

THE PRAYER OF FAITH

1 “And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if
2 he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.” James 5:15

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The Prayer of Faith Illustrated

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7 “For some months past I have been afflicted with oppressed lungs. In addition to
8 this, a few weeks since I had an attack of brain fever. I gave up my husband and
9 children. I knew I must die unless God in mercy should rebuke the disease. The
10 prayer of faith was offered, and immediate relief given. The fever was rebuked,
11 and I was set free, and made triumphant in God. It seemed to me that Jesus was
12 again upon earth, and even in the room with us. I felt his power, and his sweet
13 blessing settled upon me like the dew.” *Youth Instructor*, May 1, 1856.

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What the Prayer of Faith Can Accomplish

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18 *Brings Blessings Otherwise Unobtainable*

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20 “It is a part of God's plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which
21 He would not bestow did we not thus ask.” *Great Controversy*, p. 515.2

22

23 *When Facing Difficulties*

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25 “The words spoken to Christ's disciples come to us through their words. The
26 Comforter is ours as well as theirs, at all times and in all places, in all sorrows
27 and in all affliction, when the present outlook seems dark and the future
28 perplexing, and souls feel helpless and alone. These are the times when the
29 Comforter will be sent in answer to the prayer of faith. There is no more
30 encouraging promise than this: “Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I
31 do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in My
32 name, I will do it.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 2, p. 31.3.

33

34 “If you are afflicted or unjustly used, cry to God. Turn away from those whose
35 hearts are as steel, and make your requests known to your Maker. Your case may
36 seem discouraging, but do not look at outward appearances. Continue to pray.
37 Have faith in God; for He has promised that He will hear the prayer of faith.”
38 *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 5, 416.2.

39

40 *When Praying in the Family*

41

42 “In the church at home the children are to learn to pray and to trust in God.
43 Teach them to repeat God's law. ... Come in humility, with a heart full of

44 tenderness, and with a sense of the temptations and dangers before yourselves
45 and your children; by faith bind them to the altar, entreating for them the care of
46 the Lord. Train the children to offer their simple words of prayer. Tell them that
47 God delights to have them call upon Him.

48 Will the Lord of heaven pass by such homes and leave no blessing there?
49 Nay, verily. Ministering angels will guard the children who are thus dedicated to
50 God. They hear the offering of praise and the prayer of faith, and they bear the
51 petitions to Him who ministers in the sanctuary for His people and offers His
52 merits in their behalf.” *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 110.2,3.

53
54 “Affection cannot be lasting, even in the home circle, unless there is a
55 conformity of the will and disposition to the will of God. ... If the father and
56 mother in the love and fear of God unite their interests to have authority in the
57 home, they will see the necessity of much prayer, much sober reflection. And as
58 they seek God, their eyes will be opened to see heavenly messengers present to
59 protect them in answer to the prayer of faith. They will overcome the weaknesses
60 of their character and go on unto perfection.” *Adventist Home*, p. 315.3.

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63 *When Praying For the Sick*

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

69

70 “We believe in the prayer of faith; but some have carried this matter too far,
71 especially those who have been affected with fanaticism. Some have taken the
72 strong ground that it was wrong to use simple remedies. We have never taken
73 this position, but have opposed it. We believe it to be perfectly right to use the
74 remedies God has placed in our reach, and if these fail, apply to the great
75 Physician, and in some cases the counsel of an earthly physician is very
76 necessary. This position we have always held.” *Spiritual Gifts*, Vols. 2, p. 135.1.

77

78 “I understand the text in James is to be carried out when a person is sick upon his
79 bed; if he calls for the elders of the church, and they carry out the directions in
80 James, anointing the sick with oil, in the name of the Lord, praying over him the
81 prayer of faith. We read, “The prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord
82 shall raise him up; and if he hath committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.” It
83 cannot be our duty to call for the elders of the church for every little ailment we
84 have, for this would be putting a task upon the elders. If all should do this, their
85 time would be fully employed,—they could do nothing else; but the Lord gives
86 us the privilege of seeking Him individually in earnest prayer, of unburdening
87 our souls to Him, keeping nothing from Him who has invited us, “Come unto
88 me, all ye who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” O how
89 grateful we should be that Jesus is willing and able to bear all our infirmities and
90 strengthen and heal all our diseases if it will be for our good and for His glory.
91 Some died in the days of Christ and in the days of the apostles because the Lord
92 knew just what was best for them. I would not speak one word to lessen your
93 faith and perplex and worry you. There is never danger of our being too much in
94 earnest and having too much confidence and trust in God. Be of good courage;
95 look to Jesus constantly.” *The Paulson Collection*, p. 28.2

