

Ask! Believe! Rejoice! God Wants To Answer Our Prayers

1 Matt. 7:7-8 “Ask and it shall be given....”

2 Eph. 3: 20 “...able to do exceedingly abundantly....”

3 Luke 1: 37 “With God, nothing is impossible.”

4

5 “Prayer is a heaven-ordained means of success. Appeals, petitions, entreaties,
6 between man and man, move men and act a part in controlling the affairs of
7 nations. But prayer moves heaven.” *In Heavenly Places*, p. 75

8

9 “Prayer is heaven’s ordained means of success in the conflict with sin and
10 the development of Christian character. The divine influences that come in
11 answer to the prayer of faith will accomplish in the soul of the suppliant all
12 for which he pleads. For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a
13 Christlike temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift He
14 has promised, we may ask; and the promise is, ‘Ye shall receive.’” *Acts of*
15 *the Apostles*, 564.1

16

17 “The people of God have accustomed themselves to think that they must rely
18 upon their own effort, that little help is to be received from heaven; and the
19 result is that they have little light to communicate to other souls who are
20 dying in error and darkness. The church has long been contented with little of
21 the blessing of God; they have not felt the need of reaching up to the exalted
22 privileges purchased for them at infinite cost.... The power of God awaits
23 their demand and reception.” *Testimony to Ministers*, 174.2

24

25 “The idea that prayer is not essential is one of Satan’s most successful
26 devices to ruin souls.” *My Life Today*, 31.4

27

28 His Answers—Sometimes “Yes,” Sometimes “No,”

29 Sometimes “Yes, But Later”—Are Assured!

30

31 Mark 11: 24 “...believe that you have received them, and you will have
32 them.”

33

34 “He makes it plain that our asking must be according to God’s will; we must
35 ask for the things that He has promised, and whatever we receive must be
36 used in doing His will. The conditions met, the promise is unequivocal.”
37 *Education*, 257.7

38

39 “If (we) have complied with the conditions upon which these promises are
40 based, God’s word is pledged that He will do for (us) more than (we) ask.”
41 *Gospel Workers*, 1892, 423.3

42

43 “In the future life the mysteries that here have annoyed and disappointed us

44 will be made plain. We shall see that our seemingly unanswered prayers and
 45 disappointed hopes have been among our greatest blessings.” *Ministry of*
 46 *Healing*, 474.1

47

48 This Is The Pathway To Answered Prayer

49

50 1. We must ask.

51

52 Jer. 33:3 “Call ... and I will answer....”

53 Ps. 50:15 “Call ... [and] I will deliver you....”

54 Matt 7: 7-11 “Ask and it will be given to you....”

55 James 4:2 “...you do not have because you do not ask....”

56

57 “It is part of God’s great plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith,
 58 that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask.” *Great Controversy*,
 59 525

60

61 “To pray aright, is to ask God in faith for the very things you need. Go to
 62 your chamber, or in some retired place, and ask your Father for Jesus' sake to
 63 help you. There is power in that prayer that is sent up from a heart convinced
 64 of its own weakness, yet earnestly longing for that strength that comes from
 65 God. The earnest, fervent prayer will be heard and answered.” *Youth*
 66 *Instructor*, March 1, 1856

67

68 “The summing up of the benefit of prayer is that devotion that leads to faith
 69 in God's promises. This faith is the key that opens the divine treasury, is the
 70 hand by which we appropriate to our use the richest gifts of God. The prayer
 71 of the contrite heart unlocks the treasure house of supplies, and lays hold of
 72 omnipotent power.” *Signs of the Times*, June 18, 1896 par. 8

73

74 “Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before
 75 God. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him. He who numbers the
 76 hairs of your head is not indifferent to the wants of His children. “The Lord
 77 is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.” James 5:11. His heart of love is touched
 78 by our sorrows and even by our utterances of them. Take to Him everything
 79 that perplexes the mind. Nothing is too great for Him to bear, for He holds up
 80 worlds, He rules over all the affairs of the universe. Nothing that in any way
 81 concerns our peace is too small for Him to notice. There is no chapter in our
 82 experience too dark for Him to read; there is no perplexity too difficult for
 83 Him to unravel. No calamity can befall the least of His children, no anxiety
 84 harass the soul, no joy cheer, no sincere prayer escape the lips, of which our
 85 heavenly Father is unobservant, or in which He takes no immediate interest.”
 86 *Steps to Christ*, 100.1

87

88 2. We must ask according to God’s will.

89

90 1 John 5:14-15 “...if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”

91

92 “Prayer and faith are closely allied, and they need to be studied together. In
 93 the prayer of faith there is a divine science; it is a science that everyone who
 94 would make his lifework a success must understand. Christ says, "What
 95 things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye
 96 shall have them." Mark 11:24. He makes it plain that our asking must be
 97 according to God's will; we must ask for the things that He has promised, and
 98 whatever we receive must be used in doing His will. The conditions met, the
 99 promise is unequivocal.” *Education*, 257.7

100

101 “Be not discouraged if your prayers do not seem to obtain an immediate
 102 answer. The Lord sees that prayer is often mixed with earthliness. Men pray
 103 for that which will gratify their selfish desires, and the Lord does not fulfill
 104 their requests in the way which they expect. He takes them through tests and
 105 trials, he brings them through humiliations, until they see more clearly what
 106 their necessities are. He does not give to men those things which will gratify
 107 a debased appetite, and which will prove an injury to the human agent, and
 108 make him a dishonor to God. He does not give men that which will gratify
 109 their ambition, and work simply for self-exaltation. When we come to God,
 110 we must be submissive and contrite of heart, subordinating everything to his
 111 sacred will.” *Review and Herald*, November 19, 1895 par. 9

112

113 “Said Christ, ‘If any man serve Me, him will My Father honor.’ When we
 114 come to Him we should pray that we might enter into and accomplish His
 115 purpose, and that our desires and interests might be lost in His. We should
 116 acknowledge our acceptance of His will, not praying Him to concede to
 117 ours.” *Counsels on Health*, 378

118

119 3. We must ask in Jesus’ name.

