

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

10 am - 1pm

Prayer Leader's Section:

October 3, 2015

40th Sabbath

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

When we do earnestly hunger, thirst and sigh and cry in our prayer with singleness of mind for a double portion of the gift of the Holy Spirit, He will come! When He is a resident inside of us then we will be strengthened, enlightened, sanctified, empowered and prepared to do God's will. Then only can we talk with conviction and preach and teach concerning this all important personal experience.

We can no longer afford to be indifferent or careless. We must be earnest and take the time to agonize and plead for a greater outpouring and infilling of God's Holy Spirit. Only as we ask and pray will we receive! Angels of light will come to assist us as we pray for greater spiritual strength and Holy Spirit power, alone or in a small group or in our churches. There are plenty of preachers, teachers and church members today, but God is looking for champions of faith! Are you going to be one?

Come, loving Heavenly Father, in Jesus' name we earnestly pray [that] we may experience your powerful presence. Help us to meet the conditions by which we are made recipients of your Holy Spirit. Give a hunger, Lord, help us to cry and sigh and put away sin from our lives. Help us to be obedient. Then Father, as these conditions are met, please use us as bright beacons, filling this dark world with Your light, Your love and Your glory.

Prayer focus: For spiritual revival leading to reformation and the Holy Spirit's outpouring in our lives and the lives of those around us.

Adapted from: GC Ministerial, Communion with God, p. 92-93

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

United Prayer

Matthew 18:19-20

Again I say unto you, That 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.



Pr. W. Fitzgerald Kerr
NEC Community Services
Director

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. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it. 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 blessing. A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer.

We should pray as earnestly for the descent of the Holy Spirit as the disciples prayed on the day of Pentecost. If they needed it at that time, we need it more today. Without the Spirit and power of God, it will be in vain that we labor to present the truth. E.G. White, Prayer, p. 117.1



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Prayer Leader's Section:

October 10, 2015

41st Sabbath

Give Us This Day . . .

Kelly is always thinking of stuff she doesn't have. A pastor's wife, Kelly lives on an income that's far tighter than she would like. She regularly reminds her husband of what a painful sacrifice it is for her to live on their income, and she constantly window-shops for things she would like to own. Kelly feels guilty about secretly buying lottery tickets and even more guilty about resenting the members of her congregation who live in large houses filled with more stuff than she has in her small townhouse.

Mike is always thinking about the stuff he has.... He and his wife sense a calling to start a family someday, but Mike doesn't see how he can make the necessary sacrifices. Then there's tithing, which Mike knows he should be doing but never does. When he finds himself feeling bad about it, he takes a ride in his Porsche, which never fails to put him in a better mood.

Today, Jesus is calling us to examine our attitudes toward material wealth. You may think you have either too little or too much stuff. But what truly matters is not so much how much you have but your attitude toward your possessions. Are you using your means to bless others? Does your attitude honor Christ and is the kingdom of God and His work here on earth being enriched by what you have?

Prayer focus:

For a right attitude towards material prosperity.

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

Giving an Account

1 Chronicles 4:10

And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.



Pr. Ainsworth Joseph
NEC Ministerial Director

Money is not ours; houses and grounds, pictures and furniture, garments and luxuries, do not belong to us. We are pilgrims, we are strangers. We have only a grant of those things that are necessary for health and life.... Our temporal blessings are given us in trust, to prove whether we can be entrusted with eternal riches. If we endure the proving of God, then we shall receive that purchased possession which is to be our own - glory, honor, and immortality.

If our own people would only put into the cause of God the money that has been lent [us] in trust, that portion which they spend in selfish gratification, in idolatry, they would lay up treasure in heaven, and would be doing the very work God requires them to do. . . . We should ever remember that in the judgment we must meet the record of the way we use God's money.... The world, its customs, its fashions, will not be our standard. We shall not have a desire to conform to its practices; we shall not permit our own inclinations to control us. Ellen G. White, *The Adventist Home*, p. 368

Prayer Leader's Section:

October 17, 2015

42nd Sabbath

Greater Works

Prayer does not fit us for the greater works; prayer is the greater work. We think of prayer as a common-sense exercise of our higher powers in order to prepare us for God's work. In the teaching of Jesus Christ prayer is the working of the miracle of Redemption in me which produces the miracle of Redemption in others by the power of God.

The way fruit remains is by prayer, but remember it is prayer based on the agony of Redemption, not on my agony. Only a child gets prayer answered; a wise man does not.

Prayer is the battle; it is a matter of indifference where you are. Whichever way God engineers circumstances, the duty is to pray. Never allow the thought - "I am of no use where I am;" because you certainly can be of no use where you are not. Wherever God has dumped you down in circumstances pray, [and cry out] to Him [in prayer] all the time.

"Whatsoever ye ask in My name, that will I do."

It is the labouring saint who makes the conceptions of his Master possible. You labour at prayer and results happen all the time from His standpoint. What an astonishment it will be to find, when the veil is lifted, the souls that have been reaped by you, simply because you had been in the habit of taking your orders from Jesus Christ.

Prayer focus:

Pray for faith believing it is God's will to work through you for His glory.

Oswald Chambers: My Utmost for His Highest, p. 244

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

Christ's Pledge to Us

John 16: 23,24

And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.