96

97 “The prayer of faith in the sickroom, short and right to the point, prepares the
98 way for the grace of God to speak to the soul. Even unbelievers feel this--to
99 them--strange and new influence, and realize that God can and will hear their
100 prayers. You cannot know, you who pray in the sickroom, what will be
101 accomplished, and what has been accomplished, by the prayer of faith. By simple
102 prayer the sick have been encouraged to believe that God will look with
103 compassion upon them, else that prayer would never have been offered in their
104 behalf. A ray of light penetrates to the hopeless soul, and becomes a savor of life
105 unto life.” *Manuscript Releases*, p. 43.2

106

107 Do “not let the idea prevail that the Health Retreat is a place where the sick are
108 healed by the prayer of faith. There are instances when this will be done, and we
109 need to have faith in God constantly. Let no one think that those who have
110 abused themselves and taken no intelligent care of themselves can come to the
111 Health Retreat and be healed by the prayer of faith, for this is presumption. I see
112 so little wisdom, so little good common sense exercised by some of our brethren
113 that my heart is sick, sore, and distressed. They do not have sensible ideas and do
114 not honor God. They have need of a divine touch. If the idea should once prevail
115 that the sick can come to the Institute to be cured by the prayer of faith, you will
116 have such a state of things there that you cannot now discern even if I should
117 point it out to you in the best English language I could command.” *Letter 57*,
118 1886, pp. 2, 3.

119

120 *When Resisting Satan*

121

122 “If Satan sees that he is in danger of losing one soul, he will exert himself to the
123 utmost to keep that one. And when the individual is aroused to his danger, and,
124 with distress and fervor, looks to Jesus for strength, Satan fears that he will lose a
125 captive, and he calls a reinforcement of his angels to hedge in the poor soul, and
126 form a wall of darkness around him, that heaven's light may not reach him. But if
127 the one in danger perseveres, and in his helplessness casts himself upon the
128 merits of the blood of Christ, our Saviour listens to the earnest prayer of faith,
129 and sends a reinforcement of those angels that excel in strength to deliver him.

130

131 Satan cannot endure to have his powerful rival appealed to, for he fears and
132 trembles before His strength and majesty. At the sound of fervent prayer, Satan's
133 whole host trembles. He continues to call legions of evil angels to accomplish his
134 object. And when angels, all-powerful, clothed with the armory of heaven, come
135 to the help of the fainting, pursued soul, Satan and his host fall back, well
136 knowing that their battle is lost.” *Counsels for the Church*, p. 319.2,3

136

137 “There are few who have any just conception of the deceptive power of
138 spiritualism and the danger of coming under its influence. Many tamper with it
139 merely to gratify their curiosity. They have no real faith in it and would be filled
140 with horror at the thought of yielding themselves to the spirits' control. But they
141 venture upon the forbidden ground, and the mighty destroyer exercises his power
142 upon them against their will. Let them once be induced to submit their minds to
143 his direction, and he holds them captive. It is impossible, in their own strength, to
144 break away from the bewitching, alluring spell. Nothing but the power of God,
145 granted in answer to the earnest prayer of faith, can deliver these ensnared
146 souls.” *Great Controversy*, p. 558.2.

147

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

154
155 “Pray much. Prayer is the life of the soul. The prayer of faith is the weapon by
156 which we may successfully resist every assault of the enemy.” *Signs of the*
157 *Times*, August 24, 1904 par. 9.

