden, a personal interest, for a soul that is ready to perish. Select another and still another soul, daily seeking guidance from God, laying every thing before Him in earnest prayer, and working in divine wisdom. As you do this, God will give you the Holy Spirit to convict and convert the soul. 6T p. 80-81
12. Why do not believers feel a deeper, more earnest concern for those who are out of Christ? Why do not two or three meet together and plead with God for the salvation of some special one, and then for still another? 7T p. 21
13. "We are encouraged to pray for success, with the divine assurance that our prayers will be heard and answered. . . . The promise is made on the condition that the united prayers of the church are offered, and in answer to these prayers, there may be expected a power greater than that which comes in answer to private prayer. The power given will be proportionate to the unity of the members and their love for God and for one another." 9MR p. 303 (Letter 32, 1903, p. 5)
14. We must be much in prayer if we would make progress in the divine life. When the message of truth was first proclaimed, how much we prayed. How often was the voice of intercession heard in the chamber, in the barn, in the orchard, or the grove? **Frequently we spent hours in earnest prayer, two or three together claiming the promise**; often the sound of weeping was heard and then the voice of thanksgiving and the song of praise. Now the day of God is nearer than when we first believed, and we should be more earnest, more zealous, and fervent than in those early days. Our perils are greater now than then. Souls are more hardened. We need now to be imbued with the Spirit of Christ, and we should not rest until we receive it. 5T p. 161, 162
15. If the people of God would only exercise faith, He would work in a wonderful manner to accomplish this work. Hear the words of Christ: "If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven." Precious promise! Do we believe it? What marvelous results would appear if the united prayers of this company were to ascend to God in living faith! Jesus stands ready to take these petitions and present them to His Father, saying, "I know these persons by name. Send answers to their prayers; for I have graven their names on the palms of My hands."—Historical Sketches of the Foreign Missions of the Seventh-day Adventists, 152 (1886). EV p. 414
16. "Brethren should stand shoulder to shoulder, uniting their prayers at the throne of grace, that they may move the arm of the Omnipotent. Heaven and earth will then be closely connected in the work, and there will be joy and gladness in the presence of the angels of God, when the lost sheep is found and restored." FE p. 210

17. "In every church there should be stated seasons for united prayer for the advancement of this work. Let all be united, having a specific object for their faith and entreaties." HS p. 294
18. In all our councils, all our plans for the advancement of his cause, the upbuilding of his kingdom, God desires that we rely entirely upon his power, knowing that it is indispensable to success. How can we honor God, how can we vindicate his word, unless we are much in prayer, appealing to him to manifest his power in behalf of the perishing? RH August 23, 1892, par. 7
19. When two or three are met together to unite their counsel, and to send up their petitions, the promise is for them: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Luke 11:9). "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (verse 13). The Lord has promised that where two or three are met together in His name, there will He be in the midst. Those who meet together for prayer will receive an unction from the Holy One. RH June 30, 1896 and *Ye Shall Receive Power*, p. 161
20. "The time has come for a thorough reformation to take place. When this reformation begins, the spirit of prayer will actuate every believer and will banish from the church the spirit of discord and strife. Those who have not been living in Christian fellowship will draw close to one another. One member working in right lines will lead other members to unite with him in making intercession for the revelation of the Holy Spirit. There will be no confusion, because all will be in harmony with the mind of the Spirit." 8T p. 251
21. I asked the angel why there was no more faith and power in Israel, "Ye let go of the arm of the Lord too soon. Press your petitions to the throne, and hold on by strong faith. EW p. 73
22. There are many who long to help others, but feel that they have no spiritual strength or light to impart. Let them present their petitions at the throne of grace. Plead for the Holy Spirit. God stands back of every promise He has made. With your Bible in your hands say, I have done as thou hast said. I present Thy promise, "Ask and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. COL p. 147
23. He longs to have you reach after Him by faith. He longs to have you expect great things from Him. He longs to give you understanding in temporal as well as in spiritual matters. COL p. 146

PRAYER GROUP IDEAS

The following are some ideas that you might find helpful in making a small group prayer time meaningful and powerful:

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING. “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise; be thankful unto Him, and bless His name.” Psalm 100:4. “Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms. O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our maker.” Psalm 96:2,6. It is powerful and a very special experience to begin prayer time with thanksgiving and praise. Also, mingle requests with praise and thanksgiving. The prayers in the Bible by men such as Daniel, Elijah, and others always began with praise, thanksgiving, or confessing who God is. “We do not pray any too much, but we are too sparing of giving thanks. If the loving-kindness of God called forth more thanksgiving and praise, we would have far more power in prayer. We would abound more and more in the love of God, and have more bestowed to praise Him for.” 5T, p. 317. I encourage you to read pages 315-317 of Volume 5 of Testimonies. It is so good!!

NO OBSTRUCTIONS. “Beloved, if our heart condemns us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.” 1 John 3:21,22. What a difference it makes to spend the first few minutes of your prayer time clearing the path for God to hear your prayers as a group. Allow God to impress your minds with any sin you need to confess. Make this a silent time when each person does this individually. It would be helpful if you read the booklet "AN ENCOUNTER WITH GOD IN PRAYER", by Juanita Kretschmar can be ordered by contacting: A Key Encounter, P.O. Box 177, Big Pine Key, FL 33043-0177; E-mail: PrayingKs@aol.com; Phone: 305-292-2070. On page 36 in this handout, or on page 18 in the booklet "A Key Encounter", you will find step-by-step directions for a leader to lead the group through a time of confession. This has been a powerful experience in my life, and I believe it can be in yours too!

TWO'S OR THREE'S. It is nice to have more people, but you only need two or three. “Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in Heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:19,20. “Our Savoir follows His lessons of instruction with a promise that if two or three should be united in asking anything of God, it should be given them. Christ here shows that there must be union with others, even in our desires for a given object. Great importance is attached to the united prayer, the union of purpose.” 3 T, p. 429

ONCE A WEEK. Be sure and meet regularly. Meet once a week if possible. It is best to meet in person, but if this is impossible, pray together on the telephone.

SENTENCE PRAYERS. Instead of one person praying a long prayer and then the next person, have each person pray only two or three sentences at a time. It makes it much easier to listen to and you give the Holy Spirit time to impress each of you with what He wants you to pray. Also, someone may want to read a verse of scripture or start a song for the group to sing together during the prayer time. It is a beautiful experience! God loves for us to read His word back to Him in expressions of praise or promises. “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” Col. 3:16. You'll be amazed at how long a group can pray and enjoy it!

BIBLE PROMISES. Ask God to lead you to promises in His word that you can claim for the person or situation that is the subject of your prayer. We are told to put our finger on the promise and bring it before the Lord. Thanking Him in advance for the answer according to His will. “He is pleased with the faith that takes Him at His word. The mother of Augustine prayed for her son's conversion. She saw no evidence that the Spirit of God was impressing his heart, but she was not discouraged. She laid her finger upon

the texts, presenting before God His own words, and pleaded as only a mother can. Her deep humiliation, her earnest importunities, her unwavering faith, prevailed and the Lord gave her the desire of her heart. Today He is just as ready to listen to the petitions of His people. His hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy that it cannot hear.” 5T p. 322, 323 Be sure and write down the promises He leads you to so you can remember to claim them in the future.

AGREE TOGETHER. When someone prays a request to God, be sure some others pray for that same request and agree together, it is powerful! Don't think that because one person has prayed the request no one else needs to. “Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in Heaven.” Matt. 18:19 How encouraging it is to be lifted up in prayer.

HOLY SPIRIT. Be sure to ask the Holy Spirit to show you how or what you should pray for in a person's life or in a particular situation. Claim Romans 8:26, “Likewise, the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”

TAKING PRAYER REQUESTS Don't ask for prayer requests from the group. Instead tell people to pray their request and encourage others to join in agreement and pray for those requests. Here's why – time! Talking about the requests will take up most of your prayer group time. Satan is thrilled if he can keep us talking about the problem instead of praying about the problem. Group members will often begin counseling and suggesting solutions. The power is from God! The more we pray, the more His power is unleashed!

