

## The High Priest

### DAY 7—THE BREASTPLATE

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. (1 CORINTHIANS 1:10)

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### SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR THE PRAYER TIME

#### Praise

- Lord, we praise You for who You are—You are a God of love, peace, and unity.
- We praise You for the example of unity that existed among the disciples after Pentecost.
- We thank You that You can bring unity to churches and families today.

#### Confession and Claiming Victory Over Sin

- Father, please show us which sins to confess openly and which to confess privately. We claim Your victory over those sins.
- Please forgive us for times when we have promoted disunity in the body of Christ through words or actions.
- Thank You that You forgive us according to 1 John 1:9.

#### Supplication and Intercession

- Lord, please bring Your people “to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13).
- Help us not to do anything “through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself” (Philippians 2:3).
- Lord, please give us humble hearts and love for people who are difficult to live with or work with.
- Lord, please show each of us whether we are preventing unity in our church or family relationships. Please soften our hearts and bring us unity according to Your plan.
- We pray for unity among the leaders of our local church and world church.
- May every Seventh-day Adventist worldwide catch the vision of Total Member Involvement. Let each one of us become active in personal witnessing, small-group outreach, or public evangelism.
- Please send Your Holy Spirit to prepare the hearts of Adventist World Radio listeners, especially in large urban areas. May church members be faithful to follow up and disciple those who are seeking You.
- Bless the collaboration of our church organization and supporting ministries in the great work of evangelistic outreach. May Your servants work together with love for each other and for You.
- Lord, please show us how to send more truth-filled literature (both printed and electronic) into our communities. Raise up literature evangelists, student volunteers, authors, media specialists, and financial supporters to spread words of hope and life.
- Lord, we pray for the seven (or more) people on our individual prayer lists. May they let the Holy Spirit work in their lives.
- We also pray for the personal needs of those gathered here.

#### Thanksgiving

- Lord, thank You for Jesus, who prayed for our unity in John 17.
- Thank You that unity in the church helps the world believe that Jesus is the Son of God (John 17:21).

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### SUGGESTED SONGS TO SING

“God Is So Good”; “Higher Ground” (SDA Hymnal #625); “’Tis Love That Makes Us Happy” (SDA Hymnal #579); “Not I, But Christ” (SDA Hymnal #570); “Standing on the Promises” (SDA Hymnal #518); “Like Jesus” (SDA Hymnal #492).

## The Breastplate

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. (1 CORINTHIANS 1:10)

**The 12 stones representing the 12 tribes of Israel were kept in the breastplate close to the heart of the High Priest. From this we learn how important it is for us to press together, to be united in Christ's love, and to reveal this love to people, inside and outside the church.**

The secret of our success in the work of God will be found in the harmonious working of our people. There must be concentrated action. Every member of the body of Christ must act his part in the cause of God, according to the ability that God has given him. We must press together against obstructions and difficulties, shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart.

If Christians were to act in concert, moving forward as one, under the direction of one Power, for the accomplishment of one purpose, they would move the world. (*Christian Service*, p. 75)

There is no higher work than evangelistic canvassing, for it involves the performance of the highest moral duties. Those who engage in this work need always to be under the control of the Spirit of God. There must be no exalting of self. What have any of us that we did not receive from Christ? We must love as brethren, revealing our love by helping one another. We must be pitiful and courteous. We must press together, drawing in even cords. Only those who live the prayer of Christ, working it out in practical life, will stand the test that is to come upon all the world. Those who exalt self place themselves in Satan's power, preparing to receive his deceptions. The word of the Lord to His people is that we lift the standard higher and still higher. If we obey His voice, He will work with us, and our efforts will be crowned with success. In our work we shall receive rich blessings from on high and shall lay up treasure beside the throne of God. (*The Colporteur Evangelist*, p. 25)

Fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. (Philippians 2:2, 3)

There is too much of an independence of spirit indulged in among the messengers. This must be laid aside, and there must be a drawing together of the servants of God. There has been too much of a spirit to ask, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Said the angel, "Yea, thou art thy brother's keeper. Thou shouldst have a watchful care for thy brother, be interested for his welfare, and cherish a kind, loving spirit toward him. Press together, press together," God designed that man should be open-hearted and honest, without affectation, meek, humble, with simplicity. This is the principle of heaven; God ordered it so. (*Gospel Workers* [1892], p. 259)

There is too much coldness and indifference—too much of the "I don't care" spirit—exercised among the professed followers of Christ. All should feel a care for one another, jealousy guarding each other's interests. "Love one another." Then we should stand a strong wall against Satan's devices. Amid opposition and persecution we would not join the vindictive ones, not unite with the followers of the great rebel, whose special work is to accuse the brethren, to defame and cast stain upon their characters.

Let the remnant of this year be improved in destroying every fiber of the root of bitterness, burying them in the grave with the old year. Begin the new year with more tender regard, with deeper love, for every member of the Lord's family. Press together. "United, we stand; divided, we fall." Take a higher, nobler stand than you ever have before. (*Our High Calling*, p. 370)

If Satan can excite criticism among any of the Lord's professed people, then it is communicated like leaven from one to another. Give the spirit of criticism no quarter, for it is Satan's science. Accept it, and envy, jealousy, and evil surmisings of one another follow.

Press together, is the command I hear from the Captain of our salvation. Press together. Where there is unity, there is strength. All who are on the Lord's side will press together. There is need of perfect unity and love among believers in the truth, and anything that leads to dissension is of the devil. The Lord designs that His people shall be one with Him as the branches are one with the vine. Then they will be one with each other. (*Selected Messages*, book 3, pp. 351, 352)

Let everyone seek to answer the prayer of Christ: "That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee." Oh, what unity is this! and says Christ: "By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another." (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 488, 489)