120

121 John 16: 23,24 “... whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give
 122 you.”

123 Heb. 4: 16 “Let us therefore come boldly....”

124

125 “Christ has opened the way for us to approach God. He says, ‘Make use of
 126 My name. It will be your passport to the heart of My Father and to all the
 127 riches of His grace.’” *Signs of the Times*, June 18, 1902

128

129 “He explained that the secret of their success would be in asking for strength
 130 and grace in His name. He would be present before the Father to make
 131 request for them. The prayer of the humble (petitioner) He presents as His
 132 own desire in that soul’s behalf.” *Desire of Ages*, 667

133

134 “The Lord Jehovah accepts the argument that is presented in the name of his
 135 Son, and places the resources of his merit at your command. It is our
 136 privilege and duty to bring the efficacy of the name of Christ into our
 137 petitions, and use the very arguments that Christ has used in our behalf. Our
 138 prayers will then be in complete harmony with the will of God. Then it is that
 139 Christ clothes the contrite suppliant with his own priestly vestments, and the

140 human petitioner approaches the altar holding the holy censer, from which
 141 ascends the incense of the fragrance of the merit of Christ's righteousness."
 142 *Signs of the Times*, June 18, 1896 par. 8

143

144 4. We must ask in faith.

145

146 Mark 9: 23 "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

147 Matt 9:29 "Then touched He their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it
 148 unto you."

149 James 1:6 "But let him ask in faith...."

150

151 "Prayer is the key that unlocks the storehouse of heaven. The churches have
 152 been losing their power. We must have faith in God. We must have a firmer
 153 dependence on Him who is the Owner of the universe. The cause of God
 154 needs consecrated workers, and it needs money. What shall we do? Pray in
 155 faith, believing that as we advance, the means and the workers will come. Let
 156 us lay the whole situation before God, because He alone can supply that
 157 which we must have in order to enter new fields. He says, Advance, and we
 158 are not to wait till the money is in sight. There is to be no failure on our
 159 part." *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 18, 338.4

160

161 "God desires us to receive great blessings. His promises are so clearly stated
 162 that there is no cause for uncertainty. He desires us to take Him at His word.
 163 At times we shall be in great perplexity and not know just what to do. But at
 164 such times it is our privilege to take our Bibles, and read the messages He
 165 has given us; and then get down on our knees, and ask Him to help us. Over
 166 and over again He has given evidence that He is a prayer-hearing and prayer-
 167 answering God. He fulfills His promises in far greater measure than we
 168 expect to receive help." *The Paulson Collection*, 174

169

170 "When our prayers seem not to be answered, we are to cling to the promise;
 171 for the time of answering will surely come, and we shall receive the blessing
 172 we need most. But to claim that prayer will always be answered in the very
 173 way and for the particular thing that we desire, is presumption. God is too
 174 wise to err, and too good to withhold any good thing from them that walk
 175 uprightly. Then do not fear to trust Him, even though you do not see the
 176 immediate answer to your prayers. Rely upon His sure promise, 'Ask, and it
 177 shall be given you.'" *Prayer*, 102.2

178

179 "True faith lays hold of and claims the promised blessing before it is realized
 180 and felt. We must send up our petitions in faith within the second veil and let
 181 our faith take hold of the promised blessing and claim it as ours. We are then
 182 to believe that we receive the blessing, because our faith has hold of it, and
 183 according to the Word it is ours. "What things soever ye desire, when ye
 184 pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24.
 185 Here is faith, naked faith, to believe that we receive the blessing, even before
 186 we realize it. When the promised blessing is realized and enjoyed, faith is
 187 swallowed up." *Early Writings*, 72.2

188

189 5. We must obey.

190

191 1 John 3:22 "...we receive ... because we keep His commandments...."

192

193 "True faith rests on the promises contained in the Word of God, and those
 194 only who obey that Word can claim its glorious promises. "If ye abide in Me,
 195 and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done
 196 unto you." John 15:7. "Whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we
 197 keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight."

198 1 John 3:22." *Early Writings*, 72.2

199

200 "...only as we live in obedience to His word can we claim the fulfillment of
 201 His promises. ... If we render to Him only a partial, halfhearted obedience,
 202 His promises will not be fulfilled to us." *Ministry of Healing*, 227.1

203

204 "We must daily compare our character with the law of God, the great rule of
 205 righteousness; and if that does not condemn us, we may approach the throne
 206 of grace in faith. We may plead that we have complied with the conditions,
 207 and now claim the fulfillment of the divine promises. "If ye abide in me,"
 208 says Christ, "and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it
 209 shall be done unto you." There is no place or excuse for a doubt. The
 210 promise is positive, and the rich blessings of Heaven are ours to enjoy."
 211 *Review and Herald*, December 22, 1885, par. 1

212

213 6. We must live out our prayers.

214

215 "Children and youth may come to Jesus with their burdens and perplexities,
 216 and know that He will respect their appeals to Him, and give them the very
 217 things they need. Be earnest; be resolute. Present the promise of God, and
 218 then believe without a doubt. Do not wait to feel special emotions before you
 219 think the Lord answers. Do not mark out some particular way that the Lord
 220 must work for you before you believe you receive the things you ask of Him;
 221 but trust His word, and leave the whole matter in the hands of the Lord, with
 222 full faith that your prayer will be honored, and the answer will come at the
 223 very time and in the very way your heavenly Father sees is for your good;
 224 and then live out your prayers. Walk humbly and keep moving forward."