PRAYER REQUEST NOTEBOOK. Buy a stenographers note pad or use a spiral bound notebook. I would suggest drawing a line down the middle of the paper. Put the requests in the left column and the answers in the right. It is so exciting and faith building to look back and see how God has answered your prayers!

YOUR DAILY TIME. This is so important! What is life all about if we are not spending time daily at the feet of Jesus talking with Him and reading His word! If you will make knowing God a first priority in your life, it will open such a beautiful experience to you. “From the secret place of prayer came the power that shook the world in the Great Reformation. There, with holy calmness, the servants of the Lord set their feet upon the rock of His promises.” GC p. 210

“It is part of God's plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow if we did not thus ask.”

GC p. 525

PARTNERING IN PRAYER

"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven." Matt.18:19

1. Why Is Prayer Partnering So Important?

- God asks us to pray for each other. Eph. 6:18
- Praying with others enriches your personal prayer life.
- Prayer partnering fills people's deep hunger to have others caring and praying for them.
- Prayer partnering helps you appreciate the meaning of Christian community.
- Prayer partnering assists you in being accountable to at least one other person.
- Prayer partnering puts us on track with God.
- Prayer partnering sets God's power at work in your life and in the church.

2. Guidelines For Prayer Partnering

- Decide how many times you will meet and how often.
- Withhold judgment regarding anything said.
- Resist the temptation to become a counselor your partner's problems are not yours to solve.
- Maintain confidentiality.
- Try to spend most of your time together praying rather than talking about what to pray about.
- Keep a record of answers.
- Claim scripture promises as you pray.
- Keep prayer times conversational; pray in short sentences or paragraphs.
- View pauses or silence as a normal and positive ingredient of your times together.

3. Work Through The Barriers Of Prayer Partnering

- TIME - We make time for what is important to us. Prayer is a paradox that both takes time and frees time.
- RISK - Fear of being vulnerable or misunderstood. What may seem initially intimidating can be a benefit.
- PREVIOUS BAD EXPERIENCE - One bad experience doesn't have to lead to another. Try again with a new partner.
- FEELINGS - (Inadequacy, Uncertainty, Doubt, etc.) For most people, these feelings are normal when attempting something new. Honestly acknowledge your feelings and pray about them.

4. What Do Prayer Partners Pray About?

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." Eph. 6:18

- Praise & Thanksgiving
- Family concerns (spouse, children, in-law issues)
- Mutual friends
- Work pressures
- Church matters

- Personal requests (temptation areas, new ministry opportunities, future dreams, etc.)
- Individual and corporate church revival
- Outpouring of the Holy Spirit
- Non-attending members
- Your community
- National Leaders
- Pastor & Church Leaders
- Prayer Partner Ministry
- Students, Teachers, & Schools

****Created by Peggy Casebier****

HOW TO PRAY WITH YOUR SPOUSE

by Geneva Cobb Iijima
(*Signs of the Times*—January 1991)

Couple prayer can add intimacy, both to your marriage and to your relationship with God. Here's how to get started.

“If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask,” Christ promised in Matthew 18:19, “it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.”

This promise, of course, is not limited to married couples, but who else has the capacity to agree so deeply? And who else needs such prayer so badly?

Couple prayer, as I call it, can be a powerful tool in deepening communication and commitment to each other. Here are some ideas to help you and your mate along the road to openness in prayer.

Begin Gently

Ann and David hadn't always prayed together. They knew they should. They both wanted to, but Ann suffered from low self-esteem.

“I always felt David was more spiritual than I,” she explains. “I thought he wouldn't think the things I prayed about were important. He'd criticize my prayer, maybe even diagram it in his head.” The time came, however, when David persuaded her to try. “This is something we must do. Our kids need it,” he insisted.

“We began with just a few sentences each,” Ann remembers. “David was very gentle with me, and gradually I began to feel more comfortable about praying with him. If we couldn't have prayed through these last crises, I don't know how we'd have made it.”

If your spouse is like Ann, here are some ways you can help:

1. Don't push. If you're eager to pray together, but your spouse is not, go easy. This sounds simple, but it's very difficult, when you know how necessary and how powerful couple prayer is.
2. Be sensitive. Your spouse may want to pray with you but find it hard. It is harder for some people than it is for others. Often, as you become more open in other areas, however, you will become more open in prayer as well.
3. Let your spouse know you value his or her prayers. “I'd really appreciate it if you'd pray for me as you go through the day. I'm scared about...”
4. Mealtime prayers are an easy way to start. Hold hands around the table. You may be able to introduce a little more depth by suggesting, “Honey, when you pray at dinner, would you thank the Lord for helping Angie with her test.” Or, “Would you mind praying for the medical tests I'm having tomorrow.” Go easy, though. Remember, don't push!
5. Pray with the children. Some spouses feel more free in praying aloud with the children than alone together. If your spouse does, be grateful for that, at least.

6. Share prayer requests and pray together silently before going to sleep. If the reluctant spouse doesn't feel his prayer is being judged, he or she may be more willing. This was our first step back into praying together.
7. Pray together in times of crisis. "When there is a specific need," one woman told me, "we pray better." When you have children, that can be most of the time.

Make Time

In these days of two-career families and busy schedules, making time for couple prayer can be a formidable hurdle, but others have succeeded, and you can too. It's really a matter of priorities. If prayer is important to both of you, you'll make the time.

Pray about finding a suitable time. If possible, pray together about it. Then start experimenting. One of these options may work for you.

1. Set the alarm a few minutes earlier in the morning. Catherine Marshall and her husband, Len Seurd, would set their coffeepot timer each night. In the morning they woke to the aroma of fresh coffee perking. They'd pour a cup of coffee and sit propped up in bed as they prayed and studied the Scriptures together.
2. If you breakfast together, pray then. We do this, though it's not our main prayer time. I feel good about the day when I've heard Pete pray for me and the children. He appreciates my prayers then too.
3. Pray before going to bed. It can be very comforting to share with God about both the day's blessings and problems before going to sleep.
4. Pray on the telephone together at lunch or another convenient time during the day. You can also do this when one spouse is out of town—it's a lovely way to keep in touch. Many businesses pay for calls home.
5. Take time for spontaneous prayers whenever a need arises. This may even be several times a day.
6. If you absolutely do not have a time when you can pray together on a daily basis, agree to set aside a time once a week when you can pray. Make it special. Share a scripture or two to set the tone.
7. List prayer requests and praises for each other, then pray separately, but at the same time if possible. You can be close in spirit, even when you are not together in body. If you are accustomed to praying together at 10:00 p.m., and one spouse is out of town, try to continue the practice. Just meet in spirit at God's throne.

Experiment

Once you've incorporated couple prayer into your schedule, experiment with different prayer styles to find the one that fits your needs. When you find it, you may want to occasionally use a different method to add variety.

1. *Conversational prayer.* Begin with praise and thanksgiving. Continue to confession of specific sin, and end with requests. Let the conversation flow back and forth, with each partner praying spontaneously. Recognize God as a participant; accept short silences as times when He may be speaking.
2. *Structured conversational prayer.* As with conversational prayer, begin with praise, thanksgiving, and confession of sin. When you are ready to make requests, one spouse leads out with a concern. The other then continues that prayer from his or her own perspective. Suppose Johnnie is having trouble with mathematics at school, for example. The husband may pray for him to be able to concentrate and understand the concepts better. The wife continues by praying for patience on the part of the teacher or herself in working with him.

The wife then prays about a subject of concern to her. When she finishes, her husband continues that prayer, adding his own thoughts about it. He then introduces another prayer request. This method of prayer helps each partner concentrate on the prayer of the other, since he will continue the same subject.

3. *Traditional prayer.* In this style of prayer, one person prays about all of his/her concerns. Then, the other prays about all his concerns. If you have been brought up on this kind of prayer or like things very structured, you may feel more comfortable with this style. This type of prayer requires more concentration on the part of the agreeing (listening) spouse, however. So, avoid lengthy prayers, unless they are meaningful to both of you.

