

Solomon's Prayer

One of the main reasons that prayer is such a powerful force is that it is based on the promises of God. And the promises of God will still endure even if heaven and earth should pass away. Passages of Scripture that tell us this are found in Matthew 5:18 and Luke 17:17.

Solomon, the wisest of all kings, said, "Blessed be the Lord ...there hath not failed one word of all his good promise" (1Kings 8:56).

Knowing God's promises cannot fail, King Solomon prayed, but not just an ordinary prayer. The prayer of Solomon at the dedication of the temple is the product of inspired wisdom and piety . . . national and individual blessings are in it, and temporal and spiritual good is embraced by it. National calamities, individual sins, sickness, exile, famine, war, pestilence, mildew, drought, insects, damage to crops . . . all are in this prayer and all are for prayer.

For all these evils, prayer is the one universal remedy. Pure praying remedies all ills, cures all diseases, relieves all situations - no matter how desperate, disastrous, fearful, and despairing. God can relieve when no one else can.

Prayer focus:

Pray for national leaders, national disasters, and armed conflicts around the world.

Adapted from: E.M. Bounds, *The Classic Collection on Prayer*, pp. 215, 216

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

The Spirit of Prayer

1 Kings 8:29

Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servant prayeth before thee to day.



As Solomon ended his prayer, "fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices." The priests could not enter the temple because "the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house." "When all the children of Israel saw ... the glory of the Lord upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshiped, and praised the Lord, saying, For He is good; for His mercy endureth forever." Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, p. 45.

Those who have the spirit of prayer have the highest interest in the court of heaven. And the only way to retain it is to keep it in constant employment. Apostasy begins in the closet. No one ever backslid from the life and power of Christianity who continued constant and fervent in private prayer. The person who prays without ceasing is likely to rejoice evermore. (Adam Clarke)



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How to Pray Continually

"Beginning at Jerusalem" - Luke 24:47

Each one of us is connected with a congregation or a circle of believers. They are to us the part of Christ's body with which we come into most direct contact and as such, they have a special claim on our intercession. Let it be a settled matter between God and you that you are to labor in prayer in their behalf.

Pray for the minister and all leaders or workers in that congregation. Pray for the believers according to their needs. Pray for conversions. Pray for the power of the Spirit to manifest itself. Band yourself with others to join in definite petitions. Let intercession be a definite work, carried on as systematically as preaching or Sabbath school. And pray, expecting an answer.

"Watchmen . . . which shall never hold their peace day or night" Isaiah 62:6

"His own elect, which cry day and night unto Him." Luke 18:7

"Night and day praying exceedingly that we might . . . perfect that which is lacking in your faith." 1 Thessalonians 3:10

When the glory of God, the love of Christ, and the need of souls are revealed to us, the fire of this unceasing intercession will begin to burn in us for those who are near and those who are far off.

Prayer focus:

For the Spirit of God to fall on your own heart, igniting a need for intercessory prayer.

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

The Prayer that Heals Our Land

2 Chronicles 7: 14

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.



Solomon then knelt upon the platform, and in the hearing of all the people offered the dedicatory prayer. Lifting his hands toward heaven, while the congregation were bowed with their faces to the ground, the king pleaded: "Lord God of Israel, there is no God like Thee in the heaven, nor in the earth; which keepest covenant, and showest mercy unto Thy servants, that walk before Thee with all their heart.

The king had done everything within his power to encourage the people to give themselves wholly to God and His service, and to magnify His holy name. . . Had Israel remained true to God, this glorious building would have stood forever, a perpetual sign of God's especial favor to His chosen people. "The sons of the stranger," God declared, "that join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants, everyone that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of My covenant; even them will I bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon Mine altar; for Mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people." Isaiah 56:6, 7

Faith of Our Fathers

Constantine the Great (272-337) was one of the most influential of the Roman emperors. Indeed, he was one of the most influential men of the first thousand years after Christ. But it was what he did to Christianity that gave him that influence. For the effects of his actions reach down to our own time. Yet historians are generally agreed that he was more of a politician than a Christian. His goal was not so much the helping of Christianity as it was the salvage of the Roman Empire. With so many problems to be reckoned with, Constantine wisely concluded that what was needed was a unifying of the nation through a combining of religion; but, for over two centuries, few paid any attention to it.

