

## Welcome to Ten Days of Prayer 2015! *Introduction*

God has worked many miracles through the Ten Days of Prayer. The Holy Spirit has brought revival, conversions, renewed passion for evangelism, and healed relationships. Truly, prayer is the birthplace of revival!

We believe your life and the lives of those you pray for will be changed as you join your fellow church members in praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Here is what some participants from Ten Days of Prayer 2014 had to say:

“During Ten Days of Prayer 2013, I offered two requests: 1) for my daughter to be redeemed from the bondage of addiction, and 2) for my husband to come to the Lord. During Ten Days of Prayer 2014, I was praising God for my daughter’s ability to say that she is eight months ‘clean’ from methamphetamine, no longer homeless, and working full time. My husband was rebaptized and actually ATTENDED Ten Days of Prayer with me this year. All praise to God, our Father, through Jesus Christ.”—Nina Herman, Parkwood SDA Church, Modesto, California, USA

“At the time we had our Ten Days of Prayer, we also held a health evangelism course. This was a tremendous blessing for the island of Curaçao. People from all over the island attended, and it is said by non-believers to be the best free health service ever given on the island of Curaçao. To God be the glory. At my church I experienced a miraculous life transformation, where a talented member became a dedicated, godly leader in the music ministry. Every Sabbath, by means of music, our hearts and minds are prepared to receive the Word of Life. Also, some members who had never preached before, preached one night, and a youth who had never before shared a testimony, shared a testimony one night!”—Valerie Lashley, Cher-Asile SDA Church, Willemstad, Curaçao

### **Our Prayer Theme: Experiencing the Fruit of the Spirit**

During the Ten Days of Prayer we will be praying for the fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22-25. Christ “longs to see His children reveal a character after His similitude” (*Desire of Ages*, p. 313), a character that reveals the presence of the Holy Spirit shown through the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. The only way we can be transformed in His image and reveal the fruit of His Spirit is by taking time to behold Him. “The true seeker, who is striving to be like Jesus in word, life, and character, *will contemplate his Redeemer and, by beholding, become changed into His image*, because he longs and prays for the same disposition and mind that was in Christ Jesus” (*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 121).

Christ longs to work His character in us so that we can be His witnesses to a world that is perishing. He wants us to be His channels so He can reveal Himself through us to those who do not know Him. “Our influence upon others depends not so much upon what we say as upon what we are” (*Desire of Ages*, p. 142). We need the Holy Spirit to reveal in us the fruit of the Spirit. This is a work that we cannot do ourselves. We do not have the power to become like Christ. It is only Christ’s power in us that will shape and mold our characters and make us more like Him.

“Christ is seeking to reproduce Himself in the hearts of men; and He does this through those who believe in Him. The object of the Christian life is fruit bearing—the reproduction of Christ’s character in the believer, that it may be reproduced in others” (*Lift Him Up*, p. 274).

“There can be no growth or fruitfulness in the life that is centered in self. If you have accepted Christ as a personal Saviour, you are to forget yourself, and try to help others. Talk of the love of Christ, tell of His

goodness. Do every duty that presents itself. Carry the burden of souls upon your heart, and by every means in your power seek to save the lost. As you receive the Spirit of Christ—the Spirit of unselfish love and labor for others—you will grow and bring forth fruit. The graces of the Spirit will ripen in your character. Your faith will increase, your convictions deepen, your love be made perfect. More and more you will reflect the likeness of Christ in all that is pure, noble, and lovely” (*Lift Him Up*, p. 274).

We need the fruit of the Spirit in our lives, and we need to reflect it to those around us. During these ten days we would like to take time to reflect on the fruit of the Spirit, to pray that God will grow His fruit in us, and to ask Him to help us reflect His character to others.

### **Guidelines for the Prayer Times**

- Keep your prayers short—just a sentence or two on one topic. Then give others a turn. You may pray as many times as you’d like, just as in a conversation.
- Silence is good, as it gives everyone time to listen to the Holy Spirit.
- Singing songs together as the Spirit leads is also a huge blessing.
- Rather than using up valuable prayer time talking about your prayer requests, simply pray them. Then others can also pray for your requests and claim promises for your need.