225 *Messages to Young People*, 123.1

226

227 "After we have offered our petitions, we are to answer them ourselves as far
 228 as possible, and not wait for God to do for us what we can do for ourselves."

229 *My Life Today*, 19.3

230

231 What Hinders Answers From Coming?

232

233 Introduction:

234

235 Ps. 66:18 "If I regard iniquity...."

236 Prov. 28:9 “One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his
237 prayer *is* an abomination.”

238

239 “There are thousands of prayers daily offered that God does not answer.
240 There are faithless prayers. "He that cometh to God must believe that he is,
241 and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." There are selfish
242 prayers, proceeding from a heart that is cherishing idols. "If any man regard
243 iniquity in his heart, the Lord will not hear him." There are petulant, fretful
244 prayers, murmuring because of the burdens and cares of life, instead of
245 humbly seeking grace to lighten them. Those who offer such petitions are not
246 abiding in Christ. They have not submitted their will to the will of God. They
247 do not comply with the condition of the promise, and it is not fulfilled to
248 them.” *Review and Herald*, September, 11, 1883 par. 15

249

250 Hindering Factors Of The Past and Present

251

252 1. What were some of the obstacles in Isaiah’s day?

253

254 Isaiah 59:1,2 “Your iniquities have separated you....”

255 Isaiah 1:15-17 “...when ye make many prayers, I will not hear; your hands
256 are full of blood.”

257

258 “If we regard iniquity in our hearts, if we cling to any known sin, the Lord
259 will not hear us; but the prayer of the penitent, contrite soul is always
260 accepted. When all known wrongs are righted, we may believe that God will
261 answer our petitions.” *Steps to Christ*, 95

262

263 “Many think they have not time to pray, or that it would be useless to pray if
264 they had time. They indulge themselves in the gratification of unholy desires.
265 They cherish unchristlike traits of character, and the least crossing of their
266 will arouses their combativeness and upsets their temper. While they are thus
267 unemptied of self, and unwilling to renounce their evil way, they cannot
268 expect to receive answers to their prayers; for evil tempers and corrupt
269 indulgences will make prayer of none effect. The psalmist says, ‘If I regard
270 iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.’” *Bible Echo*, February 15,
271 1893 par. 7

272

273 “Fasting and prayer will accomplish nothing while the heart is estranged
274 from God by a wrong course of action.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 145.1

275

276 2. What obstacles are listed in Isaiah 58?

277

278 Isa. 58:3 “find pleasure and exploit....”

279 Isa. 58:6,7 “Loose the bonds of wickedness....”

280 Isa. 58:13 “If you turn your foot from the Sabbath....”

281

282 “I pray that my brethren may realize that the third angel’s message means
283 much to us and that the observance of the true Sabbath is to be the sign that

284 distinguishes those who serve God from those who serve Him not. ... Upon
 285 us rests the solemn obligation of taking a more decided stand for truth and
 286 righteousness than we have taken in the past. The line of demarcation
 287 between those who keep the commandments of God and those who do not is
 288 to be revealed with unmistakable clearness." *Testimonies for the Church* vol.
 289 7, p 108.1

290

291 Note the promise given in Isaiah:

292 Isa. 58:8 "Then your light shall break forth...."

293

294 3. What were some of the obstacles in the days of Jeremiah?

295 (Idolatry, stubborn disobedience, ignoring the true prophet of God, following
 296 false prophets and mocking the truth)

297

298 Jer. 7:17-18 "...fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make
 299 cakes for the queen of heaven...."

300 Jer. 23-26 "Sent to you all My servants the prophets, daily rising up early and
 301 sending them. ²⁶ Yet they did not obey Me or incline their ear, but stiffened
 302 their neck. They did worse than their fathers."

303 Jer. 7:28 "This is a nation that does not obey the voice of the LORD their God
 304 nor receive correction."

305 Jer. 7:30 "They have set their abominations in the house which is called by
 306 My name, to pollute it."

307 Jer. 8:5,6 "They hold fast to deceit, they refuse to return"

308 Jer. 8:10 "Everyone is given to covetousness; from the prophet even to the
 309 priest everyone deals falsely."

310 Jer. 9:13 "...Because they have forsaken My law which I set before them,
 311 and have not obeyed My voice, nor walked according to it...."

312 Jer. 17:21-23 "Hallow the Sabbath day, as I commanded your fathers. ²³ But
 313 they did not obey nor incline their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they
 314 might not hear nor receive instruction."

315 Jer. 5:31 "The prophets *prophesy falsely*, and the priests *rule by their own*
 316 *power*; and My *people love to have it so*. But what will you do in the end?"

317 2 Chron. 36:15,16 "But they *mocked the messengers of God, despised His*
 318 *words, and scoffed at His prophets*, until the wrath of the LORD arose against
 319 His people, *till there was no remedy*."

320

321 Jer. 7:16 "Therefore do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for
 322 them, nor make intercession to Me; for I will not hear you." (See Jer. 11:14)

323 Jer. 15:1 "Even if Moses were here, I would not listen."

324

325 "How much means are spent for things that are mere idols, things that
 326 engross the thoughts and affections, little ornaments that require attention to
 327 be kept free from dust and placed in order. The moments spent in arranging
 328 these little idols might be spent in speaking a word in season to some soul,
 329 awakening an interest to inquire, "What shall I do to be saved?" These little
 330 things take the time that should be devoted to prayer, seeking the Lord, and
 331 grasping by faith the promises. . . ." *Evangelism*, 344.3

332

333 “An idol is anything that human beings love and trust in instead of loving
334 and trusting in the Lord their Maker. Whatever earthly thing men desire and
335 trust in as having power to help them and do them good, leads them away
336 from God, and is to them an idol. Whatever divides the affections, or takes
337 away from the soul the supreme love of God, or interposes to prevent
338 unlimited confidence and entire trust in God, assumes the character and takes
339 the form of an idol in the soul temple.” *Selected Messages*, vol. 3, 330.2

