

THE PRAYER OF FAITH

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

The Prayer of Faith Illustrated

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

What the Prayer of Faith Can Accomplish

Brings Blessings Otherwise Unobtainable

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

When Praying in the Family

22 “In the church at home the children are to learn to pray and to trust in God. Teach them to repeat
23 God's law. ... Come in humility, with a heart full of tenderness, and with a sense of the temptations
24 and dangers before yourselves and your children; by faith bind them to the altar, entreating for them
25 the care of the Lord. Train the children to offer their simple words of prayer. Tell them that God
26 delights to have them call upon Him.

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

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

When Facing Difficulties

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

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

When Praying For the Sick

56 “His disciples in this time are to pray for the sick as verily as His disciples of old prayed. And
57 recoveries will follow, for “the prayer of faith shall save the sick.” James 5:15. We need the Holy

58 Spirit's power, the calm assurance of faith that can claim God's promises." *Review and Herald*, June
59 9, 1904.

60

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

67

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

83

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

91

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

101

102 *When Witnessing*

103

104 "Let your prayers follow the servants of God like sharp sickles in the harvest field. God will hear the
105 earnest entreaties of his people. The prayer of faith will move the arm of God." *Signs of the Times*,
106 September 4, 1879.

107

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

112

113 "Let every one who give of his means, also send up his prayers daily that it may bring souls to the
114 foot of the cross. And in every church, once a week at least, let there be a season set apart for praying
115 for this work. Let all be united, not mingling in their petitions other wants, such as blessings for the
116 sick and needy, but having a specific object for their faith and entreaties. Brethren, move high heaven
117 by your prayers for God to work with the efforts of his servants. The Lord has agencies which he will

118 put in operation in answer to the importunate prayers of faith. He will fulfill his word, "Lo, I am with
119 you alway, even unto the end of the world." *Review and Herald*, October 12, 1886 par. 14

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121

122 *When Resisting Satan*

123

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

131 Satan cannot endure to have his powerful rival appealed to, for he fears and trembles before His
132 strength and majesty. At the sound of fervent prayer, Satan's whole host trembles. He continues to
133 call legions of evil angels to accomplish his object. And when angels, all-powerful, clothed with the
134 armory of heaven, come to the help of the fainting, pursued soul, Satan and his host fall back, well
135 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 spiritualism and the danger of
138 coming under its influence. Many tamper with it merely to gratify their curiosity. They have no real
139 faith in it and would be filled with horror at the thought of yielding themselves to the spirits' control.
140 But they venture upon the forbidden ground, and the mighty destroyer exercises his power upon them
141 against their will. Let them once be induced to submit their minds to his direction, and he holds them
142 captive. It is impossible, in their own strength, to break away from the bewitching, alluring spell.
143 Nothing but the power of God, granted in answer to the earnest prayer of faith, can deliver these
144 ensnared souls." *Great Controversy*, p. 558.2.

145

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

151

152 "Pray much. Prayer is the life of the soul. The prayer of faith is the weapon by which we may
153 successfully resist every assault of the enemy." *Signs of the Times*, August 24, 1904 par. 9.

154

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

164

165 "There are many who, though striving to obey God's commandments, have little peace or joy. This
166 lack in their experience is the result of a failure to exercise faith. They walk as it were in a salt land, a
167 parched wilderness. They claim little, when they might claim much; for there is no limit to the
168 promises of God. Such ones do not correctly represent the sanctification that comes through
169 obedience to the truth. The Lord would have all His sons and daughters happy, peaceful, and
170 obedient. Through the exercise of faith the believer comes into possession of these blessings.
171 Through faith, every deficiency of character may be supplied, every defilement cleansed, every fault
172 corrected, every excellence developed. Prayer is heaven's ordained means of success in the conflict
173 with sin and the development of Christian character. The divine influences that come in answer to the
174 prayer of faith will accomplish in the soul of the suppliant all for which he pleads. For the pardon of
175 sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christ-like temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift
176 He has promised, we may ask; and the promise is, "Ye shall receive." *The Acts of the Apostles*, p.
177 564.

178

180

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

186

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

198

199 “In every department of the cause of God, consecrated, God-fearing, willing helpers are needed; men
 200 of brains, men of intellect, who will go forth as ministers, canvassers, and colporteurs. Brethren and
 201 sisters, let the earnest prayer of faith ascend to God that He will raise up laborers, and send them into
 202 the harvest field; for the harvest is great, and the laborers are few.” *Review and Herald*, Nov. 20,
 203 1883.

204

205 What is the Prayer of Faith?

206

207 “A definite request... made in definite faith, for a definite answer.” James Fraser

208

209 “Prayer and faith are closely allied, and they need to be studied together. In the prayer of faith there is
 210 a divine science; it is a science that everyone who would make his lifework a success must
 211 understand. Christ says, “What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them,
 212 and ye shall have them.” Mark 11:24. He makes it plain that our asking must be according to God's
 213 will; we must ask for the things that He has promised, and whatever we receive must be used in doing
 214 His will. The conditions met, the promise is unequivocal.” *Education*, p. 257.

215

216 “The prayer of faith is never lost; but to claim that it will be always answered in the very way and for
 217 the particular thing we have expected is presumption.” *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 231.

218

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

226

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

233

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

237

238 “The prayer of faith is the key that unlocks the treasury of heaven. As we commit our souls to God,
 239 let us remember that He holds Himself responsible to hear and answer our supplications. He invites

240 us to come to Him, and He bestows on us His best and choicest gifts—gifts that will supply our great
241 need. He loves to help us. Let us trust in His wisdom and His power. Oh, what faith we should have!
242 Oh, what peace and comfort we should enjoy! Open your heart to the Spirit of God. Then the Lord
243 will work through you and bless your labors.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 8, p. 195, 196.

244

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

251 Those who are unwilling to forsake every sin and to seek earnestly for God's blessing, will not
252 obtain it. But all who will lay hold of God's promises as did Jacob, and be as earnest and persevering
253 as he was, will succeed as he succeeded. “Shall not God avenge His own elect, which cry day and
254 night unto Him, though He bear long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily.” Luke
255 18:7, 8. *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 203.2.

256

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

272

273 “Through personal effort joined with the prayer of faith, the soul is trained. Day by day the character
274 grows into the likeness of Christ; and finally, instead of being the sport of circumstances, instead of
275 indulging selfishness and being carried away by light and trifling conversation, the man is master of
276 his thoughts and words. It may cost a severe conflict to overcome habits which have been long
277 indulged, but we may triumph through the grace of Christ.” *Review and Herald*, June 10, 1884 par.
278 10.

279

280 “The wisdom of God, as displayed in the methods and instrumentalities employed to carry forward
281 his work, is foolishness to the boastful and self-confident, because they know not the mystery of
282 godliness. The Lord would teach his people at the present day the lesson of simple dependence upon
283 that mighty arm which can overthrow the strongholds of Satan. The prayer of faith, offered by God's
284 humble, obedient, trusting people, will bring them the victory.” *Signs of the Times*, July 21, 1881 par.
285 9.

286

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

297

298 “God will hear the prayer of faith; but the sincerity of our prayers will be made manifest in our
299 harmony with the great moral standard which will test every man's character. We need to open our
300 hearts to the influence of the Spirit, and to realize its transforming power. The reason why you do not

301 receive more of the saving help of God is that the channel of communication between Heaven and
302 your own souls is clogged by worldliness, love of display, and desire for supremacy....” *Gospel*
303 *Workers* (1892 edition), p. 452.1

304

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

312

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

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