

Go Forward With Faith!

1147
1148
1149 1 John 5:4 “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And
1150 this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.”

1151
1152 “In reading the history of the past year’s labor, I saw distinctly how
1153 much the laborers had lost through a lack of faith; how much they
1154 could have asked of God, and how willingly he would have
1155 bestowed his grace upon them in answer to their humble prayers of
1156 faith.” *Review and Herald*, April 13, 1886, par. 7

1157
1158 “We are in duty bound to draw largely from the treasure house of
1159 divine knowledge. God wants us to receive much, in order that we
1160 may impart much. He desires us to be channels through which He
1161 can impart richly of His grace to the world. Let sincerity and faith
1162 characterize your prayers. The Lord is willing to do for us
1163 “exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.” Ephesians
1164 3:20. Talk it; pray it. Do not talk unbelief. We cannot afford to let
1165 Satan see that he has power to darken our countenances and sadden
1166 our lives. Pray in faith. And be sure to bring your lives into harmony
1167 with your petitions, that you may receive the blessings for which
1168 you pray. Let not your faith weaken, for the blessings received are
1169 proportionate to the faith exercised. “According to your faith be it
1170 unto you.” “All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing,
1171 ye shall receive.” Matthew 9:29; 21:22. Pray, believe, rejoice. Sing
1172 praises to God because He has answered your prayers. Take Him at
1173 His word. “He is faithful that promised.” Hebrews 10:23. Not one
1174 sincere supplication is lost. The channel is open; the stream is
1175 flowing. It carries with it healing properties, pouring forth a
1176 restoring current of life and health and salvation.” *Testimonies for*
1177 *the Church*, vol. 7, 273 3,4; 274.1

1178
1179 *This handout was compiled by Dan Augsburger.*

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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,
6 entreaties, between man and man, move men and act a part in
7 controlling the affairs of nations. But prayer moves heaven.” *In*
8 *Heavenly Places*, 75
9
10 “Prayer is heaven’s ordained means of success in the conflict with
11 sin and the development of Christian character. The divine
12 influences that come in answer to the prayer of faith will accomplish
13 in the soul of the suppliant all for which he pleads. For the pardon of
14 sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper, for wisdom and
15 strength to do His work, for any gift He has promised, we may ask;
16 and the promise is, ‘Ye shall receive.’” *Acts of the Apostles*, 564.1
17
18 “The people of God have accustomed themselves to think that they
19 must rely upon their own effort, that little help is to be received from
20 heaven; and the result is that they have little light to communicate to
21 other souls who are dying in error and darkness. The church has
22 long been contented with little of the blessing of God; they have not
23 felt the need of reaching up to the exalted privileges purchased for
24 them at infinite cost.... The power of God awaits their demand and
25 reception.” *Testimony to Ministers*, 174.2
26
27 “The idea that prayer is not essential is one of Satan’s most
28 successful devices to ruin souls.” *My Life Today*, 31.4
29
30 His Answers—Sometimes “Yes,” Sometimes “No,”
31 Sometimes “Yes, But Later”—Are Assured!
32
33 Mark 11: 24 “...believe that you have received them, and you will
34 have them.”

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

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

44
 45 “In the future life the mysteries that here have annoyed and
 46 disappointed us will be made plain. We shall see that our seemingly
 47 unanswered prayers and disappointed hopes have been among our
 48 greatest blessings.” *Ministry of Healing*, 474.1

49
 50 Christ Adds His Prayers To Our Prayers

51
 52 1 John 2:1 “... if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father,
 53 Jesus Christ the righteous.”

54 Heb. 7:25 “... he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come
 55 unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for
 56 them.”

57 Heb. 4:15 “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize
 58 with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet
 59 without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace,
 60 that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

61
 62 “Christ is the connecting link between God and man. He has
 63 promised His personal intercession. He places the whole virtue of
 64 His righteousness on the side of the suppliant. He pleads for man,
 65 and man, in need of divine help, pleads for himself in the presence
 66 of God, using the influence of the One who gave His life for the life
 67 of the world. As we acknowledge before God our appreciation of
 68 Christ’s merits, fragrance is given to our intercessions. As we
 69 approach God through the virtue of the Redeemer’s merits, Christ
 70 places us close by His side, encircling us with His human arm, while
 71 with His divine arm He grasps the throne of the Infinite. He puts His
 72 merits, as sweet incense, in the censer in our hands, in order to
 73 encourage our petitions. He promises to hear and answer our
 74 supplications.” *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, 178.2

75
 76 “The prayer and praise and confession of God’s people ascend as
 77 sacrifices to the heavenly sanctuary. But they ascend not in spotless

Praise Builds Our Faith

1104

1105

1106 Php. 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.”

1107 Php. 4: 6,7 “...but in everything by prayer and supplication, with
 1108 thanksgiving....”

1109 Eph. 5:20 “...giving thanks always for all things to God....”

1110 1 Thess. 5:18 “...in everything give thanks; for this is the will of
 1111 God in Christ Jesus for you.”

1112

1113 “We do not pray any too much, but we are too sparing of giving
 1114 thanks. If the loving kindness of God called forth more thanksgiving
 1115 and praise, we would have far more power in prayer. We would
 1116 abound more and more in the love of God and have more bestowed
 1117 to praise Him for. You who complain that God does not hear your
 1118 prayers, change your present order and mingle praise with your
 1119 petitions. When you consider His goodness and mercies you will
 1120 find that He will consider your wants.” *Testimonies for the Church*,
 1121 vol. 5, 317

1122

1123 “When difficulties and trials surround us, we should flee to God, and
 1124 confidently expect help from Him who is mighty to save and strong
 1125 to deliver. We must ask for God’s blessing if we would receive it.
 1126 Prayer is a duty and a necessity; but do we not neglect praise?
 1127 Should we not oftener render thanksgiving to the Giver of all our
 1128 blessings? We need to cultivate gratitude. We should frequently
 1129 contemplate and recount the mercies of God, and laud and glorify
 1130 His holy name, even when we are passing through sorrow and
 1131 affliction. . . .” *Selected Messages*, vol. 2, 268

1132

1133 “To praise God in fulness and sincerity of heart is as much a duty as
 1134 is prayer. We are to show to the world and to all the heavenly
 1135 intelligences that we appreciate the wonderful love of God ..., and
 1136 that we are expecting larger and yet larger blessings from His
 1137 infinite fulness. . . . After a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit, our
 1138 joy in the Lord and our efficiency in His service would be greatly
 1139 increased by recounting His goodness and His wonderful works in
 1140 behalf of His children. These exercises drive back the power of
 1141 Satan. They expel the spirit of murmuring and complaint, and the
 1142 tempter loses ground. ... No more effective means can be employed
 1143 for winning souls to Christ.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 299, 300

1144

1145

1146

1061 never before seen. His words are to be voiced by his followers: "Let
1062 not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Ye believe in God,
1063 believe also in me." *Spaulding-Magan Collection*, 89.2,3

We Must Persist

1065
1066
1067 Luke 11:1-5 "Because of his persistence...."