Ideally, prayer times should include praise, confession, requests, and listening to God's voice. Practically, it's more important that you pray than that you get all the parts incorporated properly. If there's only time for a short sentence or two, God understands.

Pray With-Not at-Your Spouse

My husband Pete and I faced our own crisis over prayer in the first month of our marriage. Each evening we'd kneel by the sofa for our prayer time. I treasured those minutes as we poured out our hearts to God, telling Him our needs and desires.

Then one night before we prayed, Pete looked at me and said, "Sometimes I feel like you pray at me." "What?" I asked. "I just tell the Lord the needs as I see them."

"But, when you pray, 'Lord, help us do this or that,' I feel like you are really pointing out what you think I should be doing," he insisted.

Deep inside, I knew he was right, but how could he criticize my prayers to God: How could I ever again be spontaneous in our prayers together?

Devastated, my emotions erupted in uncontrollable sobbing. Pete looked on helplessly. When there were no more tears, we discovered that our ability to be vulnerable in prayer together had disappeared. Many years passed before it was restored.

Here are some suggestions on how to keep your prayer time a positive experience:

1. *Don't scold or nag.* Unless your spouse asks for prayer in an area where you think he or she needs improvement or help, it's wise to keep quiet. Reserve those prayers for private time with the Lord. No one likes to be preached at—especially in prayer.

2. *Find common ground.* You don't have to agree with your mate on everything about a situation in order to pray together over it. You may need to sort through the pieces, discuss, perhaps even vent your anger or get counseling in a crisis. But at prayer time, decide what the bottom line is.
3. *Accept yourself and your mate.* Some people, for instance, are naturally more reticent to pray with their spouse than are others. Perhaps they consider prayer a private thing, or maybe they are more regimented. These people are often matched with more open, spontaneous mates. Learn to appreciate these differences.
4. *Focus on Jesus.* One wife told me, "Sometimes I feel like we're praying to each other, rather than to God." To avoid that danger, take a little time to center your thoughts on Jesus. Sing a worship song, read a Psalm, have a short praise time together.
5. *Persevere.* Anything new feels difficult and awkward. Then too, I'm convinced that Satan will prevent any kind of prayer if he can—but how much more so couple prayer! Whatever you do, don't get discouraged if you miss a day or two.

Again, don't give up! Things that are worthwhile usually do take time. I pray that the day will come when you will say to your spouse, "I don't know how I'd have gotten through this day (or week) without your prayers."

Geneva Cobb Iijima writes from Oregon City, Oregon.
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Promises We Can Claim for Our Children

“Parents have a great and responsible work to do, and they may well inquire: ‘Who is sufficient for these things?’ But God has promised to give wisdom to those that ask in faith, and He will do just as He said He would. He is pleased with the faith that takes Him at His word.

“The mother of Augustine prayed for her son’s conversion. She saw no evidence that the Spirit of God was impressing his heart, but she was not discouraged. She laid her finger upon the texts, presenting before God His own words, and pleaded as only a mother can. Her deep humiliation, her earnest importunities, her unwavering faith, prevailed and the Lord gave her the desire of her heart. Today He is just as ready to listen to the petitions of His people. His hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy that it cannot hear; “and if Christian parents seek Him earnestly, He will fill their mouths with arguments and for His name’s sake will work mightily in their behalf in the conversion of their children.” *5 Testimonies* 322, 323

Isaiah 43:5, 6: “Fear not, for I *am* with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, And gather you from the west; I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ And to the south, ‘Do not keep them back!’ Bring My sons from afar, And My daughters from the ends of the earth.”

Isaiah 44:3: “For I will pour water on him who is thirst, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring.”

Isaiah 49:25: “But thus says the LORD: “Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, And the prey of the terrible be delivered; For I will contend with him who contends with you, And I will save your children.”

Isaiah 54:13: “All your children *shall be* taught by the LORD, And great *shall be* the peace of your children.”

Isaiah 57:18-19: “I have seen his ways, and will heal him; I will also lead him, And restore comforts to him And to his mourners. ‘I create the fruit of the lips: Peace, peace to *him who is far off* and to *him who is near,*’ Says the LORD, ‘And I will heal him.’”

- Isaiah 59:21: "As for Me," says the LORD, "this *is* My covenant with them: My Spirit who *is* upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants' descendants," says the LORD, "from this time and forevermore."
- Psalms 72:4: "He will bring justice to the poor of the people; He will save the children of the needy, And will break in pieces the oppressor."
- Psalms 112:1, 2: "Praise the LORD! Blessed *is* the man *who* fears the LORD, *Who* delights greatly in His commandments. His descendants will be mighty on earth; The generation of the upright will be blessed."
- Jeremiah 31:16, 17: "Thus says the LORD: "Refrain your voice from weeping, And your eyes from tears; For your work shall be rewarded, says the LORD, And they shall come back from the land of the enemy. There is hope in your future, says the LORD, That *your* children shall come back to their own border."
- Jeremiah 29:11-12: "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.¹² Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you."
- Proverbs 14:26: "In the fear of the LORD *there is* strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge."
- Proverbs 11:21: "*Though they join* forces, the wicked will not go unpunished; But the posterity of the righteous will be delivered."
- 3 John 4: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth"
- Exodus 14:13 -14: "And Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. ⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.'"
- Joel 2:25: "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you."

A.C.T.S. PRAYER FORMAT

ADORATION: I praise you for being

CONFESSION: I confess the sin of

THANKSGIVING: I choose to express my spiritual blessings

SUPPLICATION: I pray for...

Today, I need to do the following with:

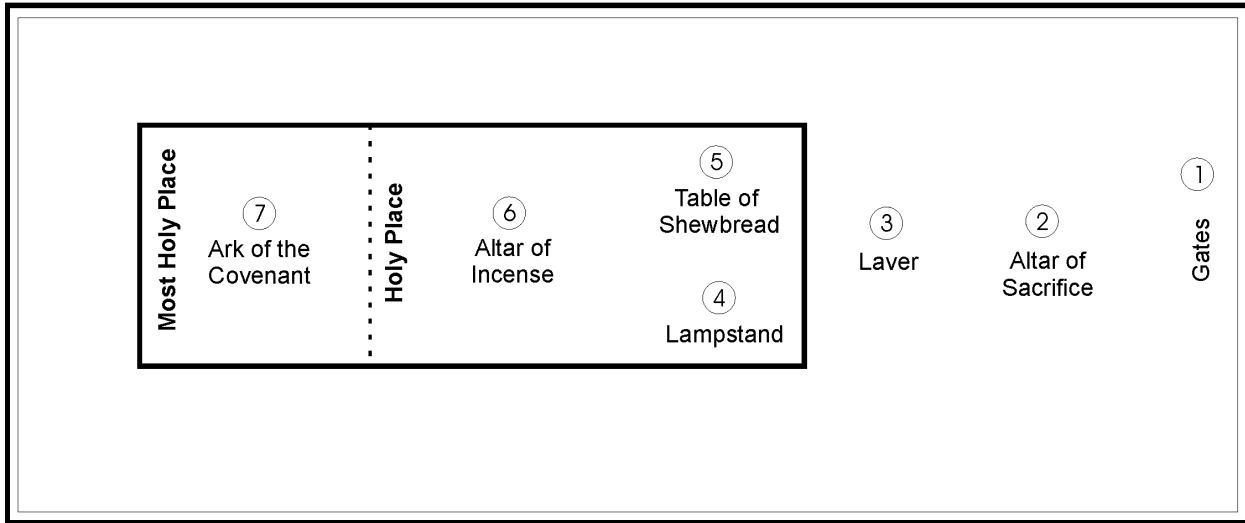
God

My Family

My Character

My Ministry

THE SANCTUARY A MODEL FOR PRAYER



KEY

1. Enter with praise – Ps. 100; Luke 10:21.
2. Confession - 1 John 1:8-9; Rom. 10:9; 2 Tim. 2:19.
3. Washing through the Word/Listen to God – Eph. 5:25-26; John 17:17.
4. Baptism of the Holy Spirit - Luke 11:13; Gal. 5:22-25.
5. Strength for the day - John 6:32-33; Rom. 13:12-14; Put on the whole armor of God – Eph. 6:10-18 (see p. 28).
6. Intercession – Phil. 1:3-4; Rom. 1:9-10.
7. Experience intimate communion – Ps. 16:8,11. Enter into the heavenly sanctuary with Christ. Heb. 10:19, 20 (in the context of Matt. 27:51a, Heb. 9:8-14, Heb. 10:11-22)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

