

50 Days  
of Praying  
Against  
Criticism

*I urge our people  
to cease their criticism and evil-speaking  
and go to God in earnest prayer,  
asking Him to help them to help the erring.  
Let them link up with one another and with Christ.*

*Ellen G. White, Reflecting Christ, Page 200*

*50 Days of Praying Against Criticism*

*Let no corrupt communication  
proceed out of your mouth,  
but that which is good to the use of edifying,  
that it may minister grace  
unto the hearers.*

*Ephesians 4:29, KJV*

*50 Days of Praying Against Criticism*

## **Credits and Copyright Notices**

This book was compiled and produced by Leif Koester. The cover photograph was taken by Wilma O'Dell and is used with permission. Editing services were provided by Wilma O'Dell, Leta Dukeshire, Bonnie Parsons, Mike Thorsteinson and Erna McCann. Unless otherwise stated, all italicized quotations were written by Ellen G. White (1827-1915) and are in the public domain. Scripture passages marked KJV are taken from the King James Version and are in the public domain. Scripture passages marked NKJV are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture passages marked NIV are taken from the New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™ Scripture passages marked ESV are taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. The ESV® text has been reproduced in cooperation with and by permission of Good News Publishers.

**The content of this book may be reproduced and distributed.**

*50 Days of Praying Against Criticism*

## **The Parable of the Sunflower**

The sunflower (*helianthus annuus*) is a beautiful flowering plant. It provides joy to all who see it and nourishment to many. As the sunflower grows, it points heavenward. Though the sunflower may be in a field surrounded by other sunflowers, it does not compare itself to others. Instead of focusing on other flowers, it focuses on the sun. The sunflower does not turn its attention to the bugs, the slugs or the weeds. Instead of facing the pests, it faces the sun. Although it is surrounded by dirt, it does not become discouraged by the dirt. It is encouraged by the sun. When covered with manure, the sunflower does not become bitter or foul. Instead, the sunflower gathers nourishment from the dung that surrounds it. When the night comes, the sunflower does not wilt. It remains tall and patiently waits for the return of the sun.

## **Are We Ready for the Holy Spirit to be Poured Out?**

*Ellen G. White, Counsels for the Church, Page 248*

The Spirit can never be poured out while variance and bitterness toward one another are cherished by the members of the church. Envy, jealousy, evil surmising, and evilspeaking are of Satan, and they effectually bar the way against the Holy Spirit's working. Nothing else in this world is so dear to God as His church. Nothing is guarded by Him with such jealous care. Nothing so offends God as an act that injures the influence of those who are doing His service. He will call to account all who aid Satan in his work of criticizing and discouraging.

## **Are We Ready for Heaven?**

*Ellen G. White, Manuscripts 21, 1902*

Remember that if you speak cross words to fellow church members, you would speak the same kinds of words in heaven, were you permitted to enter there. But you never will unless you change.

## **Talk About Jesus. Don't Tinker.**

*Ellen G. White, Child Guidance, Page 429*

God does not want any one person to be conscience for another. Talk of the love and humility of Jesus, but do not encourage the brethren and sisters to engage in picking flaws in the dress or appearance of one another. Some take delight in this work; and when their minds are turned in this direction, they begin to feel that they must become church tinkers. They climb upon the judgment seat, and as soon as they see one of their brethren and sisters, they look to find something to criticize. This is one of the most effectual means of becoming narrow-minded and of dwarfing spiritual growth. God would have them step down from the judgment seat, for He has never placed them there.

