

480 “Pray much. Prayer is the life of the soul. The prayer of faith is the weapon by
481 which we may successfully resist every assault of the enemy.” *Signs of the*
482 *Times*, August 24, 1904 par. 9.

483 “...lay hold upon God's word, and upon all the helpful agencies He has
484 appointed. Thus your faith will strengthen, and will bring to your aid the
485 power of heaven. The obstacles that are piled by Satan across your path,
486 though apparently as insurmountable as the eternal hills, shall disappear
487 before the demand of faith. "Nothing shall be impossible unto you." *Desire of*
488 *Ages*, 431.3

489

490 Concluding Thoughts

491 We Must Pray

492 “A prayerless house, a house where Christ is not entreated to come in, there
493 the prince of darkness abides.” *Signs of the Times*, December 12, 1878 Par. 11

494 “Prayer is the Christian's life. There is a remedy for the sin-sick soul, and that
495 remedy is in Jesus. Precious Saviour! his grace is sufficient for the weakest,
496 and the strongest must have his help or perish. A Christian has victory over
497 his passions and besetments. I would not dishonor my Master so much as to
498 admit that a careless, trifling, prayerless person is a Christian. It is the
499 privilege of the Christian to enjoy the deep movings of the Spirit of God. A
500 sweet, heavenly peace will pervade his mind. He will love to meditate upon
501 God and Heaven, and to feast upon the glorious promises of the written
502 word.” *Signs of the Times*, November 18, 1886 Par. 6

503

504 Confide, Then Trust

505 Philippians 4:6 “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and
506 supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7
507 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts
508 and minds through Christ Jesus.”

509 “We may come to Jesus as to a friend, and in the most simple-hearted, definite
510 manner tell him all our worries, perplexities, and trials, and he will carry our
511 burdens for us. When our minds and our lives get tangled, we may take them
512 to One who knows just how to untangle them. But after we have asked God to
513 do this work for us, let us rest it with him. Here is where so many fail. They
514 tell the Lord all their troubles, and then go on worrying just the same. They
515 pray about their cares and sins, but do not cast off their cares nor cease to sin.
516 Jesus invites us to cast all our cares upon him, for he cares for us; then let us
517 leave them with him, and receive his peace and rest into our hearts.” *Review*
518 *and Herald*, October 21, 1884, Art. A, par. 2

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524 *calling 1(269) 471-5415. DEA Asking Believing Rejoicing DH a 2022*

Asking, Believing, Rejoicing

Compiled by Dan Augsburg

1 Introductory Thoughts

2 “Claim the promised blessing!”

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

4 “Let our faith take hold of the promised blessing, and claim it as ours.” *Early*
5 *Writings*, 72

6

7 The Possibilities of Answered Prayer

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

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

12 “The people of God have accustomed themselves to think that they must rely
13 upon their own effort, that little help is to be received from heaven; and the
14 result is that they have little light to communicate to other souls who are dying
15 in error and darkness. The church has long been contented with little of the
16 blessing of God; they have not felt the need of reaching up to the exalted
17 privileges purchased for them at infinite cost.... The power of God awaits their
18 demand and reception.” *Testimony to Ministers*, 175

19 “The church may be composed of those who are poor and uneducated; but if
20 they have learned of Christ the science of prayer, the church will have power
21 to move the arm of Omnipotence.” *Signs of the Times*, September 11, 1893.
22 Par. 4

23

24 The Certainty of Answers

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

27 “He makes it plain that our asking must be according to God's will; we must
28 ask for the things that He has promised, and whatever we receive must be
29 used in doing His will. The conditions met, the promise is unequivocal.”
30 *Education*, 257, 258

31 “If (we) have complied with the conditions upon which these promises are
32 based, God's word is pledged that He will do for (us) more than (we) ask.”
33 *Morning Talks*, November 1883, p. 14.

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35 Effectual, Fervent Prayer

36 James 5:16 “Confess ... and pray.... The effectual fervent prayer of a
37 righteous man availeth much.”

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The Pathway to Answered Prayer

1. Ask! Ask Specifically!

Matt. 7:7-8 "Ask and it shall be given...."