1068 1 Thess 5:17 "Pray without ceasing."

1069
1070 "Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His
1071 victory is an evidence of the power of importunate prayer. All who
1072 will lay hold of God's promises as he did, and be as earnest and
1073 persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded. Those who are
1074 unwilling to deny self, to agonize before God, to pray long and
1075 earnestly for his blessing, will not obtain it. Wrestling with God—
1076 how few know what it is! How few have ever had their souls drawn
1077 out after God with intensity of desire until every power is on the
1078 stretch. When waves of despair which no language can express
1079 sweep over the suppliant, how few cling with unyielding faith to the
1080 promises of God." *The Great Controversy*, 621.2

1081
1082 "The servant watched while Elijah prayed. Six times he returned
1083 from the watch, saying, There is nothing, no cloud, no sign of rain.
1084 But the prophet did not give up in discouragement. He kept
1085 reviewing his life, to see where he had failed to honor God, he
1086 confessed his sins, and thus continued to afflict his soul before God,
1087 while watching for a token that his prayer was answered. As he
1088 searched his heart, he seemed to be less and less, both in his own
1089 estimation and in the sight of God. It seemed to him that he was
1090 nothing, and that God was everything; and when he reached the
1091 point of renouncing self, while he clung to the Saviour as his only
1092 strength and righteousness, the answer came." *Review and Herald*,
1093 May 26, 1891, par. 8

1094
1095 "Special mercies are often withheld for a time, that we may more
1096 earnestly supplicate the throne of grace. We must stay ourselves
1097 upon God, and not measure the time by our own finite fancies. Our
1098 impulses must not rule over us, but we must rest in the Lord, and
1099 wait patiently for Him, nor let our sunshine turn to darkness, our
1100 faith to distrust." *Present Truth*, January 30, 1890 par. 17

1101

1102

1103

78 purity. Passing through the corrupt channels of humanity, they are
79 so defiled that unless purified by the righteousness of the great High
80 Priest, they are not acceptable by God. Christ gathers
81 into the censer the prayers, the praise, and the sacrifices of his
82 people, and with these he puts the merits of his spotless
83 righteousness. Then, perfumed with the incense of Christ's
84 propitiation, our prayers, wholly and entirely acceptable, rise before
85 God, and gracious answers are returned." *Youth Instructor*, April 16,
86 1903, par. 12

87
88 "Jehovah ... has placed at His altar an Advocate clothed in our
89 nature. As our intercessor, Christ's office work is to introduce us to
90 God as His sons and daughters. He intercedes in behalf of those who
91 receive Him. With His own blood He has paid their ransom. By
92 virtue of His merits, He gives them power to become members of
93 the royal family, children of the heavenly King. And the Father
94 demonstrates His infinite love for Christ by receiving and
95 welcoming Christ's friends as His friends. He is satisfied with the
96 atonement made. He is glorified by the incarnation, death, and
97 mediation of His Son. In Christ's name our petitions ascend to the
98 Father. He intercedes in our behalf, and the Father lays open all the
99 treasures of His grace for our appropriation, for us to enjoy and to
100 impart to others." ... No sooner does the child of God approach the
101 mercy-seat than he becomes the client of the great Advocate. At his
102 first utterance of penitence and appeal for pardon, Christ espouses
103 his case, and makes it His own, presenting the supplication before
104 the Father as His own request." *Signs of the Times*, April 14, 1909,
105 par. 1,2,5

This Is The Pathway To Answered Prayer

106
107
108
109 1. We must ask.
110
111 Jer. 33:3 "Call ... and I will answer...."
112 Ps. 50:15 "Call ... [and] I will deliver you...."
113 Matt 7: 7-11 "Ask and it will be given to you...."
114 James 4:2 "...you do not have because you do not ask...."
115
116 "It is part of God's great plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of
117 faith, that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask." *Great*
118 *Controversy*, 525
119
120 "To pray aright, is to ask God in faith for the very things you need.

121 Go to your chamber, or in some retired place, and ask your Father
 122 for Jesus' sake to help you. There is power in that prayer that is sent
 123 up from a heart convinced of its own weakness, yet earnestly
 124 longing for that strength that comes from God. The earnest, fervent
 125 prayer will be heard and answered." *Youth Instructor*, March 1,
 126 1856

127
 128 "The summing up of the benefit of prayer is that devotion that leads
 129 to faith in God's promises. This faith is the key that opens the divine
 130 treasury, is the hand by which we appropriate to our use the richest
 131 gifts of God. The prayer of the contrite heart unlocks the treasure
 132 house of supplies, and lays hold of omnipotent power." *Signs of the*
 133 *Times*, June 18, 1896 par. 8

134
 135 "Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your
 136 fears before God. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him.
 137 He who numbers the hairs of your head is not indifferent to the
 138 wants of His children. "The Lord is very pitiful, and of tender
 139 mercy." James 5:11. His heart of love is touched by our sorrows and
 140 even by our utterances of them. Take to Him everything that
 141 perplexes the mind. Nothing is too great for Him to bear, for He
 142 holds up worlds, He rules over all the affairs of the universe.
 143 Nothing that in any way concerns our peace is too small for Him to
 144 notice. There is no chapter in our experience too dark for Him to
 145 read; there is no perplexity too difficult for Him to unravel. No
 146 calamity can befall the least of His children, no anxiety harass the
 147 soul, no joy cheer, no sincere prayer escape the lips, of which our
 148 heavenly Father is unobservant, or in which He takes no immediate
 149 interest." *Steps to Christ*, 100.1

150
 151 2. We must ask according to God's will.
 152
 153 1 John 5:14-15 "...if we ask anything according to His will, He
 154 hears us."

