

**Join us the 3rd Sunday of every month in the
School of Prayer at the NEC Office**

10 am - 1pm

Prayer Leader's Section:

August 1, 2014

31st Sabbath

We all know what a branch is. Its essential characteristic is that it is simply a growth of the vine, produced by it and appointed to bear its fruit. It has only one reason for existence. It is there at the bidding of the vine, that through it the vine may bear and ripen its precious fruit.

Just as the vine lives solely and wholly to produce the sap that makes the grape, so the branch has the singular object of receiving the sap and bearing the grape. Its only work is to serve the vine, in order that through it the vine may do its work.

What sort of life, according to the parable, must we lead to bear fruit? What must we be or do that will enable us to pray as we should, and to receive what we ask for? The answer is in one word: the branch-life gives power for prayer.

We are branches of Christ, the Living Vine. We must simply live like branches - abide in Christ - then we shall ask what we will, and it shall be done unto us.

"If ye abide in Me," our Lord says, you shall ask and it shall be done unto you. It is the prayer of a righteous man, according to James 5:16, that avails much. We receive whatsoever we ask, John says, because we obey and please God.

Prayer focus:

That we may recognize the Living Vine and seek to abide in Him through prayer.

Adapted from: The Ministry of Intercession, by Andrew Murray, p.48 - 49

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

Abiding in Me

John 15:5

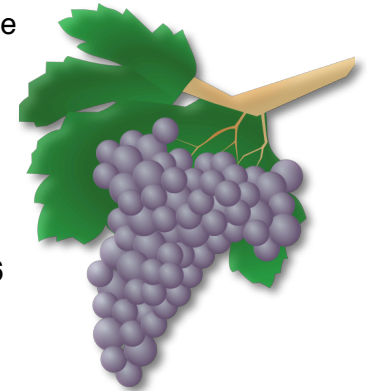
I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing.



Moderator Eld. Ron Neifert

Those who undertake to carry forward the work in their own strength will certainly fail. Education alone will not fit a man for a place in the work, will not enable him to obtain a knowledge of God. Ellen G. White, Christian Education, p. 94.2

Abiding in Christ means a constant receiving of His Spirit, a life of unreserved surrender to His service. The channel of communication must be open continually between man and his God. As the vine branch constantly draws the sap from the living vine, so are we to cling to Jesus, and receive from Him by faith the strength and perfection of His own character. The root sends its nourishment through the branch to the outermost twig. So Christ communicates the current of spiritual strength to every believer. So long as the soul is united to Christ, there is no danger that it will wither or decay.



Ellen G. White, The Desire of Ages, p. 676

**Join us the 3rd Sunday of every month in the
School of Prayer at the NEC Office**

10 am - 1pm

Prayer Leader's Section:

August 8, 2014

32nd Sabbath

Putting the "Grit" Back into Integrity

Interestingly, grit, "stubborn courage," lies embedded in our English word integrity. Now the root of the word integrity comes from Latin. The first part, in, stands for "not," and the last part comes from tangere, meaning "to touch." Thus the basic meaning is "untouched," "whole," or "entire." The dictionary definition reads, "The quality or state of being complete," and by extension it is "the quality or state of being of sound moral principle; uprightness, honesty, and sincerity." But to be this kind of individual today certainly takes grit and fortitude and a lot of it.

Integrity involves the whole being - what a person is inside as well as outside. It is not something we can put on and take off as a garment. It is a cloak that we must wear everyday and for every occasion. Even in doing good works today the best of men and women succumb to the temptation to take moral shortcuts. "The end justifies the means" when it comes to padding expense accounts; cheating on income taxes, trimming down income to reduce tithes and offerings, or remaining silent when others are falsely accused or criticized. It's easy to say, "Well, this doesn't really matter, because everyone is doing it."

The greatest want of the world is the want of men [and women] who will not be bought or sold, ... who in their inmost souls are true and honest, ... who do not fear to call sin by its right name, ... whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, [men and women] who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.

Prayer focus:

That we will more fully reflect the honesty and integrity of Jesus.