A MODEL FOR PRAYER

Focus Upon God

- A. Hallowed be Your Name
 - 1. Praise God for His character
 - 2. Praise God for His works

- B. Your Kingdom Come (acceptance of Christ as Savior and Lord)
 - 1. In my own life
 - 2. Intercede for others
 - a. Family
 - b. Friends
 - c. Church
 - d. Country/World

- C. Your Will be done
 - 1. Lay out my plans before the Lord
 - 2. Intercede for others

Present Our Needs

- D. Give us this day our daily bread
 - 1. Present specific physical needs before the Lord
 - 2. Claim His promises to provide

- E. Forgive us our debts
 - 1. Confess specific personal sins and sins of family
 - 2. Claim His promises of forgiveness, cleansing and healing

- F. Deliver us from evil
 - 1. Accept power from God through the anointing of the Holy Spirit
 - 2. Put on the whole armor of God

Focus Upon God

- G. Conclude by giving praise and glory to God

- H. Trust in His abiding presence

ENCOUNTERING GOD IN PRAYER

A MODEL FOR PRAYER

by Juanita Kretschmar

1. Ask the Father for the covering of the Holy Spirit bringing the presence of Jesus. Claim the blood of Jesus over all sin. Ask for angels to guard you, since He has promised. Ask Him to make sure that no other influences or thoughts will be allowed to disturb, that He will protect.
2. Worship the Creator, Redeemer, King, etc.
3. Invite Him to search your life for a revelation of hidden sin. Allow Him to take you back to childhood if necessary. Take time to be attentive and listen.
4. As conviction comes to your mind of thoughts, acts, cherished “rights” such as anger, rebellion and resentment, or experiences that in the presence of the cross are sin, be specific, call it sin, and ask for forgiveness. Accept forgiveness and thank Him aloud. (Your ears need to hear your own voice expressing confidence and praise.)
5. Ask for a deeper repentance. Since it is a gift, thank Him, whether you feel anything or not.
6. By your own free choice, tell your Heavenly Father you give Him permission to remove the sin and sense of guilt or condemnation that came with the sin. Let God know you are willing to allow Him to place the burden you have been carrying on the shoulders of His Son. Accept Jesus’ desire to release you from this guilt. Christ wants to do this for you. Be sure to express thanks aloud.
7. Ask God what He has for you in exchange. What characteristic of Jesus is He waiting to give you? What gift of guidance or insight is He making available? Take time to be attentive and listen.
8. Let God know you will accept that gift (whatever thought, word, or picture He brings to your mind). Be sure to thank Him aloud.
9. Repeat the process as desired. Enjoy His presence. Praise Him.
10. At the time you are accepting gifts from God, if He has just impressed you of specific instances of sin, you may want to ask what help He would have sent if you had turned to Him fully in that earlier moment of temptation. Or you may ask what Jesus would have done in your place. He may give you delightful insights.
11. You may want to ask Him at the final moments of this specific prayer if there is anything or anyone else He wants you to pray about or for, or if there is any particular instruction He wants to share with you, etc. Take time to be attentive and listen.
12. Be sure to praise Him aloud as you end the time of prayer. You’ll want to. He’s a wonderful God, and a marvelous, generous, loving Friend.

HOW TO GET STARTED PRAYERWALKING

- **Join with Other Believers.** Join your faith with others to help prayer flow in an engaging conversational style. Large groups sometimes fail to give everyone a chance to participate. Pairs and triplets work best. (For example, a group of 8 could naturally divide into pairs as they walk, but be in sight of each other or meet back together at a certain location.)
- **Set Aside Time.** Allowing one or two full hours gives prayerwalkers a good chance to manage preliminaries and follow-up discussions, although lots can be done in less time.
- **Choose an Area.** Ask God to guide you. It's best by far to learn the joys of prayerwalking in unfamiliar neighborhoods; you'll return quickly to your own neighborhood with fresh vision. Centers of commerce and religion are fascinating, but there's nothing like touching families, schools, and churches in residential areas. Use elevated points to pray over a panorama. Linger at specific sites which seem to be key. When deciding where to go in a new community, you may choose to link up with a Christian ministering in that area so your prayers can be strategic to ministry plans that are being implemented.
- **Pray with Insight.** Pray for the people you see. As you do, you might find the Spirit of God recalibrating your heart with His own sensitivities. Enhance these responsive insights with research done beforehand. Use knowledge of past events and current trends to enrich intercession. Above all, pray Scripture. If you have no clear place to begin praying, select just about any of the Biblical prayers, and you will find that they almost pray themselves.
- **Focus on God.** Make God's promises rather than Satan's schemes the highlight of your prayer. Your discernment of evil powers may at times exceed God's specific guidance to engage them in direct combat. Consider the simplicity of first making direct appeal to the throne of God before attempting to pick street fights with demonic powers. Seek a restraining order from heaven upon evil so that God's empowered people may bring forth God's intended blessings on the city.
- **Regather and Report.** Share what you have experienced and prayed. Expressing something of your insights and faith will encourage others – as well as yourself. Set plans for further prayerwalking.
- **Coordinate Efforts.** Enlist other praying people to join with friends to cover special areas. Give leadership by forming and mixing prayer bands. Seek to collect written notes recording which areas have been covered and what kinds of prayers have been prayed. Pool your insights to ascertain whether God is prompting a repeated focus on particular areas. Eventually aim to cover your entire town or city, unless God guides otherwise.

THEMES FOR PRAYERWALKING

Attempt to keep every prayer pertinent to the specific community you pass through. As you do, you will find prayers naturally progress to the nation and to the world.

Use a theme passage of Scripture. Unless God guides you to use another passage, try 1 Tim. 2:1-10. Many have it to be a useful launching point for prayerwalking. Verse 8 speaks of the important territorial dimension to prayer connected with God's desire that all people be saved: "I want the men *in every place* to pray" (italics added).

Copy this and other passages in a format easy to read aloud several times during your walk. Each of the following prayer points emerges from this passage.

- **Concerning Christ:** Proclaim Him afresh to be the one Mediator and the ransom for all. Name Him Lord of the neighborhood and of the lives you see.
- **Concerning Leaders:** Pray for people responsible in any position of authority—for teachers, police, administrators, and parents.
- **Concerning Peace:** Cry out for the godliness and holiness of God's people to increase into substantial peace. Pray for new churches to be established.
- **Concerning Truth:** Declare openly the bedrock reality that there is one God. Celebrate the faithful revelation of His truth to all peoples through ordinary people (1 Tim. 2:8). Pray that the eyes of minds would cease to be blinded by Satan so that they could come to a knowledge of the truth.
- **Concerning the Gospel:** Praise God for His heart's desire that all people be saved. Ask that heaven would designate this year as a "proper time" for the testimony of Christ to be given afresh with simple power (1 Tim. 2:6). Name specific people.
- **Concerning the Blessing of God:** Thanksgivings are to be made on behalf of all people. Give God the explicit thanks He deserves for the goodness He constantly bestows on the homes you pass by. Ask to see the city with His eyes, that you might sense what is good and pleasing in His sight as well as what things grieve Him deeply. Ask God to bring forth an enduring spiritual awakening.
- **Concerning the Church:** Ask for healing in relationships, that there be no wrath or dissension among God's people. Ask that God would make His people, men and women alike, expressive in worship with the substance of radiant, relational holiness. Ask that our worship would be adorned with the confirming power of saints doing good in our communities.