## **Gathering or Scattering?**

*Ellen G. White, Christ's Object Lessons, Page 340-341*

Many who profess to gather with Christ are scattering from Him. This is why the church is so weak. Many indulge freely in criticism and accusing. By giving expression to suspicion, jealousy, and discontent, they yield themselves as instruments to Satan. Before they realize what they are doing, the adversary has through them accomplished his purpose. The impression of evil has been made, the shadow has been cast, the arrows of Satan have found their mark. Distrust, unbelief, and downright infidelity have fastened upon those who otherwise might have accepted Christ. Meanwhile the workers for Satan look complacently upon those whom they have driven to skepticism, and who are now hardened against reproof and entreaty. They flatter themselves that in comparison with these souls they are virtuous and righteous. They do not realize that these sad wrecks of character are the work of their own unbridled tongues and rebellious hearts. It is through their influence that these tempted ones have fallen. →

So frivolity, selfish indulgence, and careless indifference on the part of professed Christians are turning away many souls from the path of life. Many there are who will fear to meet at the bar of God the results of their influence. It is only through the grace of God that we can make a right use of this endowment. There is nothing in us of ourselves by which we can influence others for good. If we realize our helplessness and our need of divine power, we shall not trust to ourselves. We know not what results a day, an hour, or a moment may determine, and never should we begin the day without committing our ways to our heavenly Father. His angels are appointed to watch over us, and if we put ourselves under their guardianship, then in every time of danger they will be at our right hand. When unconsciously we are in danger of exerting a wrong influence, the angels will be by our side, prompting us to a better course, choosing our words for us, and influencing our actions. Thus our influence may be a silent, unconscious, but mighty power in drawing others to Christ and the heavenly world.

## Day 1

### Ephesians 4:29 (KJV)

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

- **Pray** for God to put sweet words into your mouth that will encourage people and draw them to Jesus Christ.
- **Pray** for God to build up your church by influencing all the conversations of the church members.

*“A corrupt communication does not mean only words that are vile. It means any expression contrary to holy principles and pure and undefiled religion. It includes impure hints and covert insinuations of evil. Unless instantly resisted, these lead to great sin.”*

Christ’s Object Lessons, Page 337

## Day 2

### 1 Peter 4:8 (NKJV)

And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”

- **Pray** for God to give you fervent love for everyone in your church, especially the people you don't naturally like.
- **Pray** for God to fill your church with so much love that all previous hurt and pain will be covered over.

*“Only the love that flows from the heart of Christ can heal. Only He in whom that love flows, even as the sap in the tree or the blood in the body, can restore the wounded soul. Love's agencies have wonderful power, for they are divine.”*

Education, Page 113

## Day 3

### Proverbs 16:28 (NKJV)

A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates the best of friends.

- **Pray** for God to keep you from sowing strife and pray for God to give you encouraging words to speak that will strengthen the bonds of friends.
- **Pray** for close friendships to be formed and maintained among the members of your church.

*“Resolutely refuse to hear, though the whisperer complains of being burdened till he speak. Burdened indeed! with a cursed secret which separateth very friends. Go, burdened ones, and free yourselves from your burden in God's appointed way.”*

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 2, Page 54

## Day 4

### Genesis 1:26-27 (NKJV)

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

- **Pray** that all your words and your treatment of other people will honor your Creator, who created all people in His image.
- **Pray** for all church members to realize that when they criticize a person, they are actually criticizing God who created mankind in His image.

*“God has marked every murmuring thought and word and feeling. Heaven is insulted by such an exhibition of weakness and lack of devotion to the cause of God.”*

Testimonies for the Church, Volume 1, Page 376

## Day 5

### Romans 12:19 (NKJV)

Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.

- **Pray** for God to vindicate you as you choose not to retaliate when you are treated badly.
- **Pray** for God to take whatever actions He sees necessary to solve the wrongs in your church.

*“If you are annoyed or threatened in the streets by quarrelsome boys, do not retaliate. It is truly noble to forgive and pass over a wrong; but it is mean and cowardly to revenge an injury. Let me entreat you to be above everything like engaging in a dispute, or speaking disrespectfully or sneeringly of those who annoy you, and do not respect themselves enough to behave properly. Such boys are to be pitied. They have but little happiness.”*

An Appeal to the Youth, Page 65

## Day 6

### James 4:11 (NKJV)

Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

- **Pray** for God to change your thoughts so that you think and speak about people the way that God thinks and speaks about them.
- **Pray** for all evil speaking and judgmental attitudes to be removed from your church.