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

2. Ask In Jesus' Name

John 16: 23,24 "... whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you."

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

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

3. Ask According To God's Will

1 John 5:14-15 "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."

"Christ says, 'What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.'" Mark 11:24. He makes it plain that our asking must be according to God's will; we must ask for the things that He has promised, and whatever we receive must be used in doing His will. The conditions met, the promise is unequivocal." *Education*, 257.7

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

4. Ask Boldly

Heb. 4: 16 "Let us therefore come boldly"

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." When you pray, present this promise. It is our

436 healing of the sick, the mighty power of the Healer would be seen. Many more
437 would be strengthened and blessed, and many more acute sicknesses would be
438 healed." *Selected Messages*, vol. 3, 295.

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

6. Prayers Combined with Fasting

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. Prayers Resisting Satan

James 4:7 "Resist the devil...."

Col. 1:13 "He has delivered us...."

1John 3:8 "...that He might destroy the works of the devil...."

Rom. 16:20 "...will crush Satan under your feet...."

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

391 doubts, less grumbling, less murmuring, and a great deal more hope, courage,
392 and perseverance. May God give us these things for we are helpless without
393 them." *Letter* 44, 1875.2

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395 4. Prayers for Revival

396 Zech. 10:1 "Ask the Lord for rain in the time of the latter rain."

397 Isa. 44:3 "I will pour water on him who is thirsty...."

398 "A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all
399 our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort
400 to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow
401 His blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it. Our
402 heavenly Father is more willing to give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him,
403 than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their children. But it is our work,
404 by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the
405 conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing. A revival
406 need be expected only in answer to prayer." *Selected Messages*, vol. 1, 121.

407 "A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer. When churches are
408 revived, it is because some individual seeks earnestly for the blessing of God.
409 He hungers and thirsts after God, and asks in faith, and receives accordingly.
410 He goes to work in earnest, feeling his great dependence upon the Lord, and
411 souls are aroused to seek for a like blessing, and a season of refreshing falls
412 upon the hearts of men." *Home Missionary*, November 1, 1890.

413 "What would become of the churches if there were no special seasons when
414 the Spirit of Christ was sought for with earnestness and fervor, and the cold
415 hearts were warmed by the rays of divine light? God wants to be inquired of
416 by his people, before he pours out his Holy Spirit upon the church. How
417 earnestly should every member pray and labor, and labor and pray for the
418 deep movings of Spirit of God!" *Review and Herald* June 26, 1888, par. 8

419 "A sleepy, Christless church, quarreling and surmising evil, will have no
420 reward, and need look for no revival, unless its members repent, and do the
421 first works." *Review and Herald*, June 26, 1888 Par. 9

422

423 5. Prayers for Healing

424 James 5: 13-16 "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray."

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

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

431 "When you neglect to pray for the sick, you deprive them of great blessings;
432 for angels of God wait to minister to these souls in response to your
433 petitions...." *Medical Ministry*," 195

434 "It has often been my privilege to pray with the sick. We should do this much
435 more often than we do. If more prayer were offered in our sanitariums for the

82 privilege to come to Him with holy boldness. As in sincerity we ask Him to let
83 His light shine upon us, He will hear and answer us." *Child Guidance*, 499

84

85 5. Ask With Faith—Expectantly

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

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

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

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

106 "There can be no true prayer without true faith. Without faith it is impossible
107 to please God. Prayer and faith are the arms by which the soul hangs upon the
108 neck of infinite love and grasps the hand of infinite power." *Letter* 301,
109 1904.10

110

111 6. Obey

112 1 John 3:22 "...because we keep His commandments...."

113 "True faith rests on the promises contained in the Word of God, and those
114 only who obey that Word can claim its glorious promises. "If ye abide in Me,
115 and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done
116 unto you." John 15:7. *Early Writings*, 72.2

117

118 7. Continue Praying

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

120 1 Thess. 5:17 "Pray without ceasing."