155
 156 "Prayer and faith are closely allied, and they need to be studied
 157 together. In the prayer of faith there is a divine science; it is a
 158 science that everyone who would make his lifework a success must
 159 understand. Christ says, "What things soever ye desire, when ye
 160 pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark
 161 11:24. He makes it plain that our asking must be according to God's
 162 will; we must ask for the things that He has promised, and whatever

1018 "The prayer of faith is the weapon by which we may successfully
 1019 resist every assault of the enemy." *Selected Messages*, vol. 1, 103

1020
 1021 "If you have faith like this, you will lay hold upon God's word, and
 1022 upon all the helpful agencies He has appointed. Thus your faith will
 1023 strengthen, and will bring to your aid the power of heaven. The
 1024 obstacles that are piled by Satan across your path, though apparently
 1025 as insurmountable as the eternal hills, shall disappear before the
 1026 demand of faith. "Nothing shall be impossible unto you." *Desire of*
 1027 *Ages*, 431.3

1028
 1029 "If Satan sees he is in danger of losing one soul, he will exert
 1030 himself to the utmost to keep that one. And when the individual is
 1031 aroused to his danger, and, with distress and fervor, looks to Jesus
 1032 for strength, Satan fears he shall lose a captive, and he calls a re-
 1033 enforcement of his angels to hedge in the poor soul, and form a wall
 1034 of darkness around him, that heaven's light may not reach him. But
 1035 if the one in danger perseveres, and in helplessness and weakness
 1036 casts himself upon the merits of the blood of Christ, Jesus listens to
 1037 the earnest prayer of faith, and sends a re-enforcement of those
 1038 angels which excel in strength to deliver him." *Messages to Young*
 1039 *People*, 53.1

1040
 1041 "Satan cannot endure to have his powerful rival appealed to, for he
 1042 fears and trembles before His strength and majesty. At the sound of
 1043 fervent prayer, Satan's whole host trembles. He continues to call
 1044 legions of evil angels to accomplish his object. And when angels,
 1045 all-powerful, clothed with the armory of heaven, come to the help of
 1046 the fainting, pursued soul, Satan and his host fall back, well
 1047 knowing that their battle is lost. The willing subjects of Satan are
 1048 faithful, active, and united in one object. And although they hate and
 1049 war with one another, yet they improve every opportunity to
 1050 advance their common interest. But the great Commander in heaven
 1051 and earth has limited Satan's power." *Counsels to the Church*, 319.3

1052
 1053 "God's servants need constantly to lay hold with one hand of souls
 1054 ready to perish, while with the hand of faith they lay hold of the
 1055 throne of God. Souls possessed with evil spirits will present
 1056 themselves before us. We must cultivate the spirit of earnest prayer,
 1057 mingled with genuine faith to save them from ruin, and this will
 1058 confirm our faith. God designs that the sick, the unfortunate, those
 1059 possessed with evil spirits, shall hear his voice through us. Through
 1060 his human agents he desires to be a comforter such as the world has

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

981
982 “The spirit of true fasting and prayer is the spirit which yields mind,
983 heart, and will to God.” *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 189

984
985 “Our brethren would receive a blessing in dispensing with or
986 deferring one meal of the day, if necessary, in order that an hour or
987 more might be devoted to testimony meeting. We used often to
988 make the Sabbath a day of fasting and prayer, and we were greatly
989 blessed in our worship.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 9, 96.3

990
991 “The true fasting which should be recommended to all, is abstinence
992 from every stimulating kind of food, and the proper use of
993 wholesome, simple food, which God has provided in abundance.”
994 *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 90

995
996 “All the fasting in the world will not take the place of simple trust in
997 the word of God. “Ask,” He says, “and ye shall receive.” ... You are
998 not called upon to fast forty days. The Lord bore that fast for you in
999 the wilderness of temptation. There would be no virtue in such a
1000 fast; but there is virtue in the blood of Christ.” *Counsels on Diet and*
1001 *Foods*, 189

1002 1003 9. Prayers Resisting Satan

1004
1005 James 4:7 “Resist the devil...”

1006 Col. 1:13 “He has delivered us...”

1007 1John 3:8 “...that He might destroy the works of the devil...”

1008 Rom. 16:20 “...will crush Satan under your feet...”

1009
1010 “The prayer of faith is the great strength of the Christian, and will
1011 assuredly prevail against Satan. This is why he insinuates that we
1012 have no need of prayer. The name of Jesus, our Advocate, he
1013 detests; and when we earnestly come to Him for help, Satan's host is
1014 alarmed. It serves his purpose well if we neglect the exercise of
1015 prayer, for then his lying wonders are more readily received.”
1016 *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, 296.

1017

163 we receive must be used in doing His will. The conditions met, the
164 promise is unequivocal.” *Education*, 257.7

165
166 “Be not discouraged if your prayers do not seem to obtain an
167 immediate answer. The Lord sees that prayer is often mixed with
168 earthliness. Men pray for that which will gratify their selfish desires,
169 and the Lord does not fulfill their requests in the way which they
170 expect. He takes them through tests and trials, he brings them
171 through humiliations, until they see more clearly what their
172 necessities are. He does not give to men those things which will
173 gratify a debased appetite, and which will prove an injury to the
174 human agent, and make him a dishonor to God. He does not give
175 men that which will gratify their ambition, and work simply for self-
176 exaltation.” *Review and Herald*, November 19, 1895 par. 9

177
178 “Said Christ, ‘If any man serve Me, him will My Father honor.’
179 When we come to Him we should pray that we might enter into and
180 accomplish His purpose, and that our desires and interests might be
181 lost in His. We should acknowledge our acceptance of His will, not
182 praying Him to concede to ours.” *Counsels on Health*, 378

183
184 3. We must ask in Jesus’ name.

185
186 John 16: 23,24 “... whatever you ask the Father in My name He will
187 give you.”

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

189
190 “Christ has opened the way for us to approach God. He says, ‘Make
191 use of My name. It will be your passport to the heart of My Father
192 and to all the riches of His grace.’” *Signs of the Times*, June 18, 1902

193
194 “He explained that the secret of their success would be in asking for
195 strength and grace in His name. He would be present before the
196 Father to make request for them. The prayer of the humble
197 (petitioner) He presents as His own desire in that soul’s behalf.”
198 *Desire of Ages*, 667

199
200 “The Lord Jehovah accepts the argument that is presented in the
201 name of his Son, and places the resources of his merit at your
202 command. It is our privilege and duty to bring the efficacy of the
203 name of Christ into our petitions, and use the very arguments that
204 Christ has used in our behalf. Our prayers will then be in complete
205 harmony with the will of God. Then it is that Christ clothes the

206 contrite suppliant with his own priestly vestments, and the human
 207 petitioner approaches the altar holding the holy censer, from which
 208 ascends the incense of the fragrance of the merit of Christ's
 209 righteousness." *Signs of the Times*, June 18, 1896 par. 8

210

211 4. We must ask in faith.