340

341 “God is true to his covenant with his people. His word is infallible. His
342 people bring suffering on themselves by forsaking his counsel for their own
343 human wisdom. It is impossible for their prayers to reach his throne, because
344 the rebellion of disobedience is the substance of their petitions. Christ came
345 from heaven to teach the word which his Father committed to him for the
346 fallen members of his family. Those who hear and obey walk in safe paths,
347 under the protection of the Lord of heaven.” *Review and Herald*, April 8,
348 1902 par. 12

349

350 I am instructed to say to our churches, Study the *Testimonies*. They are
351 written for our admonition and encouragement, upon whom the ends of the
352 world are come. If God's people will not study these messages that are sent to
353 them from time to time, they are guilty of rejecting light. Line upon line,
354 precept upon precept, here a little and there a little, God is sending
355 instruction to His people. Heed the instruction; follow the light. The Lord has
356 a controversy with His people because in the past they have not heeded His
357 instruction and followed His guidance. *Selected Messages*, vol. 3, 358

358

359 “God cannot approve of the least degree of covetousness or selfishness, and
360 He abhors the prayers and exhortations of those who indulge these evil
361 traits.” *Early Writings*, p. 268.1

362

363 “There is too much mocking the Lord, too much praying that is no praying
364 and that wearies angels and displeases God, too many vain, unmeaning
365 petitions. First we should feel needy, and then ask God for the very things we
366 need, believing that He gives them to us, even while we ask; and then our
367 faith will grow, all will be edified, the weak will be strengthened, and the
368 discouraged and desponding made to look up and believe that God is a
369 rewarder of all those who diligently seek Him.” *Early Writings*, 115.1

370

371 “All our prayers will be in vain while we cherish feelings of envy, jealousy,
372 suspicion, and enmity. We shall be forgiven only as we forgive. It is no
373 better than mocking God to engage in religious worship with hearts thinking
374 evil, and full of bitterness toward our brethren or our fellow-men.” *Review
375 and Herald*, November 6, 1883 par. 9

376

377 Note the following promises:

378 Jer. 7:23 “Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My
379 people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be
380 well with you.”

381 Jer. 17:24-26 “...but hallow the Sabbath day, to do no work in it, then shall
382 enter the gates of this city kings and princes sitting on the throne of David,
383 riding in chariots and on horses....”

384 Jer. 29:11-14 “You will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with
385 all your heart. I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you
386 back from your captivity....”

387 Jer. 31:31-34 “...after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their
388 minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be
389 My people.”

390

391 4. What were the obstacles in the days of Haggai?

392 (Worldly priorities)

393

394 Hag. 1:2-11 “...to dwell in your paneled houses and this temple....”

395

396 “God cannot approve of the least degree of covetousness or selfishness, and
397 He abhors the prayers and exhortations of those who indulge these evil traits.
398 As Satan sees that his time is short, he leads men on to be more and more
399 selfish and covetous, and then exults as he sees them wrapped up in
400 themselves, close, penurious, and selfish. If the eyes of such could be
401 opened, they would see Satan in hellish triumph, exulting over them and
402 laughing at the folly of those who accept his suggestions and enter his
403 snares.” *Early Writings*, 268.1

404

405 Note the promise:

406 Hag. 2:4 “Be strong....”

407

408 4. What hindered in the days of Zechariah?

409 (Refused to listen to the prophets, oppression and hardened their hearts)

410

411 Zech. 7:7 “Should you not have obeyed the words which the Lord
412 proclaimed through the former prophets...”

413 Zech. 7:9,10 “Execute true justice, show mercy and compassion everyone to
414 his brother. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor.
415 Let none of you plan evil in his heart against his brother.”

416 Zech. 7:11,12 “But they refused to heed, shrugged their shoulders, and
417 stopped their ears so that they could not hear. 12 Yes, they made their hearts
418 like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which the Lord of hosts had
419 sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. Thus great wrath came from
420 the Lord of hosts. 13 Therefore it happened, that just as He proclaimed and
421 they would not hear, so they called out and I would not listen,” says the Lord
422 of hosts.”

423

424 “God will hold the church at ----- responsible, as a body, for the wrong
425 course of its members. If a selfish and unsympathizing spirit is allowed to

426 exist in any of its members toward the unfortunate, the widow, the orphan,
 427 the blind, the lame, or those who are sick in body or mind, He will hide His
 428 face from His people until they do their duty and remove the wrong from
 429 among them. If any professing the name of Christ so far misrepresent their
 430 Saviour as to be unmindful of their duty to the afflicted, or if they in any way
 431 seek to advantage themselves to the injury of the unfortunate and thus rob
 432 them of means, the Lord holds the church accountable for the sin of its
 433 members until they have done all they can to remedy the existing evil. He
 434 will not hearken to the prayer of His people while the orphan, the fatherless,
 435 the lame, the blind, and the sick are neglected among them.” *Testimonies*,
 436 vol. 3, 517.2

437

438 Note the promise:

439 Zech. 8:15, 20-22 “Yes, many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek
 440 the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD.”

441

442 5. What were the obstacles in the days of Malachi?