121

122 Examples of Persevering Prayer

123 Jacob (Gen. 32:24-26)

124 Hannah (1 Sam. 1:11)

125 Elijah (1 Kings 18:42,43)
126 Joseph (Gen. 45:7,8)
127 Israel (Ex. 2:23,24)
128 Daniel (Daniel 10:12)
129 The Friend at Midnight (Luke 11:5-9)
130 Paul (2 Cor. 12:7)
131 “Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His victory is
132 an evidence of the power of importunate prayer. All who will lay hold of
133 God’s promises as he did, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will
134 succeed as he succeeded. Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonize
135 before God, to pray long and earnestly for his blessing, will not obtain it.
136 Wrestling with God—how few know what it is! How few have ever had their
137 souls drawn out after God with intensity of desire until every power is on the
138 stretch. When waves of despair which no language can express sweep over the
139 suppliant, how few cling with unyielding faith to the promises of God.” *Spirit*
140 *of Prophecy*, vol. 4, 438.2
141 “The servant watched while Elijah prayed. Six times he returned from the
142 watch, saying, There is nothing, no cloud, no sign of rain. But the prophet did
143 not give up in discouragement. He kept reviewing his life, to see where he had
144 failed to honor God, he confessed his sins, and thus continued to afflict his
145 soul before God, while watching for a token that his prayer was answered. As
146 he searched his heart, he seemed to be less and less, both in his own
147 estimation and in the sight of God. It seemed to him that he was nothing, and
148 that God was everything; and when he reached the point of renouncing self,
149 while he clung to the Saviour as his only strength and righteousness, the
150 answer came. The servant appeared, and said, “Behold, there ariseth a little
151 cloud out of the sea, like a man’s hand” *Review and Herald*, May 26, 1891,
152 par. 8
153 “Special mercies are often withheld for a time, that we may more earnestly
154 supplicate the throne of grace. We must stay ourselves upon God, and not
155 measure the time by our own finite fancies. Our impulses must not rule over
156 us, but we must rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him, nor let our
157 sunshine turn to darkness, our faith to distrust.” *Present Truth*, January 30,
158 1890 par. 17
159
160 8. Ask With Thanksgiving
161 Php. 4: 4 “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.”
162 Php. 4: 6,7 “...but in everything by prayer and supplication, with
163 thanksgiving....”
164 Eph. 5:20 “...giving thanks always for all things to God....”
165 “We do not pray any too much, but we are too sparing of giving thanks. If the
166 loving kindness of God called forth more thanksgiving and praise, we would
167 have far more power in prayer. We would abound more and more in the love
168 of God and have more bestowed to praise Him for. You who complain that
169 God does not hear your prayers, change your present order and mingle praise