212

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

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

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

218

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

229

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

239

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

933 d. Taking appropriate measures is not a denial of faith.

934

935 "In regard to the matter of prayer for the sick, many confusing ideas
 936 are advanced. One says, "He who has been prayed for must walk out
 937 in faith, giving God the glory, and making use of no remedies. If he
 938 is at a health institute he should leave it at once." *Selected Messages*,
 939 vol. 2, 345.1 I know that these ideas are wrong, and that if accepted
 940 they would lead to many evils." *Selected Messages*, vol. 2, 345.2

941

942 "It is no denial of faith to use rational remedies judiciously."
 943 *Selected Messages*, vol. 2, 346.2

944

945 "In praying for the sick, we are to pray that if it be God's will, they
 946 may be raised up, but if not, that He will give them His grace to
 947 comfort, His presence to sustain them in their suffering. Many who
 948 should set their house in order, neglect to do it when they have hope
 949 that they will be raised to health in answer to prayer. Buoyed up by a
 950 false hope, they do not feel the need of saying words of exhortation
 951 to their children, parents, or friends, and it is a great misfortune.
 952 Accepting the assurance that they should be healed when prayed for,
 953 they dare not make a reference as to how their property should be
 954 disposed of, how their family is to be cared for, or express any wish
 955 concerning their matters of which they would speak if they thought
 956 they should be removed by death. In this way disasters are brought
 957 upon the family and friends. For many things are left unmentioned,
 958 because they fear expressions on these points would be a denial of
 959 their faith that should be understood. Believing that they will be
 960 raised to health by prayer, they fail to make use of hygienic
 961 measures that are in their power to use, fearing that it would be a
 962 denial of their faith. I thank the Lord that it is our privilege to
 963 cooperate with Him in the work of restoration, availing ourselves of
 964 all possible advantages in the recovery of health. It is no denial of
 965 our faith to place ourselves in the condition most favorable to
 966 recovery." *Spaulding-Magan Collection*, 7.1

967

968 8. Prayers That Include Fasting

969

970 Mark 9:29 "... This kind can come out by nothing except by prayer
 971 and fasting."

972

973 "When Peter also was imprisoned, the entire church engaged in
 974 fasting and prayer." *Acts of the Apostles*, 144

975

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

893

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

900

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

905

906 b. We must seek God’s will.

907

908 “<It is not always safe to> ask for unconditional healing. Let your
909 prayer include this thought, “Lord thou knowest every secret of the
910 soul. Thou art acquainted with these persons, for Jesus their
911 Advocate, gave His life for them. He loves them better than we
912 possibly can. If therefore it is for Thy glory, and the good of these
913 afflicted ones to raise them up to health, we ask in the name of Jesus
914 that health may be given them at this time.” In a petition of this
915 kind, no lack of faith is manifested.” Manuscript 26a, 1892.8

916

917 c. The will must be placed on the side of healing.

918

919 “By the exercise of the willpower in placing themselves in right
920 relation to life, patients can do much to cooperate with the
921 physician’s efforts for their recovery. There are thousands who can
922 recover health if they will. The Lord does not want them to be sick.
923 He desires them to be well and happy, and they should make up
924 their minds to be well. *Mind Character and Personality*, vol. 2,
925 690.2 Often invalids can resist disease simply by refusing to yield
926 to ailments and settle down in a state of inactivity. Rising above
927 their aches and pains, let them engage in useful employment suited
928 to their strength. By such employment and the free use of air and
929 sunlight, many an emaciated invalid might recover health and
930 strength.—The Ministry of Healing, 246 (1905). *Mind Character*
931 *and Personality*, vol. 2, 690.3

932

249

250 “True faith lays hold of and claims the promised blessing before it is
251 realized and felt. We must send up our petitions in faith within the
252 second veil and let our faith take hold of the promised blessing and
253 claim it as ours. We are then to believe that we receive the blessing,
254 because our faith has hold of it, and according to the Word it is ours.
255 “What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive
256 them, and ye shall have them.” Mark 11:24. Here is faith, naked
257 faith, to believe that we receive the blessing, even before we realize
258 it. When the promised blessing is realized and enjoyed, faith is
259 swallowed up.” *Early Writings*, 72.2

260

261 5. We must obey.

262

263 1 John 3:22 “...we receive ... because we keep His
264 commandments....”

265

266 “True faith rests on the promises contained in the Word of God, and
267 those only who obey that Word can claim its glorious promises. “If
268 ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye
269 will, and it shall be done unto you.” John 15:7. “Whatsoever we ask,
270 we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do
271 those things that are pleasing in His sight.” 1 John 3:22.” *Early*
272 *Writings*, 72.2

273

274 “...only as we live in obedience to His word can we claim the
275 fulfillment of His promises. ... If we render to Him only a partial,
276 halfhearted obedience, His promises will not be fulfilled to us.”
277 *Ministry of Healing*, 227.1

278

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

288

289 6. We must live out our prayers.

290

291 “Children and youth may come to Jesus with their burdens and
 292 perplexities, and know that He will respect their appeals to Him, and
 293 give them the very things they need. Be earnest; be resolute. Present
 294 the promise of God, and then believe without a doubt. Do not wait to
 295 feel special emotions before you think the Lord answers. Do not
 296 mark out some particular way that the Lord must work for you
 297 before you believe you receive the things you ask of Him; but trust
 298 His word, and leave the whole matter in the hands of the Lord, with
 299 full faith that your prayer will be honored, and the answer will come
 300 at the very time and in the very way your heavenly Father sees is for
 301 your good; and then live out your prayers. Walk humbly and keep
 302 moving forward.” *Messages to Young People*, 123.1

303
 304 “After we have offered our petitions, we are to answer them
 305 ourselves as far as possible, and not wait for God to do for us what
 306 we can do for ourselves.” *My Life Today*, 19.3

307 What Hinders Answers From Coming?

308 Introduction:

309
 310
 311 Ps. 66:18 “If I regard iniquity....”
 312 Prov. 28:9 “One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even
 313 his prayer *is* an abomination.”

314
 315 “There are thousands of prayers daily offered that God does not
 316 answer. There are faithless prayers. “He that cometh to God must
 317 believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently
 318 seek him.” There are selfish prayers, proceeding from a heart that is
 319 cherishing idols. “If any man regard iniquity in his heart, the Lord
 320 will not hear him.” There are petulant, fretful prayers, murmuring
 321 because of the burdens and cares of life, instead of humbly seeking
 322 grace to lighten them. Those who offer such petitions are not
 323 abiding in Christ. They have not submitted their will to the will of
 324 God. They do not comply with the condition of the promise, and it is
 325 not fulfilled to them.” *Review and Herald*, September, 11, 1883 par.
 326 15

327 Hindering Factors Of The Past and Present

328
 329 1. What were some of the obstacles in Isaiah’s day?