443 (Blemished offerings, relational fractures and robbing God)

444

445 Mal. 1:6b-8 “You offer defiled food on My altar....”

446 Mal. 2:13-14 “...witness between you and the wife of your youth....”

447 Mal. 3:7-10 “Will a man rob God?”

448

449 *Regarding making an unreserved surrender:*

450 “Paul had a keen sense of the conflict which every soul must wage with the
 451 agencies of evil that are continually seeking to deceive and ensnare, and he
 452 had worked untiringly to strengthen and confirm those who were young in
 453 the faith. He had entreated them to make an entire surrender to God; for he
 454 knew that when the soul fails to make this surrender, then sin is not forsaken,
 455 the appetites and passions still strive for the mastery, and temptations
 456 confuse the conscience.” *Acts of the Apostles*, 298.2

457

458 “This is the preparation day. Set your own hearts in order, and work
 459 earnestly for your children. An unreserved surrender to God will sweep away
 460 the barriers that have so long defied the approaches of heavenly grace. When
 461 you take up the cross and follow Christ, when you bring your lives into
 462 conformity to the will of God, your children will be converted.” *Review and*
 463 *Herald*, July 15, 1902, par. 13

464

465 *Regarding seeking after the heavenly pearl:*

466 “There are some who seem to be always seeking for the heavenly pearl. But
 467 they do not make an entire surrender of their wrong habits. They do not die
 468 to self that Christ may live in them. Therefore they do not find the precious
 469 pearl. They have not overcome unholy ambition and their love for worldly
 470 attractions. They do not take up the cross and follow Christ in the path of
 471 self-denial and sacrifice. Almost Christians, yet not fully Christians, they
 472 seem near the kingdom of heaven, but they cannot enter there. Almost but

473 not wholly saved, means to be not almost but wholly lost.” *Christ Object*
 474 *Lessons*, 118.1

475

476 *Regarding marriage:*

477 “Whatever will make the character lovely in the home will make it lovely in
 478 the heavenly mansion, and by your home life Jesus will measure your
 479 religious life. The grace of Christ can make your home a place of peace and
 480 rest, but unless you heed His Word and cherish His Spirit, you are none of
 481 His. God requires you to be sanctified wholly in your home life. The religion
 482 of Christ is not a religion to be reserved for certain places and occasions, and
 483 then laid aside at home. The truth as a sanctifier is needed more in the home
 484 than in any other place. Every thought, every impulse, every word and deed,
 485 is to be sanctified by the power of the truth.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 13,
 486 80.1

487

488 *Regarding returning God’s tithe:*

489 “As the Giver of every blessing, God claims a certain portion of all we
 490 possess. This is His provision to sustain the preaching of the gospel. And by
 491 making this return to God, we are to show our appreciation of His gifts. But
 492 if we withhold from Him that which is His own, how can we claim His
 493 blessing? If we are unfaithful stewards of earthly things, how can we expect
 494 Him to entrust us with the things of heaven? It may be that here is the secret
 495 of unanswered prayer.” *Christ Object Lessons*, 144.4

496

497 “Hasten, my brethren and sisters, to bring to God a faithful tithe, and to bring
 498 Him also a willing thank offering. There are many who will not be blessed
 499 till they make restitution of the tithe which they have withheld.” *Counsels on*
 500 *Stewardship*, 87.1

501

502 “The Bible does not condemn the rich man because he is rich; it does not
 503 declare the acquisition of wealth to be a sin, nor does it say that money is the
 504 root of all evil. On the contrary, the Scriptures state that it is God who gives
 505 the power to get wealth. And this ability is a precious talent if consecrated to
 506 God and employed to advance His cause.” *Counsels on Stewardship*, 138.2

507

508 “None need fear that their liberality would bring them to want. Obedience to
 509 God’s commandments would surely result in prosperity. “Thou shalt lend
 510 unto many nations,” He said, “but thou shalt not borrow; and thou shalt reign
 511 over many nations, but they shall not reign over thee.” Deuteronomy 15:6.”
 512 *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 533.1

513

514 Note the promises:

515 Mal. 3:10-11, 16-18 “...pour out such a blessing....”

516 Prov. 3:9-10 “Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits
 517 of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats
 518 will overflow with new wine.”

519 Prov. 11:24-25 “There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is
 520 one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. The generous
 521 soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.”
 522

523 6. What additional obstacles were mentioned by Jesus and the apostles?
 524 (Unresolved differences/lack of love)
 525

526 Matt 5: 23,24 “...go your way... then come and offer your gift.”

527 Matt. 5:43-44 “Love your enemies....”

528 Mark 11: 25-26 “If you do not forgive, neither will your Father....”

529 1 Pet. 3:7 “that your prayers may not be hindered.”
 530

531 “One great reason why our brethren and sisters have no more confidence
 532 toward God in prayer, is, that nearly all neglect to follow the words of Jesus
 533 in preserving harmony between brethren. They allow various wrongs to exist
 534 with members of the church, which create bitter envy and strife; and while
 535 these differences exist, God neither hears nor answers their prayers....”
 536 *Review & Herald* April 15, 1880
 537

538 “When the laborers have an abiding Christ in their own souls, when all
 539 selfishness is dead, when there is no rivalry, no strife for the supremacy,
 540 when oneness exists, when they sanctify themselves, so that love for one
 541 another is seen and felt, then the showers of the grace of the Holy Spirit will
 542 just as surely come upon them as that God's promise will never fail in one jot
 543 or tittle. But when the work of others is discounted, that the workers may
 544 show their own superiority, they prove that their own work does not bear the
 545 signature it should. God cannot bless them.” Ms. 24, 1896, p. 4, *Manuscript*
 546 *Releases*, vol. 1, 385.3
 547

548 “In union there is strength; in disunion there is only weakness. We should
 549 work most diligently to answer the prayer of Christ that his disciples might
 550 be one, as he is one with the Father. If we are united to Christ, the formation
 551 of a church will be a benefit to all its members; for by entering into this
 552 church union, we pledge ourselves to help one another. The Holy Spirit does
 553 not lead us into this to be a mutual admiration society, but to put forth all the
 554 powers of our being to help one another, in sympathy, in love, to be more
 555 like Jesus.” *Review and Herald*, October 6, 1891 par. 5
 556