345 proportionate to the unity of the members and their love for God and for one
346 another.” *Letter* 32, 1903, p. 5
347 “Let every one who give of his means, also send up his prayers daily that it
348 may bring souls to the foot of the cross. And in every church, once a week at
349 least, let there be a season set apart for praying for this work. Let all be united,
350 not mingling in their petitions other wants, such as blessings for the sick and
351 needy, but having a specific object for their faith and entreaties. Brethren,
352 move high heaven by your prayers for God to work with the efforts of his
353 servants. The Lord has agencies which he will put in operation in answer to
354 the importunate prayers of faith. He will fulfill his word, “Lo, I am with you
355 always, even unto the end of the world.” *Review and Herald*, October 12, 1886
356 par. 14
357
358 3. Intercessory Prayer
359 Isa. 59: 16 “... and wondered that there was no intercessor....”
360 Isa. 62: 6 “...ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence.”
361 “Every soul that refuses to give himself to God is under the control of another
362 power. He is not his own. He may talk of freedom, but he is in the most abject
363 slavery. He is not allowed to see the beauty of truth, for his mind is under the
364 control of Satan. While he flatters himself that he is following the dictates of
365 his own judgment, he obeys the will of the prince of darkness. Christ came to
366 free the shackles of sin-slavery from the soul. ‘If the Son therefore shall make
367 you free, you shall be free indeed.’” *Desire of Ages*, 466.
368 “I have been shown angels of God are ready to impart grace and power to
369 those who feel their need of divine strength. But these heavenly messengers
370 will not bestow blessings unless solicited. They have waited for the cry from
371 souls hungering and thirsting for the blessing of God; often have they waited
372 in vain. There were, indeed, casual prayers, but not the earnest supplication
373 from humble, contrite hearts....” *Our High Calling*, 129
374 “A working church in travail for souls will be a praying church, a believing
375 church, and a receiving church. A church whose members are found upon
376 their knees before God, supplicating His mercy, seeking Him daily, is a
377 church that is feeding upon the bread of life, and drinking of the waters of life.
378 The promise, “Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it
379 you,” will be verified to them.” *Testimony to Ministers*, 205.1
380 “The most successful way to reach men is through divine power. We may
381 pray—we are invited to pray, commanded to pray—and He who has told us to
382 pray will hear our petitions and will work for us with divine power. He will
383 make our path all luminous by His divine light. The daily suppliant, if he have
384 faith, will be like a tree planted by the river of water; his leaf will be always
385 green, and he will bear an abundance of fruit.” *Letter* 37, 1878.8
386 We need burden-bearers in every church—fathers and mothers who have a
387 burden of prayer for their children, who will not cease their importunate
388 entreaties until help and grace and salvation come to their children. God lives
389 and reigns. He will hear the humble prayers coming from contrite hearts.
390 What we need in every church is more praying, more believing, less talking

300 our being to help one another, in sympathy, in love, to be more like Jesus.”
301 *Review and Herald*, October 6, 1891 par. 5}

302 Prevaling Remedies

304 1. Secret Prayer

305 Matt. 6:6 “...when you have shut your door....”

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

314 “Many, even in their seasons of devotion, fail of receiving the blessing of real
315 communion with God. They are in too great haste. With hurried steps they
316 press through the circle of Christ's loving presence, pausing perhaps a moment
317 within the sacred precincts, but not waiting for counsel. They have no time to
318 remain with the divine Teacher. With their burdens they return to their work.”
319 *Maranatha*, 125

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

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

329

330 2. United Prayer

331 Matt. 18:20 “For where two or three are gathered....”

332 “The Lord has promised that where two or three are met together in His name,
333 there will He be in the midst. Those who meet together for prayer will receive
334 an unction from the Holy One. There is great need of secret prayer, but there
335 is also need that several Christians meet together and unite with earnestness
336 their petitions to God.” *Heavenly Places*, 91.2

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

342 “The promise is made on condition that the united prayers of the church are
343 offered, and in answer to these prayers there may be expected a power greater
344 than that which comes in answer to private prayer. The power given will be

170 with your petitions. When you consider His goodness and mercies you will
171 find that He will consider your wants.” *Testimonies* vol. 5, 317.

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

180 “To praise God in fulness and sincerity of heart is as much a duty as is prayer.
181 We are to show to the world and to all the heavenly intelligences that we
182 appreciate the wonderful love of God . . . , and that we are expecting larger and
183 yet larger blessings from His infinite fulness. . . . After a special outpouring of
184 the Holy Spirit, our joy in the Lord and our efficiency in His service would be
185 greatly increased by recounting His goodness and His wonderful works in
186 behalf of His children. These exercises drive back the power of Satan. They
187 expel the spirit of murmuring and complaint, and the tempter loses ground. ...
188 No more effective means can be employed for winning souls to Christ.”
189 *Christ's Object Lessons*, 299, 300

190

191 9. Recognize His Answer

192 Rom. 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to those who
193 love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