Taken from Prayerwalking by Steve Hawthorne and Graham Kendrick (Creation House)

Lord, Give Us _____ for Your Kingdom!
(Name of City/Town/Area)

In preparation for Jesus' soon coming, I will answer the call of Luke 10:2 by:

1. Praying intensely for the spiritual needs of:
 - a. _____
Name
 - b. _____
Name
 - c. _____
Name
2. I will ask God to guide me as I seek to cultivate friendships and opportunities to love these people.
3. I will pray that they will surrender their lives to Christ and accept His will for their lives.
4. I will claim this Bible promise "...Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me...." 1 Chron. 4:10. Also, 1 John 5:16 and Isa.42:7, 16.

Please keep this form in your Bible to remind you to pray for your three friends.

.....

Lord, Give Us _____ for Your Kingdom!
(Name of City/Town/Area)

In preparation for Jesus' soon coming, I will answer the call of Luke 10:2 by:

3. Praying intensely for the spiritual needs of:
 - a. _____
Name
 - b. _____
Name
 - c. _____
Name
4. I will ask God to guide me as I seek to cultivate friendships and opportunities to love these people.
3. I will pray that they will surrender their lives to Christ and accept His will for their lives.
4. I will claim this Bible promise "...Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me...." 1 Chron. 4:10. Also, 1 John 5:16 and Isa. 42:7, 16.

Please keep this form in your Bible to remind you to pray for your three friends.

WHAT TO PRAY FOR NON-CHRISTIANS

1. That God draws them to Himself

John 6:44 “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him...”

2. That they seek to know God

Acts 17:27 “God did this so that men would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.”

Deut. 4:29 “But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find Him if you look for Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

3. That they believe the Scriptures

1 Thess. 2:13 “And we also thank God continually because when you receive the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God...”

Rom. 10:17 “Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”

4. That Satan is bound from blinding them to the Truth

Matt. 13:19 “When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart.”

2 Cor. 4:4 “The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

5. That the Holy Spirit works in them

John 16:8-13 “When (the Holy Spirit) comes, He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment...He will guide you into all truth...”

6. That they believe in Christ as Savior

John 1:12 “Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.”

John 5:24 “I tell you the truth, whoever hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned; He has crossed over from death to life.”

7. That they turn from sin

Acts 17:30, 31 “... (God) commands all people everywhere to repent.”

Acts 3:19 “Repent, then and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.”

8. That God send someone to lead them to Christ

Matt. 9:37, 38 “Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”

9. That they confess Christ as Lord

Rom. 10:9, 10 “...if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

10. That they yield all to follow Christ

2 Cor. 5:15 “And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.”

Phil. 3:7, 8 “But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish that I may gain Christ...”

11. That they take root and grow in Christ

Col. 2:6, 7 “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

**“THAT WE MAY BE ONE”
Principles for Better Relationships**

Think of the person you like the least.
“Why did Jesus come to this world?”

- A. Jesus prays for us; “That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in Us **so that** the world may believe that you have sent me.” John 17:21
- B. Two Primary Reasons Jesus Came to Earth
 - 1. To reconcile us to the Father by His perfect life and death. Romans 3; 2 Corinthians 5:7-21.
 - 2. To reconcile us to each other in perfect agape love relationships (restores us to the image of God). John 17:21-23; Ephesians 2:13-18.
- C. Our Lord’s will for us—that we be one so the world will believe in Him.
- D. “It’s not the opposition of the world that most endangers the church of Christ. It is the evil cherished in the hearts of believers...on the other hand, the strongest witness that God has sent His Son into the world is the existence of harmony and union among men of varied dispositions who form His church.” *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 549.

7 Principles for Better Relationships

- 1. Intercede in prayer for people instead of trying to change them or trying to do the Holy Spirit’s work yourself.
 - A. Claim promises such as 1 John 5:16 and Isaiah 42:7, 16; Acts 26:18; Isaiah 65:1; Jeremiah 24:7; Jeremiah 3:22; Ezekiel 37:2, 3.
 - B. As we spend time with the Lord He may show us we are part of the problem or set a mirror before us so we can see our need for change. Galatians 6:1-3; Luke 6:37, 38, 41, 42.
 - C. Live the fruit of the Spirit and “preach” at others less.
 - D. Take action only if the Holy Spirit leads us.
- 2. Respect diversity of temperaments and God’s created differences in people.
 - A. The Lord has created and gifted us differently so the Body of Christ will have all its complimentary parts. Ephesians 4:1-32.
 - B. Sacredly regard the feelings and respect the rights of those with whom God has placed us in relationship.

“Marked diversities of disposition and character frequently exist in the same family, for it is in the order of God that persons of varied temperament should associate together. When this is the case each member of the household should sacredly

regard the feelings and respect the rights of the others. By this means, mutual consideration and forbearance will be cultivated, prejudices will be softened, and rough points of character smoothed. Harmony may be secured, and the blending of the varied temperaments may be a benefit to each!" *Child Guidance*, p. 205.

3. Assume the best about other's motives and actions.
 - A. Listen more—seek first to understand clearly and then to be understood. Don't take things second hand from secondary sources.
 - B. "Christlike love places the most favorable construction on the motives and acts of others. It does not needlessly expose their faults; it does not listen eagerly to unfavorable reports, but seeks rather to bring to mind the good qualities of others." *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 319.
4. Follow Christ's specific instructions and do not talk to others about problems!
 - A. Only say those things which can be helpful for building others up according to their needs. Even if something is "true", don't talk to others if it can't help or resolve the problem. Ephesians 4:29-32.
 - B. Follow the "gospel order" in all situations.
 - i. Matthew 18:15-17 — When a brother in Christ sins against you:
 - a. Go to the person "alone" first.
 - b. If needed, take one or two others as witnesses.
 - c. Lastly, if needed, take it to the church for discipline.
 - ii. Matthew 5:23, 24 - If someone has "aught against you", before you worship, go and seek to be reconciled.
 - iii. Never talk to those who are not part of the situation or solution process.
5. Yield our "rights" and "expectations" to God.
 - A. Jesus did not go around defending His rights or getting angry when His expectations weren't met. Many of our relationship problems are caused by our concern for our "rights".
 - i. Great peace have they which love thy law and nothing shall offend them! Psalms 119:165; Luke 6:27-36.
 - B. There is a time for "tough love", but be sure it's the Lord's will, not self-centeredness.
6. Praise God for the source of irritations.
 - A. Make a list of the good things about the other person and praise God for those things.
 - B. Pray for the "problem person" to be blessed. Matthew 5:43, 44.
 - C. Praise drives evil angels away.

'When things go crossways at your homes, strike up a song about the matchless charms of the Son of God, and I tell you, when you touch this strain, Satan will leave you.' Review and Herald 8/51900

D. By beholding we become changed – so dwell on the good. Philippians 4:4-9.

7. Lay aside pride and selfishness.

A. Five minutes can solve most difficulties if self and pride are laid aside!

“I saw that the remnant were not prepared for what is coming upon the earth. Stupidity, like lethargy, seemed to hang upon the minds of most of those who profess to believe that we are having the last message. My accompanying angel cried out with awful solemnity, “Get ready! Get ready! for the fierce anger of the Lord is soon to come. His wrath is to be poured out, unmixed with mercy, and ye are not ready. Rend the heart, and not the garment. A great work must be done for the remnant. Many of them are dwelling upon little trials.” Said the angel, “Legions of evil angels are around you, and are trying to press in their awful darkness, that ye may be ensnared and taken. Ye suffer your minds to be diverted too readily from the work of preparation and the all-important truths for these last days. And ye dwell upon little trials and go into minute particulars of little difficulties to explain them to the satisfaction of this one or that.” Conversation has been protracted for hours between the parties concerned, and not only has their time been wasted, but the servants of God are held to listen to them, when the hearts of both parties are unsubdued by grace. **If pride and selfishness were laid aside, five minutes would remove most difficulties.** Angels have been grieved and God displeased by the hours which have been spent in justifying self. I saw that God will not bow down and listen to long justifications, and He does not want His servants to do so, and thus precious time be wasted that should be spent in showing transgressors the error of their ways and pulling souls out of the fire.” *Early Writings, pp. 119, 120.*

CONTEMPORARY PETER

Lord, do you require more of men than what I am now doing? I'm busy in your work, yet I am not certain that it is what you have for me to do. Lord, what more can I do to serve you better?