330
 331
 332 Isaiah 59:1,2 “Your iniquities have separated you....”

848 6. Reviving Prayers

849

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

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

852

853 “A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most
 854 urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There
 855 must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because
 856 God is not willing to bestow His blessing upon us, but because we
 857 are unprepared to receive it. Our heavenly Father is more willing to
 858 give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him, than are earthly parents
 859 to give good gifts to their children. But it is our work, by confession,
 860 humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions
 861 upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing. A revival
 862 need be expected only in answer to prayer.” *Selected Messages*, vol.
 863 1, 121

864

865 “A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer. When
 866 churches are revived, it is because some individual seeks earnestly
 867 for the blessing of God. He hungers and thirsts after God, and asks
 868 in faith, and receives accordingly. He goes to work in earnest,
 869 feeling his great dependence upon the Lord, and souls are aroused to
 870 seek for a like blessing, and a season of refreshing falls upon the
 871 hearts of men.” *Home Missionary*, November 1, 1890

872

873 7. Healing Prayers

874

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

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

879 I Cor. 11:28-30 “For this reason many are weak and sick among
 880 you, and many sleep.”

881

882 a. We must pray.

883

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

889

805 “Did mothers but realize the importance of their mission, they would
806 be much in secret prayer, presenting their children to Jesus,
807 imploring His blessing upon them, and pleading for wisdom to
808 discharge aright their sacred duties.” *Adventist Home*, 265.4

809
810 “The power of a mother’s prayers cannot be too highly estimated.
811 She who kneels beside her son and daughter through the vicissitudes
812 of childhood, through the perils of youth, will never know till the
813 judgment the influence of her prayers upon the life of her children.”
814 *Signs of the Times*, March 16, 1891, par. 5

815 816 5. Overcoming Prayers

817
818 “Before the believer is held out the wonderful possibility of being
819 like Christ, obedient to all the principles of the law. But of himself
820 man is utterly unable to reach this condition. The holiness that
821 God’s word declares he must have before he can be saved is the
822 result of the working of divine grace as he bows in submission to the
823 discipline and restraining influences of the Spirit of truth. Man’s
824 obedience can be made perfect only by the incense of Christ’s
825 righteousness, which fills with divine fragrance every act of
826 obedience. The part of the Christian is to persevere in overcoming
827 every fault. Constantly he is to pray to the Saviour to heal the
828 disorders of his sin-sick soul. He has not the wisdom or the strength
829 to overcome; these belong to the Lord, and He bestows them on
830 those who in humiliation and contrition seek Him for help.” *Acts of*
831 *the Apostles*, 532.1

832
833 “Prayer brings Jesus to our side, and gives new strength and fresh
834 grace to the fainting, perplexed soul to overcome the world, the flesh
835 and the devil. Prayer turns aside the attacks of Satan.” *Spaulding*
836 *Magan Collection*, 67.2

837
838 “When temptations and trials rush in upon us, let us go to God and
839 agonize with Him in prayer. He will not turn us away empty, but
840 will give us grace and strength to overcome, and to break the power
841 of the enemy. Oh, that all could see these things in their true light
842 and endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus! Then would Israel
843 move forward, strong in God, and in the power of His might.” *Early*
844 *Writings*, 46.2

845
846
847

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

335
336 “If we regard iniquity in our hearts, if we cling to any known sin, the
337 Lord will not hear us; but the prayer of the penitent, contrite soul is
338 always accepted. When all known wrongs are righted, we may
339 believe that God will answer our petitions.” *Steps to Christ*, 95

340
341 “Many think they have not time to pray, or that it would be useless
342 to pray if they had time. They indulge themselves in the gratification
343 of unholy desires. They cherish unchristlike traits of character, and
344 the least crossing of their will arouses their combativeness and
345 upsets their temper. While they are thus unemptied of self, and
346 unwilling to renounce their evil way, they cannot expect to receive
347 answers to their prayers; for evil tempers and corrupt indulgences
348 will make prayer of none effect. The psalmist says, ‘If I regard
349 iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.’” *Bible Echo*,
350 February 15, 1893 par. 7

351
352 “Fasting and prayer will accomplish nothing while the heart is
353 estranged from God by a wrong course of action.” *Testimonies for*
354 *the Church*, vol. 2, 145.1

355
356 2. What obstacles are listed in Isaiah 58?

357
358 Isa. 58:3 “find pleasure and exploit...”
359 Isa. 58:6,7 “Loose the bonds of wickedness...”
360 Isa. 58:13 “If you turn your foot from the Sabbath...”

361
362 “I pray that my brethren may realize that the third angel’s message
363 means much to us and that the observance of the true Sabbath is to
364 be the sign that distinguishes those who serve God from those who
365 serve Him not. ... Upon us rests the solemn obligation of taking a
366 more decided stand for truth and righteousness than we have taken
367 in the past. The line of demarcation between those who keep the
368 commandments of God and those who do not is to be revealed with
369 unmistakable clearness.” *Testimonies for the Church* vol. 7, p 108.1

370
371 Note the promise given in Isaiah:
372 Isa. 58:8 “Then your light shall break forth....”

373
374 3. What were some of the obstacles in the days of Jeremiah?