557 “We have a character to maintain, but it is the character of Christ. Having the
 558 character of Christ, we can carry on the work of God together. The Christ in
 559 us will meet the Christ in our brethren, and the Holy Spirit will give that
 560 union of heart and action which testifies to the world that we are children of
 561 God. . . .” *Amazing Grace*, 211.6
 562

563 Note the promise:

564 John 17:21 “...“that they also may be one in Us....”
 565
 566

567

568 1. Secret Personal Prayers

569

570 Matt. 6:6 "...when you have shut your door...."

571

572 "When every other voice is hushed, and in quietness we wait before Him, the
573 silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God. He bids us, 'Be
574 still, and know that I am God.' Ps. 46:10. Here alone can true rest be found.
575 And this is the effectual preparation for all who labor for God. Amid the
576 hurrying throng, and the strain of life's intense activities, the soul that is thus
577 refreshed will be surrounded with an atmosphere of light and peace. The life
578 will breathe out fragrance, and will reveal a divine power that will reach
579 men's hearts." *Desire of Ages*, 363

580

581 "Many, even in their seasons of devotion, fail of receiving the blessing of
582 real communion with God. They are in too great haste. With hurried steps
583 they press through the circle of Christ's loving presence, pausing perhaps a
584 moment within the sacred precincts, but not waiting for counsel. They have
585 no time to remain with the divine Teacher. With their burdens they return to
586 their work." *Maranatha*, 125

587

588 "Do not neglect secret prayer, for it is the soul of religion. With earnest,
589 fervent prayer, plead for purity of soul. Plead as earnestly, as eagerly, as you
590 would for your mortal life, were it at stake. Remain before God until
591 unutterable longings are begotten within you for salvation, and the sweet
592 evidence is obtained of pardoned sin." *Messages to Young People*, 268.2

593

594 "Nothing will give such clear views of self as secret prayer. He who seeth in
595 secret and knoweth all things, will enlighten your understanding and answer
596 your petitions. Plain, simple duties that must not be neglected will open
597 before you." *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, 163

598

599 2. United Prayers

600

601 Matt. 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered...."

602

603 "Our Saviour ... promised that if two or three should be united in asking
604 anything of God it should be given them. Christ here shows that there must
605 be union with others, even in our desires for a given object. ... There must be
606 an agreement in the things which they desire and for which they pray. It was
607 not merely the thoughts and exercises of one mind, liable to deception; but
608 the petition was to be the earnest desire of several minds centered on the
609 same point." *Counsels for the Church*, p. 242.1

610

611 "I remember in Battle Creek when there were those who felt the burden for
612 the unconverted, and those who were in darkness and saw no light; then
613 prayer meetings were appointed that they might make the strength of God

614 their strength. In every case the heavenly intelligences worked with these
615 efforts, and souls were saved.” *Maranatha*, 38

616

617 “The promise is made on condition that the united prayers of the church are
618 offered, and in answer to these prayers there may be expected a power
619 greater than that which comes in answer to private prayer. The power given
620 will be proportionate to the unity of the members and their love for God and
621 for one another.” Letter 32, 1903, p. 5, *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 9, 303.3

622

623 “Let every one who give of his means, also send up his prayers daily that it
624 may bring souls to the foot of the cross. And in every church, once a week at
625 least, let there be a season set apart for praying for this work. Let all be
626 united, not mingling in their petitions other wants, such as blessings for the
627 sick and needy, but having a specific object for their faith and entreaties.
628 Brethren, move high heaven by your prayers for God to work with the efforts
629 of his servants. The Lord has agencies which he will put in operation in
630 answer to the importunate prayers of faith. *Review and Herald*, October 12,
631 1886 par. 14

632

633 3. Intercessory Prayers

634

635 Isaiah 59:16 “...and wondered that there was no intercessor....”

636 Isaiah 62:6 “...ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence.”

637 Luke 11:5-8 “Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight
638 and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves....’”

639

640 “Every soul that refuses to give himself to God is under the control of
641 another power. He is not his own. He may talk of freedom, but he is in the
642 most abject slavery. He is not allowed to see the beauty of truth, for his mind
643 is under the control of Satan. While he flatters himself that he is following
644 the dictates of his own judgment, he obeys the will of the prince of darkness.
645 Christ came to free the shackles of sin-slavery from the soul. ‘If the Son
646 therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.’” *Desire of Ages*, 466

647

648 “I have been shown angels of God are ready to impart grace and power to
649 those who feel their need of divine strength. But these heavenly messengers
650 will not bestow blessings unless solicited. They have waited for the cry from
651 souls hungering and thirsting for the blessing of God; often have they waited
652 in vain. There were, indeed, casual prayers, but not the earnest supplication
653 from humble, contrite hearts....” *Our High Calling*, 129

654

655 “Let your prayers follow the servants of God like sharp sickles in the harvest
656 field. God will hear the earnest entreaties of his people. The prayer of faith
657 will move the arm of God.” *Signs of the Times*, September 4, 1879

658

659 “The record shows that prayers of faith, though offered by frail human
660 beings, have power with God. The earnest cry, “I will not let thee go, except
661 thou bless me,” has saved many a soul. If there were far more urgent

662 intercessions for perishing souls, there would be far more souls saved.”
 663 *Review and Herald*, February 11, 1909, par. 9

664

665 4. Overcoming Prayers

666

667 “Before the believer is held out the wonderful possibility of being like Christ,
 668 obedient to all the principles of the law. But of himself man is utterly unable
 669 to reach this condition. The holiness that God’s word declares he must have
 670 before he can be saved is the result of the working of divine grace as he bows
 671 in submission to the discipline and restraining influences of the Spirit of
 672 truth. Man’s obedience can be made perfect only by the incense of Christ’s
 673 righteousness, which fills with divine fragrance every act of obedience. The
 674 part of the Christian is to persevere in overcoming every fault. Constantly he
 675 is to pray to the Saviour to heal the disorders of his sin-sick soul. He has not
 676 the wisdom or the strength to overcome; these belong to the Lord, and He
 677 bestows them on those who in humiliation and contrition seek Him for help.”