*“Men may speak fluently upon doctrines, and may express strong faith in theories, but do they possess Christlike meekness and love? A spirit contrary to the love, humility, meekness, and gentleness of Christ denies him, whatever may be the profession. We deny Christ when we speak evil one of another. We deny him in foolish talking, in jesting and joking. We deny him when we have a selfish spirit, criticising our brethren.”*

Testimonies on Sabbath-School Work, Page 27

## Day 7

### Proverbs 20:19 (NIV)

A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid anyone who talks too much.

- **Pray** for God to make it clear to you if there are any conversations he wishes for you to avoid.
- **Pray** that your church will be a safe place that builds trust and keeps confidence.

*“An earnest effort should be made in every church to put away evilspeaking and a censorious spirit as among the sins productive of the greatest evils in the church. Severity and faultfinding must be rebuked as the workings of Satan. Mutual love and confidence must be encouraged and strengthened in the members of the church. Let all, in the fear of God and with love to their brethren, close their ears to gossip and censure. Direct the talebearer to the teachings of God's word. Bid him obey the Scriptures and carry his complaints directly to those whom he thinks in error. This united action would bring a flood of light into the church and close the door to a flood of evil. Thus God would be glorified, and many souls would be saved.”*

Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5, Page 609

## Day 8

### Hebrews 10:24-25 (NKJV)

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

- **Pray** for God to give you sweet words that will encourage people when you attend church services.
- **Pray** that your church's worship services will be free from gossip.

*“There are some who make a practice of gathering up the idle tales of gossip and bringing them before the people who have assembled to worship God. The words of some are as bitter as gall; they are ever ready to repeat and exaggerate reports that will increase bitterness and contention. If difficulties arise between church members, the parties that are involved should in all humility seek for a reconciliation, but let not the church be made a field of contention. Our gatherings to worship God are in no case to be spoiled by the discussion of gossip; for this would leave a disagreeable impression upon the minds of those present.”*

Letter 281, 1905

*50 Days of Praying Against Criticism*

## Day 9

### 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 (NIV)

For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

- **Pray** for God to use you today to provide encouragement to someone who needs building up.
- **Pray** for God to make your church a loving community that builds up all people.

*“As members of the heavenly family, we should help and strengthen each other. There is a heaven to win.”*

Manuscript 100, 1901

## Day 10

### Proverbs 27:5-6 (KJV)

Open rebuke is better than secret love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

- **Pray** for God to give you humility and conviction so that you will be willing to accept an honest rebuke when you are in the wrong.
- **Pray** for God to remove all flattery and deception from your church.

*“Our communications to one another should never savor of flattery, or deception, but should always be in truth and righteousness. Then and then only can one fulfill the work God has given him to do.”*

Letter 65, 1896

## Day 11

### James 3:3-6 (NIV)

When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

- **Pray** for God to guide every word you speak.
- **Pray** for your church to be steered by the Holy Spirit, not by people's slander.

*“You need a fresh conversion every day. Die daily to self, keep your tongue as with a bridle, control your words, cease your murmurings and complaints, let not one word of censure escape your lips. If this requires a great effort, make it; you will be repaid in so doing.”*

Testimonies for the Church, Volume 1, Page 698

## Day 12

### Colossians 3:13 (NIV)

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

- **Pray** for God to give you a forgiving heart instead of a critical heart.
- **Pray** for your church to deal with grievances in a Biblical way.

*“How patiently should we bear with the faults and errors of our brethren, when we remember how great are our own failings in the sight of God. How can we pray to our Heavenly Father, ‘Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors,’ if we are denunciatory, resentful, exacting in our treatment of others? God would have us more kind, more loving and lovable, less critical and suspicious. O that we all might have the Spirit of Christ, and know how to deal with our brethren and neighbors!”*

The Review and Herald, February 24, 1891

## Day 13

### 1 Peter 4:9 (NKJV)

Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.

- **Pray** for God to give you opportunities to be hospitable to people who need encouragement.
- **Pray** for your church to be a hospitable church.