158
159 “Man is Satan’s captive and is naturally inclined to follow his suggestions and do
160 his bidding. He has in himself no power to oppose effectual resistance to evil. It
161 is only as Christ abides in him by living faith, influencing his desires and
162 strengthening him with strength from above, that man may venture to face so
163 terrible a foe. Every other means of defense is utterly vain. It is only through
164 Christ that Satan’s power is limited. This is a momentous truth that all should
165 understand. Satan is busy every moment, going to and fro, walking up and down
166 in the earth, seeking whom he may devour. But the earnest prayer of faith will
167 baffle his strongest efforts. Then take “the shield of faith,” brethren, “wherewith
168 ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.” *Testimonies for the*
169 *Church*, vol. 5, p. 294.

170
171 *When Witnessing*

172
173 “Let your prayers follow the servants of God like sharp sickles in the harvest
174 field. God will hear the earnest entreaties of his people. The prayer of faith will
175 move the arm of God.” *Signs of the Times*, September 4, 1879.

176
177 “The record shows that prayers of faith, though offered by frail human beings,
178 have power with God. The earnest cry, "I will not let thee go, except thou bless
179 me," has saved many a soul. If there were far more urgent intercessions for
180 perishing souls, there would be far more souls saved.” *Review and Herald*, 11,
181 1909 par. 9

182
183 “Let every one who give of his means, also send up his prayers daily that it may
184 bring souls to the foot of the cross. And in every church, once a week at least, let
185 there be a season set apart for praying for this work. Let all be united, not
186 mingling in their petitions other wants, such as blessings for the sick and needy,
187 but having a specific object for their faith and entreaties. Brethren, move high
188 heaven by your prayers for God to work with the efforts of his servants. The
189 Lord has agencies which he will put in operation in answer to the importunate
190 prayers of faith. He will fulfill his word, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the
191 end of the world." *Review and Herald*, October 12, 1886 par. 14

192
193 *When Claiming God’s Blessings*

194
195 “There are many who, though striving to obey God's commandments, have little
196 peace or joy. This lack in their experience is the result of a failure to exercise
197 faith. They walk as it were in a salt land, a parched wilderness. They claim little,
198 when they might claim much; for there is no limit to the promises of God. Such
199 ones do not correctly represent the sanctification that comes through obedience

200 to the truth. The Lord would have all His sons and daughters happy, peaceful,
201 and obedient. Through the exercise of faith the believer comes into possession of
202 these blessings. Through faith, every deficiency of character may be supplied,
203 every defilement cleansed, every fault corrected, every excellence developed.
204 Prayer is heaven's ordained means of success in the conflict with sin and the
205 development of Christian character. The divine influences that come in answer to
206 the prayer of faith will accomplish in the soul of the suppliant all for which he
207 pleads. For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christ-like temper, for
208 wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift He has promised, we may ask;
209 and the promise is, 'Ye shall receive.'" *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 564.

210

211 *When Conducting Ministry*

212

213 "Our ministers do not wrestle all night in prayer, as many godly ministers before
214 us have done. They sit up bent over tables, writing lessons, or preparing articles
215 to be read by thousands; they arrange facts in shape to convince the mind in
216 regard to doctrine. All these things are essential; but how much God can do for
217 us in sending light and convicting power to hearts in answer to the prayer of
218 faith!" *Review and Herald*, Apr. 22, 1884.

219

220 "When we have men as devoted as Elijah, and possessing the faith which he had,
221 we shall see that God will reveal himself to us as he did to holy men of old.
222 When we have men, who, while they acknowledge their deficiencies, will plead
223 with God in earnest faith, as did Jacob, we shall see the same results. Power will
224 come from God to man in answer to the prayer of faith. There is but little faith in
225 the world. There are but few who are living near to God. And how can we expect
226 more power, and that God will reveal himself to men, when his word is handled
227 negligently, and when hearts are not sanctified through the truth? Men who are
228 not half converted, who are self-confident and self-sufficient in character, preach
229 the truth to others. But God does not work with them, for they are not holy in
230 heart and life. They do not walk humbly with God. We must have a converted
231 ministry, and then we shall see the light of God, and his power aiding all our
232 efforts." *Gospel Workers*, (1892 edition), p. 21.1.