Nothing, my child.

But, Lord, why do I feel discontented with my service for you? I'm giving of myself and my money unsparingly. I'm a church deaconess and a Sabbath School teacher. I give much of my time to witnessing for you. What more can I do for you?

Nothing, my child.

But, Lord, there still remains a vacancy inside, in spite of my private and public devotion to you. What more can I do?

Nothing. Listen, my child: Stop doing things for Me.

What? Now, Lord, let's be reasonable. You've blessed my work for you; you've exhorted me to labor in your vineyard. What do you mean? What if I do stop doing things for you?

Then I'll be able to do them through you.

Oh . . . I think I see. Of course, Lord. My work for you is in vain unless you do it through me. Make me a fit channel, Lord. Do humble me and may I be a worthy vessel for you to use. Now, what task do you want to do through me?

None, my child.

What? You said you'd work through me. What is your task for me?

My daughter, love me.

Now wait a minute, Lord. I've been a Christian for eleven years; what do you mean, "Love Me?" I do love you. Now, that is settled. What is the next step?

There is no other step, loved one; just love Me.

You know I love you, Lord—why, my whole life is taken up with service to you. What do you mean?

Your love for Me is revealed in your love to your fellow man.

Oh, I know that, Lord. I do love my fellow man!

Do you love your Biology Professor?

Well, I don't hate the guy; I just leave him alone and he leaves me alone.

Do you love your Biology Professor?

Now, look, we don't get along. Our personalities clash; one cannot solve that, so I avoid him.

I died for him--and live for him too.

I know, Lord? And I would like to see him saved but you understand that I just don't click with him.

Do you love your Biology Professor?

Oh, I respect him—and I think he respects me. I recognize that he is a fine fellow, and I'm sure he'd make a good Christian. But I guess I do think of him as being overconfident and conceited—even a bigot at times. You know his kind, Lord. Why all this about him, Lord? Look at all these other people I love. Why I could. . .

Do you love your Biology Professor?

He's the one person, Lord, that I just can't stand. He's pretty hard to take, but I do love . . . I guess everyone else, and certainly, you know I love you.

You only love me to the extent that you love the person you like the least.

But . . . well, then, I really don't care about You then. But . . . I've been a Christian eleven years. I always thought I loved you. Now I see. Lord, thank you for revealing this to me. I will truly love you now.

You cannot, my child.

But you said "love Me" and when I said "OK" you . . . I don't understand.

How can you love Me? . . . There is no love in you. . . . God is love.

Then I cannot love anyone?

You are only the channel through which I can love anyone.

Then: Love this world through me, Lord.
This world of broken men.
Thou didst love through death, Lord:
O, love through me again!

Yes, I will, my child.

.....

Isn't this too strong?:

We only love God to the extent that we love the person we like the least.

But what did Jesus say?

"In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brothers, ye have done it unto me?"

Thank God He says:

*"The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us."
Romans 5:5*

Ask and ye shall receive!

BIBLIOGRAPHY ON PRAYER

Please pray for the Lord to guide you as to which books will be helpful to you.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
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| 19. | Most resources available through your local Adventist Book Center (1-800-843-8585) | |

RESOURCES FOR A PRAYER MINISTRY

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|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
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| 2. Griend, Alvin J. Vander | <i>The Praying Church Sourcebook</i> | CRC Publication |
| 3. Jacobsen, Ruthie | <i>Establishing a Prayer Ministry</i> | Advent Source |
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| 5. Kidder, S. Joseph | <i>The Big Four</i> | R&H |
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| 10. Sacks, Cheryl | <i>The Prayer Saturated Church</i> | Navpress Publishing Group |

GOD'S WORD IS LIFE AND POWER

1. Every promise in the Word of God is for us. In your prayers, present the pledged word of Jehovah and by faith claim His promises. His word is the assurance that if you ask in faith, you will receive all spiritual blessings. Continue to ask, and you will receive exceeding abundantly above all that you ask or think. Educate yourself to have unlimited confidence in God. Cast all your care upon Him. Wait patiently for Him, and He will bring it to pass. HP p. 71
2. We are to come to God, not in a spirit of self-justification, but with humility, repenting of our sins. He is able to help us, willing to do for us more than we ask or think. He has the abundance of heaven wherewith to supply our necessities... God is holy, and we must pray, "lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting." 1Tim. 2:8, HP p. 71
3. For any gift He has promised, we may ask; then we are to believe that we receive, and return thanks to God that we have received. ED p. 258
4. God stands back of every promise He has made. COL p. 147
5. Can you not trust in your heavenly Father? Can you not rest upon His gracious promise? Can we not have implicit trust, knowing that He is faithful who hath promised? I entreat you to let your trembling faith again grasp the promises of God. Bear your whole weight upon them with unwavering faith; for they will not, they cannot, fail. 2T p. 497
6. Let these blessed promises, set in the framework of faith, be placed in memory's halls. Not one of them will fail. All that God hath spoken He will do. "He is faithful that promised." 5T p. 630
7. For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Rom. 15:4
8. We should now acquaint ourselves with God by proving His promises. Angels record every prayer that is earnest and sincere. We should rather dispense with selfish gratifications than neglect communion with God. GC p. 622
9. How I wish that we might all believe in the promises of God . . . We are not to look into our hearts for joyful emotion as an evidence of our acceptance with heaven, but we are to take God's promises and say, "They are mine. The Lord is letting His Holy Spirit rest upon me. I am receiving the light; for the promise is, 'Believe that ye receive the things ye ask for, and ye shall have them.' By faith I reach within the veil and lay hold of Christ, my strength. I thank God that I have a Savior." ST March 25, 1889
10. Think of Christ. Look to Him in faith; believing His promises. Keep your mind trustful. He will be your stay. Lean on Him, depend on Him . . . Put your trust in One whose arm will never fail . . . Looking to Jesus you will find encouragement. 2SM p. 265
11. For all the promises of God in him are yes, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. 2 Cor. 1:20
12. Instead of thinking of your discouragements, think of the power you can claim in Christ's name . . . Let your thoughts be directed to the evidences of the great love of God for you. Faith can endure trial, resist temptation, and bear up under disappointment. Jesus lives as our advocate. All is ours that His mediation secures . . . All experiences and circumstances are God's workmen whereby good is brought to us. ML p. 488,489 or (TBOGA p. 27)