Adapted from: Herbert E. Douglass & Leo Van Dolson,
Jesus the Benchmark of Humanity, pp. 79-85

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

Honesty and Integrity Among



Hebrews 13: 18

Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.

[Jesus] urged upon men [and women] the necessity of prayer, repentance, confession, and the abandonment of sin. He taught them honesty, forbearance, mercy, and compassion, enjoining upon them to love not only those who loved them, but those who hated them, who treated them spitefully. In this He was revealing to them the character of the Father, who is long-suffering, merciful, and gracious, slow to anger, and full of goodness and truth. The path of sincerity and integrity is not a path free from obstruction, but in every difficulty we are to see a call to prayer. Ellen G. White, Christian Education, p. 74

As Christ lived the law in humanity, so we may do if we will take hold of the Strong for strength. But we cannot depend for counsel on humanity. The Lord will teach us our duty just as willingly as He will teach somebody else. If we come to Him in faith, He will speak His mysteries to us personally. Our hearts will often burn within us as One draws nigh to commune with us as He did with Enoch. Those who decide to do nothing in any line that will displease God, will know, after presenting their case before Him, just what course to pursue. And power for obedience, for service, will be imparted to them, as Christ has promised.

Ellen G. White, From Heaven with Love, p. 448

Prayer Leader's Section:

August 15, 2014

33rd Sabbath

Faith and an Orange

In his capacity as a former vice-president of the General Conference, I.H. Evans (1913–1918), had to do a great deal of traveling. Each time he returned home, he had the practice of taking a small gift to each of his children. Arriving home from a trip late one night, he went to bed without awakening the children to let them know he had returned. The next morning he was out in his yard when his little boy came running toward him shouting, "Hello, Daddy! Hello Daddy!"

Elder Evans picked up his son and greeted him, then the boy asked "Daddy, what did you bring me this time?" "I brought you an orange," was the response. (That was in the days when oranges were not as readily available in certain areas as now.) The boy slid out of his father's arms, shouting "I have an orange! I have an orange!" His son's unquestioning acceptance of his word struck Elder Evans so forcefully that he asked, "let me see your orange." His eyes beginning to fill with tears, the lad held out his empty hands, "Don't I have an orange?" Ashamed at having raised a doubt in his son's mind, Elder Evans assured him, "Yes, you have; of course you have. It is in my bag in the closet."

That is faith, simple faith. The type of faith that all must possess in God. It is trustingly believing God, who cannot lie, and who does not deceive and acting upon that belief. God has made every provision for our salvation. Let us take Him at His word, inquiring "what must I do to be saved." Acts 16:30

Prayer focus:

For simple, child-like faith and purity of motive that is most pleasing to God.

Adapted: Thomas A, Davis, How to be a Victorious Christian, p.86-87

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

As Little Children

Matthew 11:25-26

At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.



Sis. Jessie Duncanson

The Saviour rejoiced that the plan of salvation is such that those who are wise in their own estimation, who are puffed up by the teachings of vain philosophy, cannot see the beauty, power, and hidden mystery of the gospel. But to all those who are of a humble heart, who have a teachable, honest, childlike desire to know and do the will of their heavenly Father, His word is revealed as the power of God to their salvation. 5T, p. 586

It is the completeness of salvation that gives it its greatness. No man can measure or understand it by worldly wisdom. It may be contemplated with the most profound and concentrated study, but the mind loses itself in the untraceable majesty of its Author; but the soul united with God in meditation of his unfathomable riches, is expanded, and becomes more capable of comprehending to a greater depth and height, the glories of the plan of salvation. As the heart is converted to the truth, the work of transformation goes on. From day to day the Christian has an increased measure of understanding. In becoming a man [or woman] of obedience to the word and will of God, abilities develop and strengthen to comprehend, and to do with increased skill and wisdom, the requirements of God.

E.G. White, Review and Herald, April 17, 1888

**Join us the 3rd Sunday of every month in the
School of Prayer at the NEC Office**

10 am - 1pm

Prayer Leader's Section:

August 22, 2014

34th Sabbath

Chariots of Fire

What Elisha said to his servant is spoken to all the faithful servants of God, when without are fightings, and within are fears. Fear not, with that fear which has torment and amazement; for they that are with us, to protect us, are more than they that are against us, to destroy us. The eyes of his body were open, and with them he saw the danger.