233

234 "In every department of the cause of God, consecrated, God-fearing, willing
235 helpers are needed; men of brains, men of intellect, who will go forth as
236 ministers, canvassers, and colporteurs. Brethren and sisters, let the earnest prayer
237 of faith ascend to God that He will raise up laborers, and send them into the
238 harvest field; for the harvest is great, and the laborers are few." *Review and*
239 *Herald*, Nov. 20, 1883.

240

241

242

What is the Prayer of Faith?

243

244 "A definite request... made in definite faith, for a definite answer." James Fraser

245

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

252 be used in doing His will. The conditions met, the promise is unequivocal.”
253 *Education*, p. 257.

254
255 “Some have professed to have great faith in God and to have special gifts and
256 special answers to their prayers, although the evidence was lacking. They
257 mistook presumption for faith. The prayer of faith is never lost; but to claim that
258 it will be always answered in the very way and for the particular thing we have
259 expected is presumption.” *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 231.

260
261 “There are two kinds of prayer—the prayer of form and the prayer of faith. The
262 repetition of set, customary phrases when the heart feels no need of God, is
263 formal prayer. . . . We should be extremely careful in all our prayers to speak the
264 wants of the heart and to say only what we mean. All the flowery words at our
265 command are not equivalent to one holy desire. The most eloquent prayers are
266 but vain repetitions if they do not express the true sentiments of the heart. But the
267 prayer that comes from an earnest heart, when the simple wants of the soul are
268 expressed just as we would ask an earthly friend for a favor, expecting that it
269 would be granted—this is the prayer of faith. . . .

270 After we have offered our petitions, we are to answer them ourselves as far as
271 possible, and not wait for God to do for us what we can do for ourselves. The
272 help of God is held in reserve for all who demand it. Divine help is to be
273 combined with human effort, aspiration, and energy. But we cannot reach the
274 battlements of heaven without climbing for ourselves. We cannot be borne up by
275 the prayers of others when we ourselves neglect to pray; for God has made no
276 such provision for us. . . . The unlovely traits in our characters are not removed,
277 and replaced by traits that are pure and lovely, without some effort on our
278 part. . . .” *My Life Today*, p. 19.2,3.

279
280 “Jesus does not fail to answer the silent prayer of faith. He who simply takes God
281 at His word, and reaches out to connect himself with the Saviour, will receive
282 His blessing in return.” *The Faith I Live By*, 122.3.

283
284 “The prayer of faith is the key that unlocks the treasury of heaven. As we commit
285 our souls to God, let us remember that He holds Himself responsible to hear and
286 answer our supplications. He invites us to come to Him, and He bestows on us
287 His best and choicest gifts—gifts that will supply our great need. He loves to
288 help us. Let us trust in His wisdom and His power. Oh, what faith we should
289 have! Oh, what peace and comfort we should enjoy! Open your heart to the Spirit
290 of God. Then the Lord will work through you and bless your labors.” *Manuscript*
291 *Releases*, vol. 8, p. 195, 196.

292
293 “Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His experience
294 testifies to the power of importunate prayer. It is now that we are to learn this
295 lesson of prevailing prayer, of unyielding faith. The greatest victories to the
296 church of Christ or to the individual Christian are not those that are gained by
297 talent or education, by wealth or the favor of men. They are those victories that
298 are gained in the audience chamber with God, when earnest, agonizing faith lays
299 hold upon the mighty arm of power.

300 Those who are unwilling to forsake every sin and to seek earnestly for God's
301 blessing, will not obtain it. But all who will lay hold of God's promises as did
302 Jacob, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded.
303 “Shall not God avenge His own elect, which cry day and night unto Him, though

304 He bear long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily.” Luke
305 18:7, 8. *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 203.2.