Meanwhile, other religions from the East had arisen and were claiming the devotion of the people. Among them all, two especially stood out - Mithraism, the worship of Mithra (Mithras), the sun god, and Christianity, the worship of the true God, the Creator God, as revealed in the Old and the New Testament Scriptures.

For us today, there is help only in one line: Determine by the grace of God to live right yourself. Study the Bible, and obey it by the grace of Christ, your Lord and Saviour - at whatever cost. Only He can strengthen you to obey His written Word. Back in the Dark Ages, men and women were willing to die for what the Bible said. Are you willing to suffer today for the same truths? Will you stand for the faith of your fathers—the faith given you by the God of heaven in the Holy Bible?

Prayer focus:

For strength to pass the test of trial of our faith.

Sabbath Prayer Focus:**To Whom Shall You Offer Worship?**

Revelation 13:8-10

And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If any man have an ear, let him hear. He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.



It has been shown that the United States is the power represented by the beast with lamblike horns, and that this prophecy will be fulfilled when the United States shall enforce Sunday observance, which Rome claims as the special acknowledgment of her supremacy. But in this homage to the papacy the United States will not be alone. The influence of Rome in the countries that once acknowledged her dominion is still far from being destroyed. And prophecy foretells a restoration of her power.

And let it be remembered, it is the boast of Rome that she never changes. The principles of Gregory VII and Innocent III are still the principles of the Roman Catholic Church. And had she but the power, she would put them in practice with as much vigor now as in past centuries. . . . God's word has given warning of the impending danger; let this be unheeded, and the Protestant world will learn what the purposes of Rome really are, only when it is too late to escape the snare. Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, 578 - 581.

The Heart Is Central

According to the Scriptures, the heart can be troubled, wounded, pierced, grieved, even broken. How well we all know that. Thankfully, it can also be cheerful, glad, merry, joyful, rejoicing. The heart can be whole or divided - as in that phrase we often use, "Well, part of me wants to, but the other part of me doesn't." It can be wise or foolish. It can be steadfast, true, upright, stout, valiant. It can also be frightened, faint, cowardly, [and even] melt like wax. The heart can be wandering, forgetful, dull, stubborn, proud, hardened. Wicked and perverse. I think we know that as well.

When Isaiah promised that the Messiah will come to heal the brokenhearted, (Isaiah 61:1), he was not speaking poetically. The Bible does use metaphor, as in when Jesus says, "I am the gate", (John 10:9). Of course He is not an actual gate like the kind you slammed yesterday, He has no hinges on His body, no knob you turn. He is using metaphor. But when Isaiah talks about the brokenhearted, God is not using metaphor.

The Hebrew is *leb shabar* (*leb* for "heart," *shabar* for "broken"). Isaiah uses the word *shabar* to describe a bush whose "twigs are dry, they are broken off" (27:11); to describe the idols of Babylon lying "shattered on the ground" (21:9), as a statue shatters into a thousand pieces when you knock it off the table, or to describe a broken bone (38:13). God is speaking literally here. "Your heart is now in many pieces,. I want to heal it."

Prayer focus: Healing of old wounds, our brokenness

Adapted from: John Eldridg, *Waking the Dead*, pp. 40, 131, 132

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

Lean on Me

Psalm 42: 7,8

Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me. Yet the Lord will command his lovingkindness in the day time, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.

To each one of us has been given the inestimable privilege of being a child of God. Why, then, should we be unhappy? We are all sinful, but we have a Saviour who can take away our sins, for in Him is no sin. We all have many difficulties to meet, many perplexing problems to solve. But we have an all-powerful Helper, who will listen to our requests as willingly and gladly as He listened to the requests of those who, when He was on this earth in person, came to Him for help.

Do you make mistakes? Do not let this discourage you. The Lord may permit you to make small mistakes in order to save you from making larger mistakes. Go to Jesus, and ask him to forgive you, and then believe that he does. . . . When unkind, discouraging words are spoken to you, do not retaliate. Do not reply unless you can return a pleasant answer. Say to yourself, "I will not disappoint my Saviour."

Ellen G. White, *The Review and Herald*, April 4, 1904.