*“Even among those who profess to be Christians, true hospitality is little exercised. Among our own people the opportunity of showing hospitality is not regarded as it should be, as a privilege and blessing. There is altogether too little sociability, too little of a disposition to make room for two or three more at the family board, without embarrassment or parade. Some plead that ‘it is too much trouble.’ It would not be if you would say: ‘We have made no special preparation, but you are welcome to what we have.’ By the unexpected guest a welcome is appreciated far more than is the most elaborate preparation.”*

The Review and Herald, April 20, 1886

## Day 14

### 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV)

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

- **Pray** for God to provide you with a way of escape every time you are tempted to slander or criticize someone.
- **Pray** for God to deliver all church members from the temptation to speak evil of others.

*“When you are tempted to speak cross words, pray for grace to resist the temptation.”*

Child Guidance, Page 551

## Day 15

### Proverbs 20:22 (NKJV)

Do not say, "I will recompense evil"; Wait for the Lord, and He will save you.

- **Pray** for God to give you patience as you wait for Him to vindicate you.
- **Pray** for your all your church members to rely on God to reveal truth and recompense evil.

*"They who will vindicate themselves as always right are in a deception and delusion of the enemy, for they become hopelessly, helplessly wrong; helplessly because they will not be convinced. They reject all advice that would set the mind right. Hopelessly because there is a denial of the necessity of every reproof or counsel."*

Letter 65, 1896

## Day 16

### Psalm 142:1-2 (NKJV)

I cry out to the Lord with my voice; With my voice to the Lord I make my supplication. I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare before Him my trouble.

- **Pray** to God, bringing all your complaints and troubles to God instead of bringing your complaints and troubles to people.
- **Pray** for your all your church to be blessed as members take their complaints directly to God.

*“Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before God. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him. He who numbers the hairs of your head is not indifferent to the wants of His children. ‘The Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.’ James 5:11. His heart of love is touched by our sorrows and even by our utterances of them. Take to Him everything that perplexes the mind. Nothing is too great for Him to bear, for He holds up worlds, He rules over all the affairs of the universe.”*

Steps to Christ, Page 100

## Day 17

### 1 Corinthians 13:1 (NKJV)

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

- **Pray** for God to use you to give you the right words so that you express the love of Christ in every conversation.
- **Pray** for your church to have a heart of love for everyone.

*“The badge of Christianity is not an outward sign, not the wearing of a cross or a crown, but it is that which reveals the union of man with God. By the power of His grace manifested in the transformation of character the world is to be convinced that God has sent His Son as its Redeemer. No other influence that can surround the human soul has such power as the influence of an unselfish life. The strongest argument in favor of the gospel is a loving and lovable Christian.”*

Manuscript 100, 1901

## Day 18

### James 2:4 (NIV)

Have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

- **Pray** for God to reveal to you any prejudices that may be causing you to think wrongly about other people.
- **Pray** for God to remove all racism, sexism, classism, ageism, favoritism, cliques and all other forms of discrimination from your church.

*“No distinction on account of nationality, race, or caste, is recognized by God. He is the Maker of all mankind. All men are of one family by creation, and all are one through redemption. Christ came to demolish every wall of partition, to throw open every compartment of the temple, that every soul may have free access to God.”*

Christ's Object Lessons, Page 386

## Day 19

### Galatians 5:15 (NIV)

If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

- **Pray** for God to give you grace to treat everyone with kindness..
- **Pray** for God to guard your church from devouring itself.

*“We think with horror of the cannibal who feasts on the still warm and trembling flesh of his victim; but are the results of even this practice more terrible than are the agony and ruin caused by misrepresenting motive, blackening reputation, dissecting character?”*

Education, Page 235

## Day 20

### **Proverbs 17:22 (NKJV)**

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

- **Pray** for God to give you a merry heart instead of a critical attitude.
- **Pray** for your church to be healed through the medicine of happiness.

*“Faith in God's love and overruling providence lightens the burdens of anxiety and care. It fills the heart with joy and contentment in the highest or the lowliest lot. Religion tends directly to promote health, to lengthen life, and to heighten our enjoyment of all its blessings. It opens to the soul a never-failing fountain of happiness.”*

Patriarchs and Prophets, Page 600

## Day 21

### Galatians 6:1 (NKJV)

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

- **Pray** for God to give you a spirit of gentleness toward those who have fallen.
- **Pray** for God to give your church leaders wisdom and grace when dealing with erring church members.