375 (Idolatry, stubborn disobedience, ignoring the true prophet of God,
 376 following false prophets and mocking the truth)
 377
 378 Jer. 7:17-18 "...fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough,
 379 to make cakes for the queen of heaven..."
 380 Jer. 23-26 "Sent to you all My servants the prophets, daily rising up
 381 early and sending them. ²⁶ Yet they did not obey Me or incline their
 382 ear, but stiffened their neck. They did worse than their fathers."
 383 Jer. 7:28 "This is a nation that does not obey the voice of the LORD
 384 their God nor receive correction."
 385 Jer. 7:30 "They have set their abominations in the house which is
 386 called by My name, to pollute it."
 387 Jer. 8:5,6 "They hold fast to deceit, they refuse to return"
 388 Jer. 8:10 "Everyone is given to covetousness; from the prophet even
 389 to the priest everyone deals falsely."
 390 Jer. 9:13 "...Because they have forsaken My law which I set before
 391 them, and have not obeyed My voice, nor walked according to it..."
 392 Jer. 17:21-23 "Hallow the Sabbath day, as I commanded your
 393 fathers. ²³ But they did not obey nor incline their ear, but made their
 394 neck stiff, that they might not hear nor receive instruction."
 395 Jer. 5:31 "The prophets *prophesy falsely*, and the priests *rule by*
 396 *their own* power; and My *people love to have it so*. But what will
 397 you do in the end?"
 398 2 Chron. 36:15,16 "But they *mocked the messengers* of God,
 399 *despised His words*, and *scoffed at His prophets*, until the wrath of
 400 the LORD arose against His people, *till there was no remedy*."
 401 Jer. 7:16 "Therefore do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or
 402 prayer for them, nor make intercession to Me; for I will not hear
 403 you." (See Jer. 11:14)
 404 Jer. 15:1 "Even if Moses were here, I would not listen."
 405
 406 "How much means are spent for things that are mere idols, things
 407 that engross the thoughts and affections, little ornaments that require
 408 attention to be kept free from dust and placed in order. The moments
 409 spent in arranging these little idols might be spent in speaking a
 410 word in season to some soul, awakening an interest to inquire,
 411 "What shall I do to be saved?" These little things take the time that
 412 should be devoted to prayer, seeking the Lord, and grasping by faith
 413 the promises. . . ." *Evangelism*, 344.3
 414
 415 "An idol is anything that human beings love and trust in instead of
 416 loving and trusting in the Lord their Maker. Whatever earthly thing
 417 men desire and trust in as having power to help them and do them

762 himself that he is following the dictates of his own judgment, he
 763 obeys the will of the prince of darkness. Christ came to free the
 764 shackles of sin-slavery from the soul. 'If the Son therefore shall
 765 make you free, you shall be free indeed.'" *Desire of Ages*, 466
 766
 767 "I have been shown angels of God are ready to impart grace and
 768 power to those who feel their need of divine strength. But these
 769 heavenly messengers will not bestow blessings unless solicited.
 770 They have waited for the cry from souls hungering and thirsting for
 771 the blessing of God; often have they waited in vain. There were,
 772 indeed, casual prayers, but not the earnest supplication from humble,
 773 contrite hearts...." *Our High Calling*, 129
 774
 775 "Let your prayers follow the servants of God like sharp sickles in
 776 the harvest field. God will hear the earnest entreaties of his people.
 777 The prayer of faith will move the arm of God." *Signs of the Times*,
 778 September 4, 1879
 779
 780 "The record shows that prayers of faith, though offered by frail
 781 human beings, have power with God. The earnest cry, "I will not let
 782 thee go, except thou bless me," has saved many a soul. If there were
 783 far more urgent intercessions for perishing souls, there would be far
 784 more souls saved." *Review and Herald*, February 11, 1909, par. 9
 785
 786 4. Pleading For Children
 787
 788 Lamentations 2:19 "Arise, cry out in the night, At the beginning of
 789 the watches; Pour out your heart like water before the face of the
 790 Lord. Lift your hands toward Him For the life of your young
 791 children, Who faint from hunger at the head of every street."
 792
 793 "The father who is the "house band" of the family will bind his
 794 children to the throne of God by living faith. Distrusting his own
 795 strength, he hangs his helpless soul on Jesus and takes hold of the
 796 strength of the Most High. Brethren, pray at home, in your family,
 797 night and morning; pray earnestly in your closet; and while engaged
 798 in your daily labor, lift up the soul to God in prayer. It was thus that
 799 Enoch walked with God. The silent, fervent prayer of the soul will
 800 rise like holy incense to the throne of grace and will be as acceptable
 801 to God as if offered in the sanctuary. To all who thus seek Him,
 802 Christ becomes a present help in time of need. They will be strong
 803 in the day of trial." *Testimonies for the Church*, 616.1
 804

719 that there must be union with others, even in our desires for a given
720 object. ... There must be an agreement in the things which they
721 desire and for which they pray. It was not merely the thoughts and
722 exercises of one mind, liable to deception; but the petition was to be
723 the earnest desire of several minds centered on the same point.”
724 *Counsels for the Church*, 242.1

725
726 “I remember in Battle Creek when there were those who felt the
727 burden for the unconverted, and those who were in darkness and
728 saw no light; then prayer meetings were appointed that they might
729 make the strength of God their strength. In every case the heavenly
730 intelligences worked with these efforts, and souls were saved.”
731 *Maranatha*, 38

732
733 “The promise is made on condition that the united prayers of the
734 church are offered, and in answer to these prayers there may be
735 expected a power greater than that which comes in answer to private
736 prayer. The power given will be proportionate to the unity of the
737 members and their love for God and for one another.” Letter 32,
738 1903, 5, *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 9, 303.3

739
740 “Let every one who give of his means, also send up his prayers daily
741 that it may bring souls to the foot of the cross. And in every church,
742 once a week at least, let there be a season set apart for praying for
743 this work. Let all be united, not mingling in their petitions other
744 wants, such as blessings for the sick and needy, but having a specific
745 object for their faith and entreaties. Brethren, move high heaven by
746 your prayers for God to work with the efforts of his servants. The
747 Lord has agencies which he will put in operation in answer to the
748 importunate prayers of faith.” *Review and Herald*, October 12, 1886
749 par. 14

750 751 3. Intercessory Prayers

752
753 Isaiah 59:16 “...and wondered that there was no intercessor....”
754 Isaiah 62:6 “...ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence.”
755 Luke 11:5-8 “Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at
756 midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves....’”

757
758 “Every soul that refuses to give himself to God is under the control
759 of another power. He is not his own. He may talk of freedom, but he
760 is in the most abject slavery. He is not allowed to see the beauty of
761 truth, for his mind is under the control of Satan. While he flatters

418 good, leads them away from God, and is to them an idol. Whatever
419 divides the affections, or takes away from the soul the supreme love
420 of God, or interposes to prevent unlimited confidence and entire
421 trust in God, assumes the character and takes the form of an idol in
422 the soul temple.” *Selected Messages*, vol. 3, 330.2

423
424 “God is true to his covenant with his people. His word is infallible.
425 His people bring suffering on themselves by forsaking his counsel
426 for their own human wisdom. It is impossible for their prayers to
427 reach his throne, because the rebellion of disobedience is the
428 substance of their petitions. Christ came from heaven to teach the
429 word which his Father committed to him for the fallen members of
430 his family. Those who hear and obey walk in safe paths, under the
431 protection of the Lord of heaven.” *Review and Herald*, April 8, 1902
432 par. 12