194 “Christ desires nothing so much as to redeem His heritage from the dominion
195 of Satan. But before we are delivered from Satan's power without, we must be
196 delivered from his power within. The Lord permits trials in order that we may
197 be cleansed from earthliness, from selfishness, from harsh, unchristlike traits
198 of character. He suffers the deep waters of affliction to go over our souls in
199 order that we may know Him and Jesus Christ whom He has sent, in order that
200 we may have deep heart longings to be cleansed from defilement, and may
201 come forth from the trial purer, holier, happier. Often we enter the furnace of
202 trial with our souls darkened with selfishness; but if patient under the crucial
203 test, we shall come forth reflecting the divine character. When His purpose in
204 the affliction is accomplished, "He shall bring forth thy righteousness as the
205 light, and thy judgment as the noonday." Psalm 37:6. There is no danger that
206 the Lord will neglect the prayers of His people. The danger is that in
207 temptation and trial they will become discouraged, and fail to persevere in
208 prayer. *Christ Object Lessons*, 174.3; 175.1

209 “God's work of refining and purifying must go on until His servants are so
210 humbled, so dead to self, that, when called into active service, their eye will
211 be single to His glory. He will then accept their efforts; they will not move
212 rashly, from impulse; they will not rush on and imperil the Lord's cause, being
213 slaves to temptations and passions and followers of their own carnal minds set
214 on fire by Satan. Oh, how fearfully is the cause of God marred by man's
215 perverse will and unsubdued temper! How much suffering he brings upon
216 himself by following his own headstrong passions! God brings men over the

217 ground again and again, increasing the pressure until perfect humility and a
218 transformation of character bring them into harmony with Christ and the spirit
219 of heaven, and they are victors over themselves. “ *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 86.2

220

221 What Hinders Answers?

222 Isa. 1:15-17 “I will not hear....”

223 Isa. 58:3 “Why have we fasted....”

224

225 Hindering Factors of the Past and Present

226 1. Cherished and Unconfessed Sin

227 Isa. 59:1,2 “Your iniquities have separated you....”

228 Ps. 66:18 “If I regard iniquity....”

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

233 “Many think they have not time to pray, or that it would be useless to pray if
234 they had time. They indulge themselves in the gratification of unholy desires.
235 They cherish unchristlike traits of character, and the least crossing of their will
236 arouses their combativeness and upsets their temper. While they are thus
237 unemptied of self, and unwilling to renounce their evil way, they cannot
238 expect to receive answers to their prayers; for evil tempers and corrupt
239 indulgences will make prayer of none effect. The psalmist says, ‘If I regard
240 iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.’” *Bible Echo*, February 15,
241 1893 par. 7

242

243 2. Unfinished business from the past

244 2 Sam. 21:1,14 “...it is because of Saul and his bloodthirsty house....”

245 “...before engaging in prayer there should be the closest self-examination to
246 discover if there are not sins which need to be repented of, confessed, and
247 forsaken. Deep humility of soul before God is necessary, and firm, humble
248 reliance upon the merits of the blood of Christ alone. Fasting and prayer will
249 accomplish nothing while the heart is estranged from God by a wrong course
250 of action.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 145.1

251

252 3. Oppression and Breaking the Sabbath

253 Isa. 1:15-17 “Your hands are full of blood....”

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

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

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

257 Isa. 58:8 “Then your light shall break forth....”

258

259 4. Ungodly Priorities

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

261 Hag. 2:4 “Be strong....”

262

263 5. Oppression and Refusing to Listen

264 Zech. 7:8-13 “Do not oppress.... They called and I would not listen....”

265 Zech. 8:15, 20-22 “I am determined to do good....”

266

267 6. Defiled Sacrifices, Relational Fractures and Robbing God

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

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

270 Mal. 3:7-10 “Will a man rob God?”

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

272

273 7. Unresolved Differences/Lack of Love

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

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

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

277 1 Pet. 3:7 “that your prayers may not be hindered.”

278 John 17:21 “...“that they also may be one in Us....”

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

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

294 “In union there is strength; in disunion there is only weakness. We should
295 work most diligently to answer the prayer of Christ that his disciples might be
296 one, as he is one with the Father. If we are united to Christ, the formation of a
297 church will be a benefit to all its members; for by entering into this church
298 union, we pledge ourselves to help one another. The Holy Spirit does not lead
299 us into this to be a mutual admiration society, but to put forth all the powers of