678 *Acts of the Apostles*, 532.1

679

680 “Prayer brings Jesus to our side, and gives new strength and fresh grace to
 681 the fainting, perplexed soul to overcome the world, the flesh and the devil.
 682 Prayer turns aside the attacks of Satan.” *Spaulding Magan Collection*, 67.2

683

684 “When temptations and trials rush in upon us, let us go to God and agonize
 685 with Him in prayer. He will not turn us away empty, but will give us grace
 686 and strength to overcome, and to break the power of the enemy. Oh, that all
 687 could see these things in their true light and endure hardness as good soldiers
 688 of Jesus! Then would Israel move forward, strong in God, and in the power
 689 of His might.” *Early Writings*, 46.2

690

691 5. Reviving Prayers

692

693 Zech. 10:1 “Ask the Lord for rain in the time of the latter rain.”

694 Isa. 44:3 “I will pour water on him who is thirsty....”

695

696 “A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all
 697 our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort
 698 to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow
 699 His blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it. Our
 700 heavenly Father is more willing to give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him,
 701 than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their children. But it is our
 702 work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill
 703 the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing. A
 704 revival need be expected only in answer to prayer.” *Selected Messages*, vol.
 705 1, 121

706

707 “A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer. When churches are
 708 revived, it is because some individual seeks earnestly for the blessing of God.
 709 He hungers and thirsts after God, and asks in faith, and receives accordingly.

710 He goes to work in earnest, feeling his great dependence upon the Lord, and
 711 souls are aroused to seek for a like blessing, and a season of refreshing falls
 712 upon the hearts of men. Many are weary of their half-hearted service. Their
 713 souls cry out after the living God. They cannot be satisfied with a form of
 714 godliness; they long for the deep movings of the Holy Spirit. Let the weary,
 715 discouraged one cry, as did Jacob, for the Comforter. Let him lay bare his
 716 soul in the secret place before God. Let him with loathing put away soul-
 717 defilement. The work is between him and his God. God is at work; he doeth
 718 wonders; and although he is high and lifted up, prayer will reach his throne.
 719 He that is turning and overturning, he that can do marvelous things, will
 720 regard the contrite prayer of faith from the humblest of his children.” *Home*
 721 *Missionary*, November 1, 1890

722

723 6. Healing Prayers

724

725 Gen. 20:17 : “So Abraham prayed to God; and God healed Abimelech, his
 726 wife, and his female servants. Then they bore children,…”

727 James 5:13-16 “Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray.”

728 I Cor. 11:28-30 "For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and
 729 many sleep."

730

731 “His disciples in this time are to pray for the sick as verily as His disciples of
 732 old prayed. And recoveries will follow, for “the prayer of faith shall save the
 733 sick.” James 5:15. We need the Holy Spirit's power, the calm assurance of
 734 faith that can claim God's promises.” *Review and Herald*, June 9, 1904

735

736 “When you neglect to pray for the sick, you deprive them of great blessings;
 737 for angels of God wait to minister to these souls in response to your
 738 petitions....” *Medical Ministry*, 195

739

740 “It has often been my privilege to pray with the sick. We should do this much
 741 more often than we do. If more prayer were offered in our sanitariums for the
 742 healing of the sick, the mighty power of the Healer would be seen. Many
 743 more would be strengthened and blessed, and many more acute sicknesses
 744 would be healed.” *Selected Messages*, vol. 3, 295

745

746 “It is labor lost to teach people to look to God as a healer of their infirmities,
 747 unless they are taught also to lay aside unhealthful practices. In order to
 748 receive His blessing in answer to prayer, they must cease to do evil and learn
 749 to do well.” *Ministry of Healing*, 226

750

751 7. Prayers That Include Fasting

752

753 Mark 9:29 “... This kind can come out by nothing except by prayer and
 754 fasting.”

755

756 “When Peter also was imprisoned, the entire church engaged in fasting and
 757 prayer.” *Acts of the Apostles*, 144

758

759 “For certain things fasting and prayer are recommended and appropriate. In
760 the hand of God they are a means of cleansing the heart and promoting a
761 receptive frame of mind. We obtain answers to our prayers because we
762 humble our souls before God.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 20, 105

763

764 “The spirit of true fasting and prayer is the spirit which yields mind, heart,
765 and will to God.” *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 189

766

767 “Our brethren would receive a blessing in dispensing with or deferring one
768 meal of the day, if necessary, in order that an hour or more might be devoted
769 to testimony meeting. We used often to make the Sabbath a day of fasting
770 and prayer, and we were greatly blessed in our worship.” *Manuscript
771 Releases*, vol. 9, 96.3

772

773 “The true fasting which should be recommended to all, is abstinence from
774 every stimulating kind of food, and the proper use of wholesome, simple
775 food, which God has provided in abundance.” *Counsels on Diet and Foods*,
776 90

777

778 “All the fasting in the world will not take the place of simple trust in the
779 word of God. "Ask," He says, "and ye shall receive." ... You are not called
780 upon to fast forty days. The Lord bore that fast for you in the wilderness of
781 temptation. There would be no virtue in such a fast; but there is virtue in the
782 blood of Christ.” *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 189

783

784 8. Prayers Resisting Satan

785

786 James 4:7 “Resist the devil....”

787 Col. 1:13 “He has delivered us....”

788 1John 3:8 “...that He might destroy the works of the devil....”

789 Rom. 16:20 “...will crush Satan under your feet....”

790

791 “The prayer of faith is the great strength of the Christian, and will assuredly
792 prevail against Satan. This is why he insinuates that we have no need of
793 prayer. The name of Jesus, our Advocate, he detests; and when we earnestly
794 come to Him for help, Satan's host is alarmed. It serves his purpose well if
795 we neglect the exercise of prayer, for then his lying wonders are more readily
796 received.” *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 296.