306
307 “The summing up of the benefit of prayer is that devotion that leads to faith in
308 God's promises. This faith is the key that opens the divine treasury, is the hand
309 by which we appropriate to our use the richest gifts of God. The prayer of the
310 contrite heart unlocks the treasure house of supplies, and lays hold of omnipotent
311 power. This kind of prayer enables the suppliant to understand what it means to
312 lay hold of the strength of God, and to make peace with him. This kind of prayer
313 causes us to have an influence over those with whom we associate. The prayer of
314 faith is not listless, dry, and uninteresting. It wells up from perfect trust and
315 assurance, and by its fervor makes manifest to the world, to angels, and to men,
316 that you do believe in God, and have made Christ your personal Saviour. The
317 Lord Jehovah accepts the argument that is presented in the name of his Son, and
318 places the resources of his merit at your command. It is our privilege and duty to
319 bring the efficacy of the name of Christ into our petitions, and use the very
320 arguments that Christ has used in our behalf. Our prayers will then be in
321 complete harmony with the will of God. Then it is that Christ clothes the contrite
322 suppliant with his own priestly vestments, and the human petitioner approaches
323 the altar holding the holy censer, from which ascends the incense of the fragrance
324 of the merit of Christ's righteousness.” *Signs of the Times*, June 18, 1896.

325
326 “Through personal effort joined with the prayer of faith, the soul is trained. Day
327 by day the character grows into the likeness of Christ; and finally, instead of
328 being the sport of circumstances, instead of indulging selfishness and being
329 carried away by light and trifling conversation, the man is master of his thoughts
330 and words. It may cost a severe conflict to overcome habits which have been
331 long indulged, but we may triumph through the grace of Christ.” *Review and*
332 *Herald*, June 10, 1884 par. 10.

333
334 “The wisdom of God, as displayed in the methods and instrumentalities
335 employed to carry forward his work, is foolishness to the boastful and self-
336 confident, because they know not the mystery of godliness. The Lord would
337 teach his people at the present day the lesson of simple dependence upon that
338 mighty arm which can overthrow the strongholds of Satan. The prayer of faith,
339 offered by God's humble, obedient, trusting people, will bring them the victory.”
340 *Signs of the Times*, July 21, 1881 par. 9.

341
342 “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be
343 opened unto you.” Why is it that we do not take God at His word? Asking and
344 receiving are closely linked together. If you ask in faith for the things that God
345 has promised, you will receive. Look to Jesus for the things that you need. Ask
346 Him for forgiveness of sins, and as you ask in faith your heart will be softened,
347 and you will forgive those who have injured you, and your petitions will go up to
348 God fragrant with love. With praying comes watching unto prayer, and every
349 thought and word and act will be in harmony with your earnest petition for
350 reformation in life. The prayer of faith will bring corresponding returns. But a
351 mere form of words, without earnest sincerity and fervent desire for help, with no
352 expectation of receiving, will avail nothing. Let not such a petitioner think he
353 shall receive anything of the Lord.” *Review and Herald*, March 28, 1912.

354

355 “God will hear the prayer of faith; but the sincerity of our prayers will be made
356 manifest in our harmony with the great moral standard which will test every
357 man's character. We need to open our hearts to the influence of the Spirit, and to
358 realize its transforming power. The reason why you do not receive more of the
359 saving help of God is that the channel of communication between Heaven and
360 your own souls is clogged by worldliness, love of display, and desire for
361 supremacy....” *Gospel Workers* (1892 edition), p. 452.1

362

363 “In reading the history of the past year's labor, I saw distinctly how much the
364 laborers had lost through a lack of faith; how much they could have asked of
365 God, and how willingly he would have bestowed his grace upon them in answer
366 to their humble prayers of faith. Many have fallen away, and many more will fall
367 away, because they do not live by faith and increase in the knowledge of the truth
368 day by day. The workers need to be greatly alarmed lest that light which is in
369 them be removed from them. Watchfulness and prayer will alone keep their souls
370 garrisoned against the entrance of the enemy.” *Review and Herald*, April 13,
371 1886 par. 7}

372

373 “The simple prayer of faith is music in the ears of the Lord. But you cannot have
374 faith unless you talk faith and live faith. Then you may expect large things. The
375 Holy Spirit will come upon you, and convert you, soul, body, and spirit, and you
376 will show to all around you that your face is turned heavenward. You will be
377 moved to holy endeavor. There is need of heart searching and seeking after God.
378 Then God will take the stony heart out of your flesh, and give you a tender heart,
379 which he can impress. May the Lord help and teach and lead and guide us by his
380 Spirit, that in life and character we may be fashioned after the divine pattern.”
381 *Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, 1696.1

382

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