433
434 I am instructed to say to our churches, Study the *Testimonies*. They
435 are written for our admonition and encouragement, upon whom the
436 ends of the world are come. If God's people will not study these
437 messages that are sent to them from time to time, they are guilty of
438 rejecting light. Line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and
439 there a little, God is sending instruction to His people. Heed the
440 instruction; follow the light. The Lord has a controversy with His
441 people because in the past they have not heeded His instruction and
442 followed His guidance. *Selected Messages*, vol. 3, 358

443
444 “God cannot approve of the least degree of covetousness or
445 selfishness, and He abhors the prayers and exhortations of those who
446 indulge these evil traits.” *Early Writings*, p. 268.1

447
448 “There is too much mocking the Lord, too much praying that is no
449 praying and that wearies angels and displeases God, too many vain,
450 unmeaning petitions. First we should feel needy, and then ask God
451 for the very things we need, believing that He gives them to us, even
452 while we ask; and then our faith will grow, all will be edified, the
453 weak will be strengthened, and the discouraged and desponding
454 made to look up and believe that God is a rewarder of all those who
455 diligently seek Him.” *Early Writings*, 115.1

456
457 “All our prayers will be in vain while we cherish feelings of envy,
458 jealousy, suspicion, and enmity. We shall be forgiven only as we
459 forgive. It is no better than mocking God to engage in religious
460 worship with hearts thinking evil, and full of bitterness toward our

461 brethren or our fellow-men.” *Review and Herald*, November 6, 1883
 462 par. 9
 463
 464 Note the following promises:
 465 Jer. 7:23 “Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be
 466 My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you,
 467 that it may be well with you.”
 468 Jer. 17:24-26 “...but hallow the Sabbath day, to do no work in it,
 469 then shall enter the gates of this city kings and princes sitting on the
 470 throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses....”
 471 Jer. 29:11-14 “You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for
 472 Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I
 473 will bring you back from your captivity....”
 474 Jer. 31:31-34 “...after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law
 475 in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God,
 476 and they shall be My people.”
 477
 478 4. What were the obstacles in the days of Haggai?
 479 (Worldly priorities)
 480
 481 Hag. 1:2-11 “...to dwell in your paneled houses and this temple....”
 482
 483 “God cannot approve of the least degree of covetousness or
 484 selfishness, and He abhors the prayers and exhortations of those who
 485 indulge these evil traits. As Satan sees that his time is short, he leads
 486 men on to be more and more selfish and covetous, and then exults as
 487 he sees them wrapped up in themselves, close, penurious, and
 488 selfish. If the eyes of such could be opened, they would see Satan in
 489 hellish triumph, exulting over them and laughing at the folly of
 490 those who accept his suggestions and enter his snares.” *Early*
 491 *Writings*, 268.1
 492
 493 Note the promise:
 494 Hag. 2:4 “Be strong....”
 495
 496 5. What hindered in the days of Zechariah?
 497 (Refused to listen to the prophets, oppression and hardened their
 498 hearts)
 499
 500 Zech. 7:7 “Should you not have obeyed the words which the Lord
 501 proclaimed through the former prophets...”
 502 Zech. 7:9,10 ““Execute true justice, show mercy and compassion
 503 everyone to his brother. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless,

Helpful Remedies

676
 677
 678 1. Secret Personal Prayers
 679
 680 Matt. 6:6 “...when you have shut your door....”
 681
 682 “When every other voice is hushed, and in quietness we wait before
 683 Him, the silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God.
 684 He bids us, ‘Be still, and know that I am God.’ Ps. 46:10. Here alone
 685 can true rest be found. And this is the effectual preparation for all
 686 who labor for God. Amid the hurrying throng, and the strain of life’s
 687 intense activities, the soul that is thus refreshed will be surrounded
 688 with an atmosphere of light and peace. The life will breathe out
 689 fragrance, and will reveal a divine power that will reach men’s
 690 hearts.” *Desire of Ages*, 363
 691
 692 “Many, even in their seasons of devotion, fail of receiving the
 693 blessing of real communion with God. They are in too great haste.
 694 With hurried steps they press through the circle of Christ’s loving
 695 presence, pausing perhaps a moment within the sacred precincts, but
 696 not waiting for counsel. They have no time to remain with the divine
 697 Teacher. With their burdens they return to their work.” *Maranatha*,
 698 125
 699
 700 “Do not neglect secret prayer, for it is the soul of religion. With
 701 earnest, fervent prayer, plead for purity of soul. Plead as earnestly,
 702 as eagerly, as you would for your mortal life, were it at stake.
 703 Remain before God until unutterable longings are begotten within
 704 you for salvation, and the sweet evidence is obtained of pardoned
 705 sin.” *Messages to Young People*, 268.2
 706
 707 “Nothing will give such clear views of self as secret prayer. He who
 708 seeth in secret and knoweth all things, will enlighten your
 709 understanding and answer your petitions. Plain, simple duties that
 710 must not be neglected will open before you.” *Testimonies for the*
 711 *Church*, vol. 5, 163
 712
 713 2. United Prayers
 714
 715 Matt. 18:20 “For where two or three are gathered....”
 716
 717 “Our Saviour ... promised that if two or three should be united in
 718 asking anything of God it should be given them. Christ here shows

633 “One great reason why our brethren and sisters have no more
634 confidence toward God in prayer, is, that nearly all neglect to follow
635 the words of Jesus in preserving harmony between brethren. They
636 allow various wrongs to exist with members of the church, which
637 create bitter envy and strife; and while these differences exist, God
638 neither hears nor answers their prayers....” *Review & Herald* April
639 15, 1880

640
641 “When the laborers have an abiding Christ in their own souls, when
642 all selfishness is dead, when there is no rivalry, no strife for the
643 supremacy, when oneness exists, when they sanctify themselves, so
644 that love for one another is seen and felt, then the showers of the
645 grace of the Holy Spirit will just as surely come upon them as that
646 God's promise will never fail in one jot or tittle. But when the work
647 of others is discounted, that the workers may show their own
648 superiority, they prove that their own work does not bear the
649 signature it should. God cannot bless them.” Ms. 24, 1896, p. 4,
650 *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 1, 385.3

651
652 “In union there is strength; in disunion there is only weakness. We
653 should work most diligently to answer the prayer of Christ that his
654 disciples might be one, as he is one with the Father. If we are united
655 to Christ, the formation of a church will be a benefit to all its
656 members; for by entering into this church union, we pledge
657 ourselves to help one another. The Holy Spirit does not lead us into
658 this to be a mutual admiration society, but to put forth all the powers
659 of our being to help one another, in sympathy, in love, to be more
660 like Jesus.” *Review and Herald*, October 6, 1891 par. 5

661
662 “We have a character to maintain, but it is the character of Christ.
663 Having the character of Christ, we can carry on the work of God
664 together. The Christ in us will meet the Christ in our brethren, and
665 the Holy Spirit will give that union of heart and action which
666 testifies to the world that we are children of God. . . .” *Amazing*
667 *Grace*, 211.6

668
669 Note the promise:
670 John 17:21 “...“that they also may be one in Us....”