Lord, open the eyes of our faith, that with them we may see thy protecting hand. The clearer sight we have of the sovereignty and power of Heaven, the less we shall fear the troubles of earth. Satan, the god of this world, blinds men's eyes, and so deludes them unto their own ruin; but when God enlightens their eyes, they see themselves in the midst of their enemies, captives to Satan, and in danger of hell, though, before, they thought their condition good.

When Elisha had the Syrians at his mercy, he made it appear that he was influenced by Divine goodness as well as Divine power. Let us not be overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. The Syrians saw it was to no purpose to try to assault so great and so good a man.

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? Romans 8: 31 KJV

The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place. Psalms 68:17 KJV

Prayer focus:

Remembering the God who is a Mighty Hand of Help in any situation.

Adapted from: Matthew Henry's Complete Commentary on the Bible.

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

With Eyes Wide Open

2 Kings 6:17

And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

The promise . . . is made to all the remnant people of God: "If thou wilt walk in my ways [not in your own ways], and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by.' Who are these that stand by? They are the angels of God.

Could our eyes be opened, as were those of the servant of Elisha at Dothan, we should see evil angels all around us, urging their presence upon us, and watching for an opportunity to tempt and overthrow us; we should also see holy angels guarding us, and with their light and power pressing back the evil angels. If we could only see the many dangers from which we are daily preserved by the holy angels, instead of complaining of our trials and misfortunes, we would talk continually of the mercies of God. How precious in the sight of God are his people.

Ellen G. White, Historical Sketches of the Foreign Missions of Seventh-day Adventists, p. 156.



Chap. Heather Evans, Sis. V. Edwards, M. Small
Rekindling the Flame Prayer Conference
Trinidad & Tobago, 2014

**Join us the 3rd Sunday of every month in the
School of Prayer at the NEC Office**

10 am - 1pm

Prayer Leader's Section:

August 29, 2014

35th Sabbath

True Repentance

At the right moment, when the Redeemer was exalted at God's throne and the acceptance of His sacrifice acknowledged by the Father before the entire universe, the Holy Spirit was poured out in its fullness. Like these early disciples, we are counseled, "It is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing.

The purpose of our prayer and devotional life is not to achieve a degree of holiness that makes us superior to others. Instead, it helps us realize our need to come humbly before the Lord to receive His righteousness, grace, wisdom, and strength. It empowers us to reveal the loving character of Jesus to others so we can be powerful witnesses of His grace and truth.

Our Lord urgently appeals to every member of the church to have a deeper relationship with Him in prayer, Bible study, and the study of the Spirit of Prophecy as manifested in the writings of Ellen G. White. He calls us to a deeper commitment to witness and evangelism. He invites us to seek the outpouring of the Holy Spirit for the power of the latter rain to finish His work on earth. God's mission must be accomplished in God's power (Zech. 10:1; Rom. 9:28).

Prayer focus:

Prayer for help in achieving the conditions necessary to live above sin.

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

Submitting Yourself to God

Psalms 66: 19, 20

But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God which hath not turned away my prayer nor his mercy from me.



It is a perilous thing to allow an unchristian trait to live in the heart. One cherished sin will, little by little, debase the character, bringing all its nobler powers into subjection to the evil desire. The removal of one safeguard from the conscience, the indulgence of one evil habit, one neglect of the high claims of duty, breaks down the defenses of the soul and opens the way for Satan to come in and lead us astray. The only safe course is to let our prayers go forth daily from a sincere heart, as did David. Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 452

And let none flatter themselves that sins cherished for a time can easily be given up by and by. This is not so. Every sin cherished weakens the character and strengthens habit; and physical, mental, and moral depravity is the result. You may repent of the wrong you have done, and set your feet in right paths; but the mold of your mind and your familiarity with evil will make it difficult for you to distinguish between right and wrong. Through the wrong habits formed, Satan will assail you again and again.

Ellen G. White, Christ Object Lessons, p. 281.