*“The original word translated ‘restore,’ means to set in joint, as a dislocated bone. Efforts should be made to bring him to himself, by convincing him of his sin and error, that he may not, like a limb hopelessly diseased, be severed from the body. He is to be loved, because Christ loved us in our weakness and errors. There should be no triumphing in a brother's fall; but in meekness, in the fear of God, in love for his soul, we should seek to save him from ruin.”*

Gospel Workers (1892), Page 398

## Day 22

### Proverbs 26:20 (NIV)

Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down.

- **Pray** for God to use you to interrupt the cycle of gossip.
- **Pray** for all gossip and quarrels in the church to end.

*“The ears must not be defiled by listening to any gossip that faultfinding ones would have us hear, for I not only cause them to sin in allowing them to talk of others’ faults, but I sin myself in listening to them. I can prevent much evil speaking in thus having ears consecrated to God. I can say before the evil is done, ‘Let us pray,’ then ask God to enlighten both our minds to understand our true relation to one another and our true relation to God.”*

Manuscript Releases, Volume 21, Number 1564

## Day 23

### Galatians 5:22-23 (NKJV)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

- **Pray** for God to give you love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and especially self-control.
- **Pray** for the fruit of the Spirit to be manifested in your church.

*“By trying to correct evil in a hasty, cross spirit, two evils will be created instead of correcting one. Mutual support is essential. It is the fruit of the Spirit which grows upon the Christian tree. A radical conversion must take place as regards the manner in which the various minds are to be dealt with.”*

The Upward Look, Page 59

## Day 24

### Philippians 2:1-3 (KJV)

If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

- **Pray** for God to remove all strife and vainglory from your life and to replace all selfishness with love.
- **Pray** for your church to be united by love and filled with joy through the fellowship of the Spirit.

*“Strive earnestly for unity. Pray for it, work for it. It will bring spiritual health, elevation of thought, nobility of character, heavenly-mindedness, enabling you to overcome selfishness and evil surmisings, and to be more than conquerors through Him that loved you and gave Himself for you. Crucify self; esteem others better than yourselves. Thus you will be brought into oneness with Christ.”*

Counsels for the Church, Page 290

## Day 25

### Romans 15:1-2 (ESV)

We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

- **Pray** for God to give you patience, gentleness and forgiveness for those who are weak and have fallen.
- **Pray** for your church to build up the weak, instead of criticizing those who are struggling.

*“Let all who are in error be treated with the gentleness of Christ. If those for whom you labor do not immediately grasp the truth, do not censure, do not criticize or condemn. Remember that you are to represent Christ in His meekness and gentleness and love.”*

Gospel Workers (1915), Page 372

## Day 26

### 1 John 4:20 (NKJV)

If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

- **Pray** for God to remove all lies and distorted thoughts about people from your mind.
- **Pray** for God to give everyone in your church brotherly love for each other.

*“In the church of God today brotherly love is sadly lacking. Many who profess to love the Saviour do not love one another. Unbelievers are watching to see if the faith of professed Christians is exerting a sanctifying influence upon their lives; and they are quick to discern the defects in character, the inconsistencies in action. Let Christians not make it possible for the enemy to point to them and say, Behold how these people, standing under the banner of Christ, hate one another.”*

The Acts of the Apostles, Page 550

## Day 27

### **Proverbs 14:15 (KJV)**

The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.

- **Pray** for discernment so that you will not believe every rumor that you hear.
- **Pray** for your church to investigate matters before spreading false reports.

*“False reports will be circulated, and some will be taken in this snare. They will believe these rumors and in their turn will repeat them, and thus a link will be formed connecting them with the archdeceiver.”*

Counsels for the Church, Page 344

## Day 28

### **Romans 2:1 (NKJV)**

Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.