671
672
673
674
675

504 the alien or the poor. Let none of you plan evil in his heart against
505 his brother.”
506 Zech. 7:11,12 “But they refused to heed, shrugged their shoulders,
507 and stopped their ears so that they could not hear. 12 Yes, they made
508 their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which
509 the Lord of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets.
510 Thus great wrath came from the Lord of hosts. 13 Therefore it
511 happened, that just as He proclaimed and they would not hear, so
512 they called out and I would not listen,” says the Lord of hosts.”

513
514 “God will hold the church at ----- responsible, as a body, for the
515 wrong course of its members. If a selfish and unsympathizing spirit
516 is allowed to exist in any of its members toward the unfortunate, the
517 widow, the orphan, the blind, the lame, or those who are sick in
518 body or mind, He will hide His face from His people until they do
519 their duty and remove the wrong from among them. If any
520 professing the name of Christ so far misrepresent their Saviour as to
521 be unmindful of their duty to the afflicted, or if they in any way seek
522 to advantage themselves to the injury of the unfortunate and thus rob
523 them of means, the Lord holds the church accountable for the sin of
524 its members until they have done all they can to remedy the existing
525 evil. He will not hearken to the prayer of His people while the
526 orphan, the fatherless, the lame, the blind, and the sick are neglected
527 among them.” *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, 517.2

528
529 Note the promise:
530 Zech. 8:15, 20-22 “Yes, many peoples and strong nations shall come
531 to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the
532 LORD.”

533
534 6. What were the obstacles in the days of Malachi?
535 (Blemished offerings, relational fractures and robbing God)

536
537 Mal. 1:6b-8 “You offer defiled food on My altar....”
538 Mal. 2:13-14 “...witness between you and the wife of your
539 youth....”
540 Mal. 3:7-10 “Will a man rob God?”

541
542 *Regarding making an unreserved surrender:*
543 “Paul had a keen sense of the conflict which every soul must wage
544 with the agencies of evil that are continually seeking to deceive and
545 ensnare, and he had worked untiringly to strengthen and confirm
546 those who were young in the faith. He had entreated them to make

547 an entire surrender to God; for he knew that when the soul fails to
548 make this surrender, then sin is not forsaken, the appetites and
549 passions still strive for the mastery, and temptations confuse the
550 conscience.” *Acts of the Apostles*, 298.2

551
552 “This is the preparation day. Set your own hearts in order, and work
553 earnestly for your children. An unreserved surrender to God will
554 sweep away the barriers that have so long defied the approaches of
555 heavenly grace. When you take up the cross and follow Christ, when
556 you bring your lives into conformity to the will of God, your
557 children will be converted.” *Review and Herald*, July 15, 1902, par.
558 13

559
560 *Regarding seeking after the heavenly pearl:*
561 “There are some who seem to be always seeking for the heavenly
562 pearl. But they do not make an entire surrender of their wrong
563 habits. They do not die to self that Christ may live in them.
564 Therefore they do not find the precious pearl. They have not
565 overcome unholy ambition and their love for worldly attractions.
566 They do not take up the cross and follow Christ in the path of self-
567 denial and sacrifice. Almost Christians, yet not fully Christians, they
568 seem near the kingdom of heaven, but they cannot enter there.
569 Almost but not wholly saved, means to be not almost but wholly
570 lost.” *Christ Object Lessons*, 118.1

571
572 *Regarding marriage:*
573 “Whatever will make the character lovely in the home will make it
574 lovely in the heavenly mansion, and by your home life Jesus will
575 measure your religious life. The grace of Christ can make your
576 home a place of peace and rest, but unless you heed His Word and
577 cherish His Spirit, you are none of His. God requires you to be
578 sanctified wholly in your home life. The religion of Christ is not a
579 religion to be reserved for certain places and occasions, and then
580 laid aside at home. The truth as a sanctifier is needed more in the
581 home than in any other place. Every thought, every impulse, every
582 word and deed, is to be sanctified by the power of the truth.”
583 *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 13, 80.1

584
585 *Regarding returning God's tithe:*
586 “As the Giver of every blessing, God claims a certain portion of all
587 we possess. This is His provision to sustain the preaching of the
588 gospel. And by making this return to God, we are to show our
589 appreciation of His gifts. But if we withhold from Him that which is

590 His own, how can we claim His blessing? If we are unfaithful
591 stewards of earthly things, how can we expect Him to entrust us
592 with the things of heaven? It may be that here is the secret of
593 unanswered prayer.” *Christ Object Lessons*, 144.4

594
595 “Hasten, my brethren and sisters, to bring to God a faithful tithe, and
596 to bring Him also a willing thank offering. There are many who will
597 not be blessed till they make restitution of the tithe which they have
598 withheld.” *Counsels on Stewardship*, 87.1

599
600 “The Bible does not condemn the rich man because he is rich; it
601 does not declare the acquisition of wealth to be a sin, nor does it say
602 that money is the root of all evil. On the contrary, the Scriptures
603 state that it is God who gives the power to get wealth. And this
604 ability is a precious talent if consecrated to God and employed to
605 advance His cause.” *Counsels on Stewardship*, 138.2

606
607 “None need fear that their liberality would bring them to want.
608 Obedience to God's commandments would surely result in
609 prosperity. “Thou shalt lend unto many nations,” He said, “but thou
610 shalt not borrow; and thou shalt reign over many nations, but they
611 shall not reign over thee.” Deuteronomy 15:6.” *Patriarchs and*
612 *Prophets*, 533.1

613
614 Note the promises:
615 Mal. 3:10-11, 16-18 “...pour out such a blessing...”
616 Prov. 3:9-10 “Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the
617 firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with
618 plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.”
619 Prov. 11:24-25 “There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and
620 there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty.
621 The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be
622 watered himself.”

623
624 7. What additional obstacles were mentioned by Jesus and the
625 apostles?
626 (Unresolved differences/lack of love)

627
628 Matt 5: 23,24 “...go your way... then come and offer your gift.”
629 Matt. 5:43-44 “Love your enemies....”
630 Mark 11: 25-26 “If you do not forgive, neither will your Father....”
631 1 Pet. 3:7 “that your prayers may not be hindered.”
632