

### 3 Against 1

Willard H. Saxby, according to Seventh-day Adventist yearbooks for 1890-1895, was an ordained minister serving the church in Ohio. While attending Ohio camp meeting, he received an eleven page letter from Sister Ellen White, telling him some things about himself he had trouble seeing and accepting. The letter was sent through Elder A who asked Saxby if he believed in the *Testimonies*. In response to Elder Saxby's response in the affirmative, and after they had prayed together, Elder A began to read aloud the letter from Sister White. After a few paragraphs he came to a statement to which Saxby strongly objected. "That is not so!" Saxby exclaimed, emphatically.

"Brother Saxby, you say it is so, and the Lord will help you see that it is so." "But how can I say a thing is so when I know it is not so?" Elder Saxby protested. "Brother Saxby, you say it is so, and the Lord will help you see that it is so," Elder A repeated. With that he continued reading and the scene, with Elder Saxby exclaiming "it is not so!" and Elder A repeating "you say it is so and the Lord will help you see it is so" continued to the close of the letter. The letter finished, Elder Saxby having received permission to take it home shared the letter, (at least the part he had most trouble with), with his wife. After he had read it, Mrs. Saxby abruptly sat up in bed and said with all earnestness of which she was capable, "**Willard, it is so!**"

In the following days, as I sought the Lord through fasting and prayer, he wrote, I soon saw things in the true light. The testimony was a photograph of my inner life, and I could see that it was so.

#### Prayer focus:

For the courage and humility to allow the Lord to show us our defects of character and the strength to say, "it is so."

#### Sabbath Prayer Focus:

### Sheep without a Shepherd

Numbers 27:15-17

Then Moses spoke to the Lord, saying, "May the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation, who will go out and come in before them, and who will lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the Lord may not be like sheep which have no shepherd."

#### Leaders - Men of Prayer

Presidents of conferences, you will be wise if you will decide to come to God. Believe in Him. He will hear your prayer, and come to your assistance, in much less time than the public conveyance could take one, two, three, or four men from a long distance, at a great expense, to decide questions which the God of wisdom can decide far better for you.

E.G. White, *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 323, 324

God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints, (1 Corinthians 14:33). He requires that order and system be observed in the conduct of church affairs today no less than in the days of old. He desires His work to be carried forward with thoroughness and exactness so that He may place upon it the seal of His approval. Christian is to be united with Christian, church with church, the human instrumentality co-operating with the divine, every agency subordinate to the Holy Spirit, and all combined in giving to the world the good tidings of the grace of God. E.G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 96



## A Spiritual Prescription

We are surely in need of divine help so far as our physical being is concerned. Sickness abounds everywhere, and multitudes are seeking for cures. Never was there a time when so many doctors were to be found, or so many medicines, new medical discoveries, wonderful scientific achievements in surgery, mind cures, faith cures, and all manner of other cures. And yet, the world is still sick; nearly all are looking for relief.

Seventh-day Adventists take what is really a balanced position upon the subject of divine healing. We recognize the promise in the Word that God will heal sickness, and yet we do not think it out of harmony with true faith in God to call upon the wise and conscientious physician, and to use natural remedies in an effort to recover strength. We believe in sanitariums and treatment rooms, and have established them for the purpose of fostering health and healing.

We believe in diet and well-prepared health foods. There is surely a vital relationship between eating and health. And yet, after all these different means have been used, we frequently find individuals who, because of the nature of their disease, do not recover, but rather grow worse. In extreme cases, in which patients have been given up by their physicians as hopeless, some have availed themselves of the heavenly Physician, and have made definite recovery - not because the doctor was mistaken in his diagnosis or in the seriousness of the malady, but because there is real divine healing by faith.

### Prayer focus:

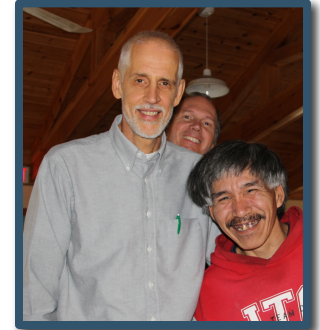
To lay hold of the prayer of faith that will heal the sick. James 5:15

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

## Prayer for the Sick

Acts 28: 8,9

And it came about that the father of Publius was lying in bed afflicted with recurrent fever and dysentery; and Paul went in to see him and after he had prayed, he laid his hands on him and healed him. So when this was done, others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed.



Eld. Lew Keith, Nunavut Canada

### Prayer Should Be Offered for the Sick With Calm Faith

I was shown that in case of sickness, where the way is clear for the offering up of prayer for the sick, the case should be committed to the Lord in calm faith, not with a storm of excitement. He alone is acquainted with the past life of the individual and knows what his future will be. He who is acquainted with the hearts of all men [and women] knows whether the person, if raised up, would glorify His name or dishonor Him by backsliding and apostasy. All that we are required to do is to ask God to raise the sick up if in accordance with His will, believing that He hears the reasons which we present and the fervent prayers offered. If the Lord sees it will best honor Him, He will answer our prayers. But to urge recovery without submission to His will is not right.

With all our treatments given to the sick, simple fervent prayer should be offered for the blessing of healing. We are to point the sick to the compassionate Saviour, and His power to forgive and to heal.