- **Pray** for God to show you your own faults and to reveal to you the worst of your case.
- **Pray** for God to remove all excuses, condemnation, judgementalism and hypocrisy from your church.

*“He who takes upon himself the work of judging and criticizing others, lays himself open to the same degree of judgment and criticism. Those who are ready to condemn their brethren, would do well to examine their own works and character. Such an examination, honestly made, will reveal the fact that they, too, have defects of character, and have made grave blunders in their work.”*

The Review and Herald, September 14, 1905

## Day 29

### 1 Timothy 5:19 (NKJV)

Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses.

- **Pray** for God to prevent you entertaining any harmful thoughts or words against your pastor and other church leaders.
- **Pray** for God to protect your pastor and other church leaders from false allegations.

*“You have no right to find fault with those who do not believe as you do. You are not to criticise the minister who is sent to you, and say he is too liberal, or he is at fault in this or that, if he is preaching the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. No matter what you may think, do not allow your tongue to utter condemnation of that which you do not understand. Do not sow the seed of unbelief and discord.”*

The Review and Herald, April 26, 1892

## Day 30

### Proverbs 18:17 (NIV)

In a lawsuit the first to speak seems right,  
until someone comes forward and cross-examines.

- **Pray** for God to show you both sides of every story and to reveal the truth from His prospective.
- **Pray** for your church to respond to all allegations with fairness and justice.

*“Some of the students return home with murmuring and complaints, and parents and members of the church give an attentive ear to their exaggerated, one-sided statements. They would do well to consider that there are two sides to the story; but instead, they allow these garbled reports to build up a barrier between them and the college. They then begin to express fears, questionings, and suspicions in regard to the way the college is conducted. Such an influence does great harm. The words of dissatisfaction spread like a contagious disease, and the impression made upon minds is hard to efface. The story enlarges with every repetition, until it becomes of gigantic proportions, when investigation would reveal the fact that there was no fault with teachers or professors.”*

Counsels for the Church, Page 204

## Day 31

### Matthew 5:21-22 (NKJV)

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire.”

- **Pray** for God to protect your emotions so that you never react rashly out of anger.
- **Pray** for your church to be an emotionally safe place.

*“The spirit of hatred and revenge originated with Satan, and it led him to put to death the Son of God. Whoever cherishes malice or unkindness is cherishing the same spirit, and its fruit will be unto death. In the revengeful thought the evil deed lies enfolded, as the plant in the seed.”*

Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, Page 56

## Day 32

### **Romans 14:1 (NIV)**

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters.

- **Pray** for God to guard you from entering into arguments and quarrels.
- **Pray** for your church to be an emotionally safe place where people are encouraged and their faith is strengthened.

*“You need to consider that others have just as good a right to think and have an opinion of their own as you have; that if all were just like you, and did as you do, there would be a very sad state of things in a short time.”*

Manuscript Releases, Volume 15, Number 1167

## Day 33

### James 5:16 (NKJV)

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

- **Pray** for God to forgive you for anytime you have criticized others and confess your spirit of criticism to the church.
- **Pray** for God to heal your church as church members repent and turn away from criticism.

*“You have a duty to do to confess your own unchristian conduct. May the Lord move upon the hearts of the individual members of the church until His transforming grace shall be revealed in the life and the character. Then when you assemble together, it will not be to criticize one another, but to talk of Jesus and His love.”*

Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5, Page 608

## Day 34

### **Matthew 7:3 (NKJV)**

And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?

- **Pray** for God to reveal to you if any of your thoughts, words or actions are hurtful to others.
- **Pray** for God to remove all hypocrisy from your church.

*“Every man has his peculiar defects of character. One may be free from the weakness which he sees in his brother, yet he may at the same time have faults which are far more grievous in the sight of God. This unfeeling criticism of one another is wholly satanic.”*

Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5, Page 35

## Day 35

### **Psalm 19:14 (KJV)**

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.

- **Pray** this Bible text on behalf of yourself.
- **Pray** this Bible text on behalf of your church.

*“Remember that if you speak cross words to fellow church members, you would speak the same kinds of words in heaven, were you permitted to enter there. But you never will unless you change.”*

Manuscript 21, 1903

## Day 36

### Philippians 2:14 (KJV)

Do all things without murmurings and disputings.

