

10 Days of Prayer 2017

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Introduction

Welcome to Ten Days of Prayer 2017! In the ten years since the church started to pray for ten days at the beginning of each year, we have seen God working many miracles. The Holy Spirit has wrought 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 fellow church members in praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, whom the Father has promised to give to those who ask Him. Here are a few responses from those who participated in the last Ten Days of Prayer:

“As a church we started to pray for rain because our country was facing drought. It was hectic and everyone was panicking, but I want to thank God that after three days, He answered our prayers. Now it is raining every day, and I want to thank God for an answered prayer.” *Lee Moyo*

“I’m praising God for what He has done at our church of Njiro SDA in Arusha, Tanzania. One Muslim lady attended the Ten Days of Prayer on Sabbath, and she came back on Monday confessing that she had been depending on magicians’ medicines and witchcraft to get a job, but now after attending the Sabbath sermon she decided to throw them away and depend on Jesus only. Two days after throwing away the witchcraft medicines, she was called for a job as a logistics manager in a very big transport company in Dar es Salaam, and now she is preparing for baptism next Sabbath.” *Alexis Nzitonda, Tanzania*

“We started our Ten Days of Prayer on the 10th of this month, and we have been experiencing the peace that Christ gives in our hearts despite the challenges we have. One of our group members has seen God blessing her life in providing a new job located in our capital town. God has blessed another sister who is a single mother with two young children by speaking to the wife of a teacher to buy some groceries for her. God also answered the prayers of a grandmother for her granddaughter who is still a toddler but was sick and in the hospital. On the 14th of this month the child was healed. We continue our prayer sessions every 4:00 in the morning in our small church in the village of Tanoliu, located in the northern part of the island of Efate in Vanuatu. We are all blessed by joining in the Ten Days of Prayer by His Spirit.” *Sharon Timothy, Vanuatu*

“I have been praying for my son during these ten days of prayer, and he has been blessed with a new job that he loves.” *Marianne McFeeters*

“I asked for help with the time I spend on all sorts of media, especially television, and during the first day of prayer I was led to fast from all commercial television during the ten days and was shown ways to fill my mind with spiritual food instead of corrupting media. The ten days were such a blessing that we intend to set up regular, longer prayer times.” *John Weston*

Our Prayer Theme: A Living Sanctuary

During the Ten Days of Prayer 2017, we will take a trip into the sanctuary and try to see what lessons we can learn from it. The subject of the sanctuary should be carefully studied, as it is one of the foundation stones of our faith and hope. It shows us the work that Christ is doing for us. It reveals to us His character. It also tells us what Christ expects from us and how we should live on earth. It reminds us that we should live with a view of eternity and that we cannot do anything in our own power. It is only because of Christ and His sacrifice that our sins can be forgiven and His righteousness given to us.

“The subject of the sanctuary . . . should be clearly understood by the people of God” (*The Faith I Live By*, p. 203). “We all need to keep the subject of the sanctuary in mind. God forbid that the clatter of words coming from human lips should lessen the belief of our people in the truth that there is a sanctuary in heaven, and that a pattern of this sanctuary was once built on this earth. *God desires His people to become familiar with this pattern, keeping ever before their minds the heavenly sanctuary, where God is all and in all.* We must keep our minds braced by prayer and a study of God’s Word, that we may grasp these truths” (*E. G. White Letter 233, 1904*, emphasis supplied).

Suggested Guidelines for the Prayer Times

- Keep your prayers short—just a sentence or two on one topic. Then give others a turn. You can pray as many times as you'd like, just as you talk in a conversation.
- Do not be afraid of silence, as it gives everyone time to listen to the Holy Spirit.
- Singing songs together as the Spirit leads is also a huge blessing. You do not need a piano for this; singing acapella is fine.
- 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

When we pray it is so easy to focus on our needs, our difficulties, our challenges—and to wail and whine about our situation. But 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 in your prayer time. They will help you take your eyes off yourself and your weaknesses and set them on Jesus.

“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” (*In Heavenly Places*, p. 71). 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.” Thank the Lord that He is giving you peace, even though you may not feel it right then and there.

We have created a document, “Promises to Claim in Prayer,” with different promises that you can claim. Have the promises nearby when you pray. Claim God's promises in your private and public prayers.

Fasting

We encourage you to do a Daniel Fast during these ten days. Starting the year with prayer and fasting is a great way to consecrate our lives to God for the upcoming year. Ellen White tells us, “Now and onward till the close of time the people of God should be more earnest, more wide-awake, not trusting in their own wisdom, but in the wisdom of their Leader. They should set aside days for fasting and prayer. Entire abstinence from food may not be required, but they should eat sparingly of the most simple food” (*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, pp. 188, 189).

We know about Daniel, who ate fruits and vegetables for ten days. We likewise encourage you to adopt a very simple diet during these ten days. A simple diet that leaves out sugar, processed and refined foods, and sodas can benefit us on different levels. First, eating simply means less time needed to prepare food and more time available to spend with the Lord. Second, the more simple our diet, the easier it is for the stomach to digest it, and the clearer our minds will be. But fasting is not only about abstaining from food. We also encourage you to fast from TV, movies, computer games, and even Facebook and YouTube. Sometimes things that are not bad in themselves, like Facebook and YouTube, can take so much of our time. Put aside everything possible so you can have more time to spend with the Lord.

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. “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).

Faith

We are told in the Spirit of Prophecy that “prayer and faith will do what no power on earth can accomplish” (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 509). “Take time to pray, and as you pray, believe that God hears you. Have faith mixed with your prayers. You may not at all times feel the immediate answer; but then it is that faith is tried. You are proved to see whether you will trust in God, whether you have living, abiding faith. ‘Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it.’ Walk the narrow plank of faith. Trust all on the promises of the Lord. Trust God in darkness. That is the time to have faith” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 167).

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 to pray during these ten days in a special way for seven people whom you would like to see coming closer to God. 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. Ask Him what you can do for each person, after the Ten Days of Prayer, to help reveal God’s character of love.

Do Something for Others—Total Member Involvement

Whenever we spend quality time praying, it will lead to meeting people’s needs in practical ways. We encourage you to join the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church in getting involved and sharing the love of Jesus. What would happen if each person who knows the Savior did something to share Christ with others? What would happen if we put aside our selfishness and moved out of our comfort zone to help others experience the love of our wonderful Father? The General Conference has launched an initiative called Total Member Involvement, and we encourage you to be part of it. We have prepared a list of suggested activities that you and your prayer group could do together after the Ten Days of Prayer. As you work to organize everything, just remember to avoid letting these arrangements distract you from praying.

Let’s tell the world the wonderful news of salvation. Let’s do our part so that Christ can come soon and take us all Home!

Unless otherwise noted, Bible texts are quoted from the King James Version (KJV).