13. The enemy never can take out of the hand of Christ the one who is simply trusting in His promises. BC, Ellen G. White Comments on Revelation 3:3; p. 959 or (TBOGA p. 11)
14. The children of God may rejoice in all things and at all times. When troubles and difficulties come, believing in the wise providence of God, you may rejoice. You need not wait for a happy flight of feelings, but by faith you may lay hold of the promises and lift up a hymn of thanksgiving to God. . . . HP p. 123
15. There are many who, though striving to obey God's commandments, have little peace or joy. This lack in their experience is the result of a failure to exercise faith. They walk, as it were, in a salt land, a parched wilderness. They claim little, when they might claim much; for there is no limit to the promises of God. Such ones do not correctly represent the sanctification that comes through obedience to the truth. The Lord would have all His sons and daughters happy, peaceful, and obedient. Through the exercise of faith the believer comes into possession of these blessings. Through faith, every deficiency of character may be supplied, every defilement cleansed, every fault corrected, every excellence developed. HP p. 200
16. Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His experience testifies to the power of importunate prayer. It is now that we are to learn this lesson of prevailing prayer, of unyielding faith. The greatest victories to the church of Christ or to the individual Christian are not those that are gained by talent or education, by wealth or the favor of men. They are those victories that are gained in the audience chamber with God, when earnest, agonizing faith lays hold upon the mighty arm of power. PP p. 203
17. Those who are unwilling to forsake every sin and to seek earnestly for God's blessing, will not obtain it. But all who will lay hold of God's promises as did Jacob, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded. "Shall not God avenge His own elect, which cry day and night unto Him, though He bear long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily." Luke 18:7-8, PP p. 203
18. It is in these promises that Christ communicates to us His grace and power. They are leaves from the tree which is "for the healing of the nations." *Revelation 22:2* Received, assimilated, they are to be the strength of the character, the inspiration and sustenance of the life. Nothing else can have such healing power. Nothing besides can impart the courage and faith which give vital energy to the whole being. MH p. 122
19. We should now acquaint ourselves with God by proving His promises. Angels record every prayer that is earnest and sincere. We should rather dispense with selfish gratifications than neglect communion with God. The deepest poverty, the greatest self-denial, with His approval, is better than riches, honors, ease, and friendship without it. GC p. 622
20. By what means did He overcome in the conflict with Satan? By the word of God. Only by the word could He resist temptation. "It is written," He said. And unto us are given "exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." *2 Peter 1:4* Every promise in God's word is ours. "By every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God," are we to live. When assailed by temptation, look not to circumstances or to the weakness of self, but to the power of the word. All its strength is yours. "Thy word," says the psalmist, "have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee. By the word of Thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer." Ps. 119:11; 17:4, DA p. 123

21. Should you sit always in one position, without moving, your muscles would become strength less and your limbs would lose the power of motion. The same is true in regard to your religious experience. You must have faith in the promises of God . . . Faith will perfect itself in exercise and activity. HP p. 104
22. (Referring to faith as a grain of mustard seed.) If you have faith like this, you will lay hold upon God's word, and upon all the helpful agencies He has appointed. Thus your faith will strengthen, and will bring to your aid the power of heaven. The obstacles that are piled by Satan across your path, though apparently as insurmountable as the eternal hills, shall disappear before the demand of faith. "Nothing shall be impossible unto you." DA p. 431
23. The mother of Augustine prayed for her son's conversion. She saw no evidence that the Spirit of God was impressing his heart, but she was not discouraged. She laid her finger upon the texts, presenting before God His own words, and pleaded as only a mother can. Her deep humiliation, her earnest importunities, her unwavering faith, prevailed and the Lord gave her the desire of her heart. Today He is just as ready to listen to the petitions of His people. "His hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy that it cannot hear;" and if Christian parents seek Him earnestly, He will fill their mouths with arguments and for His name's sake will work mightily in their behalf in the conversion of their children. 5T p. 322, 323
24. Those who bring their petitions to God, claiming His promise while they do not comply with the conditions, insult Jehovah. COL p. 143
25. True faith lays hold of and claims the promised blessing before it is realized and felt. EW, Prayer and Faith, p. 72
26. For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift that He has promised, we may ask; then we are to believe that we receive, and return thanks to God that we have received. We need to look for no outward evidence of the blessing. The gift is in the promise, and we may go about our work assured that what God has promised He is able to perform, and that the gift, which we already possess, will be realized when we need it *most*. ED p. 258
27. We have too little faith: We limit the Holy One of Israel. We should be grateful that God condescends to use any of us as His instruments. For every earnest prayer put up in faith for anything, answers will be returned. They may not come just as we have expected; but they will come, not perhaps as we have devised, but at the very time when we most need them. But, oh how sinful is our unbelief! "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you shall ask what you will, and it will be done unto you" 3T p. 209; Power of Prayer, p. 93

The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple. Ps. 119:130

I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life. Ps. 119:93

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
John 1:1 NKJV

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. John 1:4 NKJV

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 NKJV

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are LIFE. John 6:63 NKJV

But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life. John 4:14

... for You have magnified Your word above all Your name. Ps. 138:2 NKJV

He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Rev. 19:13, 16 NKJV

My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings, Prov. 4:20

Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; Prov. 4:21

For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. Prov. 4:22

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of Life. 1John 1:1 NKJV

And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. 1 John 1:4 NKJV

And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness:" Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Cor. 12:9-10 NKJV

You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. John 15:5 NKJV

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. John 15:7 NKJV

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly . . . Col. 3:16

ASK – Ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Matt.7:7

BELIEVE – Whatever things you ask when you pray believe that you receive them, and you will have them. Mark 11:24

CLAIM – Father I thank You that You have heard Me. John 11:41

Suggested Reading:

Abiding in Christ, by Andrew Murray

Christ's Object Lessons, Asking to Give, pp. 139-149, by Ellen White

Exalting His Word, by Shelley Quinn

Early Writings, Prayer and Faith, p. 72-73, by Ellen White

Education, Faith and Prayer, pp. 253-261, by Ellen White

Incredible Answers to Prayer, by Roger Morneau

In Heavenly Places, by Ellen White

Prayer, by Ellen White

Steps to Christ, The Privilege of Prayer, pp. 93-104, by Ellen White

The ABC's of Bible Prayer, by Glenn Coon

The Desire of Ages, by Ellen White

Thoughts From the Mount of Blessings, The Lord's Prayer, pp. 102-122, by Ellen White

The Power of Prayer, by Teach Publishing

Also visit: www.nadadventist.org/article.php?id=200

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

Scriptures from New King James Version unless otherwise noted

1. *Proverbs 3:32*
For the perverse person is an abomination to the Lord, but His secret counsel is with the upright.
2. *Psalms 25:12 NASB*
Who is the man who fears the Lord? He will instruct him in the way He should choose.
3. *Psalms 25:14*
The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant.
4. *Amos 4:13 NASB*
For behold, He who forms mountains and creates the wind and declares to man what are His thoughts, He who makes dawn into darkness and treads on high places of the earth, the Lord God of hosts is His name.
5. *Daniel 2:22*
He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him.
6. *Amos 2:7*
Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.
7. *John 15:15*
No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.
8. *Daniel 2:29*
As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be.
9. *John 10:3*
To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear His voice and He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out.
10. *John 10:4*
. . . the sheep follow Him, for they know His voice.
11. *John 10:16*
And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.
12. Our life is to be bound up with the life of Christ; we are to draw constantly from Him, partaking of Him, the living Bread that came down from heaven, drawing from a fountain ever fresh, ever giving forth its abundant treasures. If we keep the Lord ever before us, allowing our hearts to go out in thanksgiving and praise to Him, we shall have a continual freshness in our religious life.

Our prayers will take the form of a conversation with God as we would talk with a friend. He will speak His mysteries to us personally. Often there will come to us a sweet joyful sense of the presence of Jesus. Often our hearts will burn within us as He draws nigh to commune with us as He did with Enoch. When this is in truth the experience of the Christian, there is seen in his life a simplicity, a humility, meekness, and lowliness of heart, that show to all with whom he associates that he has been with Jesus and learned of Him. COL p. 129-130