- **Pray** for God to put sweet words into your mouth that will encourage people and draw them to Jesus Christ.
- **Pray** for God to build up your church by influencing all the conversations of the church members.

*“Your self-pity is an injury to you; you sympathize with yourself, feel that you are not esteemed as you should be, that your work is altogether too hard, and your best efforts are unappreciated. These feelings are the result of a spiritual disease which can be cured only through faith in Christ. The temptation seizes you when you are weary or perplexed; but when the first symptoms appear, and the enemy works to make you grumble and murmur, look unto Jesus, trust in your Saviour. This is the only cure for this spiritual malaria.”*

Letter 10, 1894

## Day 37

### 1 Timothy 5:17 (NKJV)

Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.

- **Pray** for God to give you opportunities to serve and honor your pastor and other church leaders.
- **Pray** for God to protect your church's pastor and other leaders from slander.

*“The ministers who are laborers together with God are to be respected, honored, and beloved.”*

The Review and Herald, October 10, 1893

## Day 38

### Proverbs 15:1-2 (KJV)

A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.

- **Pray** for God to give you the right attitude when dealing with angry people.
- **Pray** for God to remove all grievous words and foolish talk from your church.

*“When discouraging words are spoken to you, do not reply unless you can return a pleasant answer. When you are tried and tempted by unkind words, do not retaliate. Say to yourself, ‘I will not disappoint my Saviour.’”*

The Review and Herald, April 7, 1904

## Day 39

### James 1:26 (NKJV)

If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

- **Pray** for God to remove all self-deception from your heart.
- **Pray** for your church to be Christlike, not just religious.

*“Those who profess to be disciples of Christ, while in works they deny him, are serving Satan in disguise, robing themselves in the garments of righteousness to conceal a worldly, selfish, unregenerate nature. Their profession presents a false light to the world. In the field, in the workshop, in the family circle, in the church, they reveal the sad fact that their religion consists in hollow formalism. They are constantly exerting an influence contrary to true godliness.”*

The Review and Herald, September 6, 1881

## Day 40

### Revelation 14:1, 5 (KJV)

And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads... And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

- **Pray** for God to remove all guile from your mouth.
- **Pray** for God to prepare all the members of your church to be found worthy by God's grace to be part of the 144,000.

*“We may behold Christ to good purpose. We may safely look to him; for he is all-wise. As we look to him and think of him, he will be formed within, the hope of glory. Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand.”*

The Review and Herald, March 9, 1905

## Day 41

### Hebrews 13:17 (NIV)

Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

- **Pray** for God to give you confidence in those He has placed in church leadership.
- **Pray** for your church to make your pastor's work a joy and not a burden.

*“Reverence should be shown for God's representatives—for ministers, teachers, and parents, who are called to speak and act in His stead. In the respect shown them, God is honored.”*

Prophets and Kings, Page 237

## Day 42

### John 3:17 (NKJV)

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

- **Thank** God for saving you instead of condemning you.
- **Pray** for your church to be an agency for salvation, not an agency for condemnation.

*“We are not to condemn others; this is not our work; but we should love one another and pray for one another.”*

Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5, Page 345

## Day 43

### Proverbs 22:10 (ESV)

Drive out a scoffer, and strife will go out, and quarreling and abuse will cease.

- **Pray** for God to give you eyes to recognize all forms of abuse and wisdom to deal with those who are quarrelsome.
- **Pray** for God to give your church wisdom and tact when those who are stirring up trouble in the church need to be rebuked or removed.

*“When a person comes to a minister or to men in positions of trust with complaints against a brother or a sister, let the minister ask, ‘Have you complied with the rules our Saviour has given?’ And if he has failed to carry out any particular of this instruction, do not listen to a word of his complaint. In the name and Spirit of Jesus, refuse to take up a report against your brother or your sister in the faith. If members of the church go contrary to these rules, they make themselves subjects for church discipline, and should be under the censure of the church.”*

The Review and Herald, April 16, 1895

## Day 44

### Deuteronomy 19:15 (NKJV)

One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.