E.G. White, Prayer, p. 228

## The Boldness of God's Friends

And he said unto them, "which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth." Luke 11:5-8 KJV

There is a twofold use of prayer: the one, to obtain strength and blessing for our own life; the other, the higher, the true glory of prayer, for which Christ has taken us into His fellowship and teaching, is intercession, where prayer is the royal power a child of God exercises in heaven on behalf of others and even of the kingdom. We see it in Scripture, how it was in intercession for others that Abraham and Moses, Samuel and Elijah, with all the holy men of old, proved that they had power with God and prevailed. It is when we give ourselves to be a blessing that we can specially count on the blessing of God. It is when we draw near to God as the friend of the poor and the perishing that we may count on His friendliness; the righteous man who is the friend of the poor is very specially the friend of God. |

### Prayer focus:

That we may become effective intercessors in behalf of others.

## Sabbath Prayer Focus:

### The Gift of Intercession

1 Samuel 12: 22-24

For the Lord will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the Lord to make you his people. Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way: Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.

### Intercede for Others in Private Prayer

In private prayer all have the privilege of praying as long as they desire and of being as explicit as they please. They can pray for all their relatives and friends. The closet is the place to tell all their private difficulties, and trials, and temptations. A common meeting to worship God is not the place to open the privacies of the heart. Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church* 2:578.

In calling God our Father, we recognize all His children as our brethren. We are all a part of the great web of humanity, all members of one family. In our petitions we are to include our neighbors as well as ourselves. *No one prays aright who seeks a blessing for himself alone.* Ellen G. White, *Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 267.



Moderator Pr. Warren Ruf,  
S. New England Conf. Prayer Coord

Jesus, in Matthew 7:17 said that "ye shall know them by their fruits" and later, in the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13), said that "he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit".

But what is the fruit we are to bear? Are we to bear oranges, pears, mangos or some other fruit?

In Romans 1: 13, the apostle Paul writes that he would like to "have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles." From this we understand that winning souls to Christ and helping them grow is bearing fruit. Paul also speaks of contributing to the poor as a "fruit" in Romans 15: 25-28 while developing a Christlike character is also referred to as the "fruit" of the Spirit in Galatians 5.

Just as the primary responsibility and function of the branch is to bear fruit, so it is with us. It is God's will that His children will bear the fruit of His Holy Spirit, the fruit of a Christlike character and the fruit of good works.

In Hebrews 13:15 we are also told that "by him [Jesus], therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

**Prayer focus:**

That we may allow God to prune us that we may bring forth the good fruit of His Holy Spirit.

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

**To Bring Forth Much Fruit**

John 15: 1-2, 8 KJV

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. . . . Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.



God has endowed us with faculties and has entrusted us with talents in order that we may use them for Him. To every man is given his work - not merely work in his fields of corn and wheat, but earnest, persevering work for the salvation of souls. Every stone in God's temple must be a living stone, a stone that shines, reflecting light to the world. Let the laymen do all that they can; and as they use the talents they already have, God will give them more grace and increased ability. . . . Let all who believe the truth begin to work. Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 8, 246.1

The Lord Jesus Christ is the living vine, and all who are children of God are grafted into the parent stock, drawing sap and nourishment from the one root. The branches are not blended into one, but are diverse, separate branches, yet they all live from the same root. Testimonies to Southern Africa, p. 22

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

**Prayer Essential to God**

It must never be forgotten that Almighty God rules this world. He is not an absentee God. His hand is ever on the throttle of human affairs. He is everywhere present in the concerns of time. "His eyes behold, his eyelids try the children of men," (Psalm 11: 4). He rules the world just as He rules the Church, by prayer.

Nothing is more important to God than prayer in dealing with mankind. But it is likewise all-important to man to pray. Failure to pray is failure along the whole line of life. It is failure of duty, service and spiritual progress. God must help man by prayer. He who does not pray therefore robs himself of God's help and places God where he cannot help man.

Man must pray to God if love for God is to exist. Faith and hope, and patience and all the strong, beautiful, vital forces of piety are withered and dead in a prayerless life. The life of the individual believer, his personal salvation, and personal Christian graces have their being, bloom and fruitage in prayer.

Jonah was a prophet of the Lord and a fugitive from God and from his place of duty. Yet in his distress he called upon the Lord, and God heard him and rescued him from "the belly of hell." (Jonah 2:2)

**Prayer focus:**

Help to find time and voice to pray so that God will find time and voice to answer.

E.M. Bounds, *The Weapon of Prayer*, p. 9  
E.M. Bounds, *Jonah*, pp. 493,663

**Salvation is of the Lord**

Jonah 2:7

When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.



Man's pride would lead him to seek for salvation in some other way than that devised by God. He is unwilling to be accounted as nothing, unwilling to recognize Christ as the only one who can save to the uttermost. But of Christ it is written, "There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." "In all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted." The one word written above the life that Christ lived in this world in behalf of the fallen race, is "Salvation." Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald*, December 4, 1913.

We must live a twofold life - a life of thought and action, of silent prayer and earnest work. . . . God requires us to be living epistles, known and read of all men. The soul that turns to God for its strength, its support, its power, by daily, earnest prayer, will have noble aspirations, clear perceptions of truth and duty, lofty purposes of action, and a continual hungering and thirsting after righteousness. Ellen G. White, *God's Amazing Grace*, p. 317.