797

798 “The prayer of faith is the weapon by which we may successfully resist every
799 assault of the enemy.” *Selected Messages*, vol. 1, 103

800

801 “If you have faith like this, you will lay hold upon God's word, and upon all
802 the helpful agencies He has appointed. Thus your faith will strengthen, and
803 will bring to your aid the power of heaven. The obstacles that are piled by
804 Satan across your path, though apparently as insurmountable as the eternal

805 hills, shall disappear before the demand of faith. "Nothing shall be
806 impossible unto you." *Desire of Ages*, 431.3

807

808 "If Satan sees he is in danger of losing one soul, he will exert himself to the
809 utmost to keep that one. And when the individual is aroused to his danger,
810 and, with distress and fervor, looks to Jesus for strength, Satan fears he shall
811 lose a captive, and he calls a re-enforcement of his angels to hedge in the
812 poor soul, and form a wall of darkness around him, that heaven's light may
813 not reach him. But if the one in danger perseveres, and in helplessness and
814 weakness casts himself upon the merits of the blood of Christ, Jesus listens
815 to the earnest prayer of faith, and sends a re-enforcement of those angels
816 which excel in strength to deliver him." *Messages to Young People*, 53.1

817

818 "Satan cannot endure to have his powerful rival appealed to, for he fears and
819 trembles before His strength and majesty. At the sound of fervent prayer,
820 Satan's whole host trembles. He continues to call legions of evil angels to
821 accomplish his object. And when angels, all-powerful, clothed with the
822 armory of heaven, come to the help of the fainting, pursued soul, Satan and
823 his host fall back, well knowing that their battle is lost. The willing subjects
824 of Satan are faithful, active, and united in one object. And although they hate
825 and war with one another, yet they improve every opportunity to advance
826 their common interest. But the great Commander in heaven and earth has
827 limited Satan's power." *Counsels to the Church*, 319.3

828

829 "God's servants need constantly to lay hold with one hand of souls ready to
830 perish, while with the hand of faith they lay hold of the throne of God. Souls
831 possessed with evil spirits will present themselves before us. We must
832 cultivate the spirit of earnest prayer, mingled with genuine faith to save them
833 from ruin, and this will confirm our faith. God designs that the sick, the
834 unfortunate, those possessed with evil spirits, shall hear his voice through us.
835 Through his human agents he desires to be a comforter such as the world has
836 never before seen. His words are to be voiced by his followers: "Let not your
837 heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Ye believe in God, believe also in
838 me." *Spaulding and Magan Collection*, 89.2,3

839

840

We Must Persist

841

(Why does God sometimes delay giving answers?)

842

843 Luke 11:1-5 "Because of his persistence...."

844

1 Thess 5:17 "Pray without ceasing."

845

846 "Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His victory is
847 an evidence of the power of importunate prayer. All who will lay hold of
848 God's promises as he did, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will
849 succeed as he succeeded. Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonize
850 before God, to pray long and earnestly for his blessing, will not obtain it.
851 Wrestling with God—how few know what it is! How few have ever had their
852 souls drawn out after God with intensity of desire until every power is on the

853 stretch. When waves of despair which no language can express sweep over
 854 the suppliant, how few cling with unyielding faith to the promises of God.”
 855 *The Great Controversy*, 621.2

856

857 “The servant watched while Elijah prayed. Six times he returned from the
 858 watch, saying, There is nothing, no cloud, no sign of rain. But the prophet
 859 did not give up in discouragement. He kept reviewing his life, to see where
 860 he had failed to honor God, he confessed his sins, and thus continued to
 861 afflict his soul before God, while watching for a token that his prayer was
 862 answered. As he searched his heart, he seemed to be less and less, both in his
 863 own estimation and in the sight of God. It seemed to him that he was
 864 nothing, and that God was everything; and when he reached the point of
 865 renouncing self, while he clung to the Saviour as his only strength and
 866 righteousness, the answer came.” *Review and Herald*, Mary 26, 1891, par. 8

867

868 “Special mercies are often withheld for a time, that we may more earnestly
 869 supplicate the throne of grace. We must stay ourselves upon God, and not
 870 measure the time by our own finite fancies. Our impulses must not rule over
 871 us, but we must rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him, nor let our
 872 sunshine turn to darkness, our faith to distrust.” *Present Truth*, January 30,
 873 1890 par. 17

874

875

Praise Builds Our Faith

876

877 Php. 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.”

878 Php. 4: 6,7 “...but in everything by prayer and supplication, with
 879 thanksgiving....”

880 Eph. 5:20 “...giving thanks always for all things to God....”

881 1 Thess. 5:18 “...in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in
 882 Christ Jesus for you.”

883

884 “We do not pray any too much, but we are too sparing of giving thanks. If
 885 the loving kindness of God called forth more thanksgiving and praise, we
 886 would have far more power in prayer. We would abound more and more in
 887 the love of God and have more bestowed to praise Him for. You who
 888 complain that God does not hear your prayers, change your present order and
 889 mingle praise with your petitions. When you consider His goodness and
 890 mercies you will find that He will consider your wants.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5,
 891 317

892

893 “When difficulties and trials surround us, we should flee to God, and
 894 confidently expect help from Him who is mighty to save and strong to
 895 deliver. We must ask for God’s blessing if we would receive it. Prayer is a
 896 duty and a necessity; but do we not neglect praise? Should we not oftener
 897 render thanksgiving to the Giver of all our blessings? We need to cultivate
 898 gratitude. We should frequently contemplate and recount the mercies of God,
 899 and laud and glorify His holy name, even when we are passing through
 900 sorrow and affliction. . . .” *Selected Messages*, vol. 2, 268