- **Pray** for God to remove from your mind any false allegations or rumors that may have wrongly influenced you against others.
- **Pray** for God to stop all false allegations and rumors in your church.

*“Satan is constantly seeking to introduce distrust, alienation, and malice among God's people. We shall often be tempted to feel that our rights are invaded, even when there is no real cause for such feelings. Those whose love for self is stronger than their love for Christ and His cause will place their own interests first and will resort to almost any expedient to guard and maintain them.”*

The Acts of the Apostles, Page 305

## Day 45

### **Matthew 7:12 (KJV)**

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

- **Pray** for God to give you grace to treat other people the way you wish to be treated.
- **Pray** for your church, that all members will follow the Golden Rule.

*“If real politeness were practiced by all the followers of Christ, if obedience to the golden rule were made one of the corner-stones of Christian character, we would see fewer church-trials, less hardness and animosity between brethren. There would be no harsh, thoughtless words, no strife for the highest place.”*

The Signs of the Times July 1, 1886

## Day 46

### Exodus 23:1 (NKJV)

You shall not circulate a false report. Do not put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.

- **Pray** for God to reveal to you any form of gossip that you may be involved in.
- **Pray** for all rumors and false reports within your church to be stopped.

*“The thoughtless, unkind words that are spoken grow with every repetition. One and another adds a word, until the false report assumes large proportions. Great injustice is done. By their unrighteous suspicions and unrighteous judgments the talebearers hurt their own experience and sow the seeds of discord in the church. If they could see things as God sees them they would change their attitude. They would realize how they have neglected the work He has given them to do as they have found fault with their brethren and sisters.”*

Testimonies for the Church, Volume 8, Page 83

## Day 47

### Matthew 26:41 (NKJV)

Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

- **Pray** for God to give you grace and strength to overcome every temptation.
- **Pray** for your church to become a house of prayer and a fortress against temptation.

*“We need keen, sanctified perception. This perception is not to be used in criticizing and condemning one another, but in discerning the signs of the times. We are to keep our hearts with all diligence, that we may not make shipwreck of faith. Those who neglect to watch and pray, in these days of peril; those who neglect to unite with their brethren in seeking the Lord, but who stand aloof from God's appointed agencies in the church, are in grave danger of strengthening themselves in their own way, following the impulses of their own minds, and refusing to heed the admonitions of the Lord.”*

The Review and Herald, July 7, 1910

## Day 48

### John 13:35 (NKJV)

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

- **Pray** for God to lead you into full discipleship.
- **Pray** for your church members to have such sweet love for one another that your community will notice and be drawn to Christ.

*“Those whose hearts are filled with the love of Christ will love one another as brethren. They will be pitiful and courteous in their dealings with those who were so precious in God’s sight that He gave His only begotten Son for their redemption. We should be careful how we treat the souls for whom Christ has died. Let us not forget that we are to show to the church and the world the sign of discipleship. The love of Christ, revealed in the life, is a strong argument in favor of genuine conversion.”*

Letter 13, 1905

## Day 49

### **Proverbs 11:13 (NKJV)**

A talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.

- **Pray** for God to send angels to cover your mouth when you are about to say something that should not be said.
- **Pray** for your church, that it will conceal what should remain secret without covering up what needs to be exposed..

*“Do not repeat things which you have heard to the injury of another.”*

An Appeal to the Youth, Page 66

## Day 50

### **Ephesians 4:31-32 (NKJV)**

Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

- **Pray** for God to remove all wrath, anger, clamor and evil speaking from your life and to replace all malice with kindness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness.
- **Pray** for your church to be known throughout your community for its kindness, tenderheartedness and forgiveness.

*“Those who receive wisdom from God will reveal patience and charity and an integrity of character which cannot be bought or sold. They are controlled by the pure principles of Christianity. This makes them sound in the faith, and brings health to the soul. A healthy church is composed of healthy Christians, who eat Christ’s flesh and drink His blood.”*

Letter 130, 1901