### **Claiming the Promises**

God has given us many promises in His Word. It is our privilege to claim them in our prayers. All His commandments and counsels are also promises. He would never ask from us something that we could not do in His strength.

When we pray it is so easy to focus on our needs, our difficulties, our challenges, and to wail and whine about our situation. This is not the purpose of prayer. Prayer is meant to strengthen our faith. That is why we encourage you to claim God’s promises during your prayer time. We have included Bible verses that you can claim in each daily prayer guide. Feel free to claim other promises as well. They will help you take your eyes off yourself and your weaknesses and set them on Jesus. It is by beholding Him that we become changed into His image.

“Every promise in the Word of God is for us. In your prayers, present the pledged word of Jehovah and by faith claim His promises. His word is the assurance that if you ask in faith, you will receive all spiritual blessings. Continue to ask, and you will receive exceeding abundantly above all that you ask or think” (*In Heavenly Places*, p. 71).

“Plead for the Holy Spirit. God stands back of every promise He has made. With your Bible in your hands say, I have done as Thou hast said. I present Thy promise, ‘Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you’” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 147).

“Invisible armies of light and power attend the meek and lowly ones who believe and claim the promises of God” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 176).

How can you claim His promises? For instance, when praying for peace, you can claim John 14:27 and say, “Lord, You have told us in Your Word, ‘Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.’ Give me the peace that You promised to leave with us.”

### **Holy Spirit**

Be sure to ask the Holy Spirit to show you how or what you should pray for in a person’s life or in a particular situation. The Bible tells us that we do not know what to pray for and that the Holy Spirit is the One making intercession for us.

“We must not only pray in Christ’s name, but by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This explains what is meant when it is said that the Spirit ‘maketh intercession for us, with groanings which cannot be uttered.’ Romans 8:26. Such prayer God delights to answer. When with earnestness and intensity we breathe a

prayer in the name of Christ, there is in that very intensity a pledge from God that He is about to answer our prayer 'exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think' Ephesians 3:20" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 147).

Claim Romans 8:26 and ask the Holy Spirit to show you whom to pray for and what to pray for concerning certain people or situations.

### **Faith**

We are told in the Spirit of Prophecy that "prayer and faith will do what no power on earth can accomplish" (*Ministry of Healing*, p. 509). We are also encouraged to pray and have faith that God hears and will answer our prayer.

"Christ says, 'Ask, and ye shall receive.' In these words, Christ gives us direction as to how we should pray. We are to come to our heavenly Father with the simplicity of a child, asking Him for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus says again, 'When ye pray, believe that ye receive the things ye ask for, and ye shall have them.' You are to come to the Father repenting and confessing your sins, emptying the soul of every sin and defilement, and it is your privilege to prove the promises of the Lord. . . . We are to believe the word of God; for the test of character is found in the fact that you are building yourselves up in the most holy faith. You are proved of God through the word of God. You are not to wait for wonderful emotions before you believe that God has heard you; feeling is not to be your criterion, for emotions are as changeable as the clouds. . . . While on earth, we can have help from Heaven. . . . for I have tested God a thousand times. I will walk out by faith, I will not dishonor my Saviour by unbelief" (*Review and Herald*, Oct. 11, 1892, par. 1, 3, 6).

"We have too little faith. We limit the Holy One of Israel. We should be grateful that God condescends to use any of us as His instruments. For every earnest prayer put up in faith for anything, answers will be returned. They may not come just as we have expected; but they will come, not perhaps as we have devised, but at the very time when we most need them. But, oh, how sinful is our unbelief! 'If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it will be done unto you'" (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 209).

Ask God to help you believe and have faith that He has heard and will answer.

We are also told that "for any gift He has promised, we may ask; then we are to believe that we receive, and return thanks to God that we have received" (*Education*, p. 258). So make a habit of thanking God in advance through faith for what He is going to do and how He is going to answer your prayers.

### **Pray for Seven**

We encourage you during these ten days to pray in a special way for seven people in whom you would like to see the fruit of the Spirit manifested. They can be relatives, friends, coworkers, neighbors, or simply acquaintances. Take some time and ask God whom He would like you to pray for. Ask Him also to give you a real burden for these people.



Let's  
Pray!