Viola Chapman, NEC Education
Director

Christ has pledged Himself to be our substitute and surety and His neglects no one. There is an inexhaustible fund of perfect obedience accruing from his obedience. In heaven His merits, His self-denial and self-sacrifice, are treasured as incense to be offered up with the prayers of His people. As the sinner's sincere, humble prayers ascend to the throne of God, Christ mingles with them the merits of His own life of perfect obedience. Our prayers are made fragrant by this incense. Christ has pledged Himself to intercede in our behalf, and the Father always hears the Son. Ellen G. White, Sons and Daughters of God, p. 22



Mireille St Pierre
NEC Women's Ministry
Director

I saw that if we do not feel immediate answers to our prayers, we should hold fast our faith, not allowing distrust to come in, for that will separate us from God. If our faith wavers, we shall receive nothing from Him. Our confidence in God should be strong; and when we need it most, the blessing will fall upon us like a shower of rain. Ellen G. White, Counsels for the Church, p. 345.3

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Prayer Leader's Section

October 24, 2015

43rd Sabbath

Inspiration tells us:

Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. The eye of faith will discern God very near, and the suppliant may obtain precious evidence of the divine love and care for him. But why is it that so many prayers are never answered?

David says, "I cried unto Him with my mouth, and he was extolled with my tongue. If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me," (Psalm 66:17, 18). By another prophet the Lord gives us the promise, "Ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart," (Jeremiah 29:13). Again, he speaks of some who "have not cried unto me with their heart," (Hosea 7:14). Such petitions are prayers of form, lip-service only, which the Lord does not accept. Ellen G. White, *Gospel Workers*, p. 35

If we want to pray well and get the most out of our praying, we must look carefully at our obedience, at the secret sources of our actions, and at the loyalty of our heart to God. Obedience is the groundwork of effective praying. It is that which brings us near to God. The lack of obedience in our lives breaks down our praying. Quite often our life is in revolt and this places us where prayer is almost impossible, except to obtain pardoning mercy. Disobedient living produces mighty poor praying. Disobedience shuts the door of the inner closet, and bars the way to the Holy of Holies. No Christian can pray - really pray - who does not obey.

Prayer focus:

Pray for a life lived in strict obedience to the will of God.

E.M. Bounds, *The Classic Collection on Prayer*, p. 67,68

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

Lack of Obedience Breaks Down Prayer
Psalms 66: 17-20

I cried unto him with my mouth, and he was extolled with my tongue. If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me: 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.

I had been shown that there was so much iniquity abounding, even among professed Sabbathkeepers, that I did not wish to unite in prayer for those of whose history I had no knowledge. Ellen G. White, *Counsels on Health*, p. 619

It is labor lost to teach people to look to God as a healer of their infirmities, unless they are taught also to lay aside unhealthful practices. In order to receive His blessing in answer to prayer, they must cease to do evil and learn to do well. Their surroundings must be sanitary, their habits of life correct. They must live in harmony

with the law of God, both natural and spiritual. To those who desire prayer for their restoration to health, it should be made plain that the violation of God's law, either natural or spiritual, is sin, and that in order for them to receive His blessing, sin must be confessed and forsaken. Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 227, 228.



Ellen White April 1901 GC Session delivers closing Sabbath message entitled "His Wonderful Love".

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Prayer Leader's Section

October 31, 2015

44th Sabbath

The Biblical Mary

Though the gospel of Matthew (1:1) and Luke (3:23) both trace the genealogy of Christ through Joseph his father to King David, precious little is said about his mother Mary. The Catholic Church on the other hand, exalts Mary as an idealized, larger-than-life, perfect mother. One popular prayer in Mary's honor is the Hail Holy Queen, known in Latin as the Salve Regina. It is traditionally included as part of praying the rosary. Among her many Catholic honorifics, Mary is hailed as the Queen of Heaven, the Mother of God, Co-Mediator with Christ and Head of the Church.

And yet, in Luke 1: 47 we read that Mary knew she needed a savior, she rejoiced in God her Savior. Mary was not perfect nor divine, she was human. The Word of God tells us in Romans 3:10; Romans 3:23; and Revelation 15:4 that all have sinned; and there is none holy, none righteous but the Lord. Colossians 1:18,19 and 1Timothy 2:5,6 reminds us that Jesus Christ is the head of the church and the one mediator between God and man.

The biblical Mary, "the handmaid of the Lord" (v.48) seemed content to be used as a vessel. She knew, as we ought to also know, that we stand in need of a savior. We need not seek to elevate her beyond what even Christ is willing to do. Let us rejoice in God, Our Father who will use the foolish, weak, the humble to confound the wise, (1 Corinthians 1:27).

Prayer focus:

That God will find you humble and willing to be used as a channel of blessing in the lives of His people.

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

In Need of a Saviour

Luke 1: 46-55

And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.

It is very good for those who have the work of grace begun in their souls, to communicate one to another. On Mary's arrival, Elisabeth was conscious of the approach of her who was to be the mother of the great Redeemer.... Mary, animated by Elisabeth's address, and being also under the influence of the Holy Ghost, broke out into joy, admiration, and gratitude. She knew herself to be a sinner who needed a Saviour, and that she could no otherwise rejoice in God than as interested in his salvation through the promised Messiah. Those who see their need of Christ, and are desirous of righteousness and life in him, he fills with good things, with the best things; and they are abundantly satisfied with the blessings he gives. He will satisfy the desires of the poor in spirit who long for spiritual blessings, while the self-sufficient shall be sent empty away.



The late Eva Beatrice Dykes, the first African-American woman to fulfill requirements for a doctorate (1921).