13. All who are under the training of God need the quiet hour for communion with their own hearts, with nature and with God. In them is to be revealed a life that is not in harmony with the world, its customs, or its practices; and they need to have a personal experience in obtaining a knowledge of the will of God. We must individually hear Him speaking to the heart. When every other voice is hushed, and in quietness we wait before Him, the silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God. He bids us, "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10) This is the effectual preparation for all labor for God. Amidst the hurrying throng, and the strain of life's intense activities, he who is thus refreshed will be surrounded with an atmosphere of light and peace. He will receive a new endowment of both physical and mental strength. His life will breathe out a fragrance, and will reveal a divine power that will reach men's hearts. MH p. 58
14. We shall wait for His hand to lead us; we shall listen to His voice, saying, "*This is the way, walk ye in it.*" Isa. 30:21, MB p. 118
15. Impressions and feelings are no sure evidence that a person is led by the Lord. Satan will, if he is unsuspected, give feelings and impressions. These are not safe guides. All should thoroughly acquaint themselves with the evidences of our faith, and the great study should be how they can adorn their profession and bear fruit to the glory of God. 1T p. 413
16. Impressions alone are not a safe guide to duty. The enemy often persuades men to believe that it is God who is guiding them, when in reality they are following only human impulse. But if we watch carefully, and take counsel with our brethren, we shall be given an understanding of the Lord's will; for the promise is, "the meek will He guide in judgment: and the meek will He teach His way." Ps. 25:9, AA p. 279
17. In the secret place of prayer, where no eye but God's can see, no ear but His can hear, we may pour out our most hidden desires and longings to the Father in infinite pity, and in the hush and silence of the soul that voice which never fails to answer the cry of human need will speak to our hearts. MB p. 84
18. An intensity such as never before was seen is taking possession of the world. In amusement, in money-making, in the contest for power, in the very struggle for existence, there is a terrible force that engrosses body and mind and soul. In the midst of this maddening rush, God is speaking. He bids us come apart and commune with Him. "*Be still, and know that I am God.*" Ps. 46:10

Many, even in their seasons of devotion, fail of receiving the blessing of real communion with God. They are in too great haste. With hurried steps they press through the circle of Christ's loving presence, pausing perhaps a moment within the sacred precincts, but not waiting for

counsel. They have no time to remain with the divine Teacher. With their burdens they return to their work.

These workers can never attain the highest success until they learn the secret of strength. They must give themselves time to think, to pray, to wait upon God for a renewal of physical, mental, and spiritual power. They need the uplifting influence of His Spirit. Receiving this, they will be quickened by fresh life. The wearied frame and tired brain will be refreshed, the burdened heart will be lightened.

Not a pause for a moment in His presence, but personal contact with Christ, to sit down in companionship with Him – this is our need. Happy will it be for the children of our homes and the students of our schools when parents and teachers shall learn in their own lives the precious experience pictured in these words from the Song of Songs: *“As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my Beloved among the sons. I sat down under His shadow with great delight, and His fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the banqueting house, and His banner over me was love.”* Sol. 2:3-4, ED p. 260-261

19. One sentence of scripture is of more value than ten thousand of man’s ideas or arguments. 7T p. 71
20. Satan well knows that all whom he can lead to neglect prayer and the searching of the scriptures, will be overcome by his attacks. Therefore he invents every possible device to engross the mind. GC p. 519
21. In the Bible we have the unerring counsel of God. Its teachings, practically carried out, will fit men for any position of duty. It is the voice of God speaking everyday to the soul. . . . 4T p. 441
22. Every chapter and every verse of the Bible is a communication from God to men. We should bind its precepts as signs upon our hands and as frontlets between our eyes. If studied and obeyed, it would lead God’s people, as the Israelites were led, by the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. PP p. 504
23. So with all the promises of God’s Word. In them He is speaking to us individually, speaking as directly as if we could listen to His voice. It is in these promises that Christ communicates to us His grace and power. They are leaves from that tree which is *“for the healing of the nations.”* (Revelation 22:2) Received assimilated they are to be the strength of the character, the inspiration and sustenance of the life. Nothing else can have such healing power. Nothing besides can impart the courage and faith which give vital energy to the whole being. MH p. 122
24. His power, His very life, dwells in His Word. As you receive the word in faith, it will give you power to obey. MB p. 150
25. The Bible is God’s voice speaking to us, just as surely as though we could hear it with our ears. If we realize this, with what awe would we open God’s Word and with what earnestness would we search it’s precepts! The reading and contemplation of the scriptures would be regarded as an audience with the Infinite One. 6T p. 392-393

26. God's holy, educating spirit is in His word. A light, a new and precious light shines forth from every page. Truth is there revealed and words and sentences are made bright and appropriate for the occasion, as the voice of God speaking to the soul. COL p. 132
27. We shall wait for His hand to lead us; we shall listen to His voice, saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it." Isa. 30:21, MB p. 118
28. It is one thing to treat the Bible as a book of good moral instruction, to be heeded so far as is consistent with the spirit of the times and our position in the world; it is another thing to regard it as it really is – the word of the living God, the word that is our life, the word that is to mold our actions, our words, and our thoughts. "To hold God's word as anything less than this is to reject it. And this rejection by those who profess to believe it, is foremost among the causes of skepticism and infidelity in the youth." ED p. 260
29. When the mind dwells upon self, it is turned away from Christ, the source of strength and life. Hence, it is Satan's constant effort to keep the attention diverted from the Savior and thus prevent the union and communication of the soul with Christ. The pleasures of the world, life's cares and perplexities, and sorrows, the faults of others, or your own faults and imperfections – to any or all of these he will seek to divert the mind. Do not be misled by his devices. Many who are really conscientious, and who desire to live for God, he too often leads to dwell upon their own faults and weaknesses, and thus by separating them from Christ, he hopes to gain the victory. We should not make self the center and indulge anxiety and fear as to whether we shall be saved. All this turns the soul away from the Source of our strength. Commit the keeping of your soul to God, and trust in Him. "Talk and think of Jesus. Let self be lost in Him!" SC p. 71

SATAN CALLED A WORLD-WIDE MEETING

Recently I came across a compelling article that I want to share in its short form.

Satan called a world-wide meeting. The huge crowd hushed as he stepped up to speak. “We can’t keep the Christians from going to church. We can’t keep them from reading their Bibles and knowing the truth. We can’t keep them from conservative values, but we can do something else.” He paused. Everyone listened.

“We can keep them from forming an intimate, abiding experience in Christ. If they gain that connection with Jesus, our power over them is broken. So let them go to church, let them have their conservative lifestyles, but steal their time, so they can’t gain that experience in Jesus Christ. This is what I want you to do. Distract them from gaining hold of their Savior and maintaining a vital connection through their day!”

“How shall we do this?” shouted his angels. “Simple. Keep them busy, busy, busy in the nonessentials of life and invent un-numbered schemes to occupy their minds,” he answered.

“Tempt them to spend and spend, then borrow and borrow.

“Keep them from their children. Convince the wives to go to work and the husbands to work six and seven days a week, 10-12 hours a day, so they can afford their lifestyles. Tell them they are doing it FOR their children. Hah! That one works well. As their family fragments, soon their homes won’t offer an escape from the pressures of work.

“Over stimulate their minds so that they cannot hear ‘the still small voice.’ Entice them to play the radio or DVD player whenever they drive, to keep the TV, DVDs, MP3s, iPods, cell phones,

text messages, and CDs going constantly in their homes. This will jam their minds and break that union with Christ.

“Fill their homes with magazines and newspapers. Pound their minds with the news 24 hours a day. Invade their driving moments with billboards. Flood their mailboxes with junk mail, sweepstakes, mail-order catalogues, and every kind of newsletter and promotional offering, free products, services, and false hopes.

“Even in their recreation, let them be excessive. Have them return from their recreation exhausted, disquieted and unprepared for the coming week. Don’t let them go out in nature. Send them to amusement parks, sporting events, concerts and movies instead.

“When they meet for spiritual fellowship, involve them in gossip and small talk so that they leave with troubled consciences and unsettled emotion. Don’t let them encourage or uplift each other, keep those who are the gifted encouragers, especially busy and worn out.

“And above all when they get together keep them from praying for one another. Let them be involved in soul-winning. But crowd their lives with so many good causes they have no time to seek power from Christ. Soon they will be working in their own strength, sacrificing their health and family unity for the good of the cause.”

It was quite a convention in the end. And the evil angels went eagerly to their assignments trying to cause Christians everywhere to get busy, busy, busy, and rush here and there.

In sharing with so many of you, I realize I am not the only one who feels the pull of this culture and the busyness of life that can hurt our abiding intimate relationship with our Lord. My heart’s response, and I hope yours also, is in Paul’s thoughts from Romans 12:1-3: “So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what He wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.”

(Message Paraphrase)

Your brother in Christ,
Jerry N. Page