



PRAYING THROUGH THE SANCTUARY

A GUIDE FOR UNITED STUDY AND PRAYER

Praying Through the Sanctuary

*A Guide for United
Bible Study and Prayer*

How It All Began

When I was eleven, my parents attended a morning watch led by a pastor from another church. The meeting started at three in the morning and lasted until about seven or eight. Those few hours of Bible study and prayer was an important landmark in the life of our family.

I remember the excitement of my father when he returned home and told the brethren in the church about the things he had heard. Despite being a fourth-generation Adventist, he had never understood the message of the sanctuary. Now for the first time, he said, he understood the plan of salvation and what Christ had done for him. Doctrines that had seemed disparate and disconnected before, were now full of meaning, all having their place in the great plan of salvation.

Soon my parents began to organize similar morning prayers in our home. On Friday evenings, brothers and sisters from the church would sleep over, and on Sabbath mornings we would gather early for study and united prayer. At the end of these meetings, everyone's faces beamed with joy and there was such a peaceful atmosphere. Even at breakfast, everyone was quiet, but happy, as if not wanting to interrupt that solemn and joyful spirit.

After breakfast we would drive to church, and the members who had attended the watch would excitedly tell others about the meetings. On Saturday evening, others would gather at our house for another morning of prayer. This was repeated several times over several weeks. It was the beginning of a spiritual awakening in our church.

Long before this, our church community had been split into two camps by a large internal conflict—issues that had been going on for years and that even the delegates sent by the Union had not

been able to resolve. At first, only people from one side came to the meetings. But slowly, people from the other side started to come, too.

As if by a miracle, the walls of separation began to be broken down by the persistent, heartfelt prayers. There were tears and genuine embraces. Brethren were able to wash each others' feet again. Differences, tensions, and grudges disappeared like frost in the warm sunlight.

That experience was a foretaste of the blessing that God longs to pour on His people at the end of time. True revivals and reformations have always taken place as a result of the study of the Holy Scriptures and communion with God.

There is power in the simple truths of God's Word. I have attended many prayer meetings, but the most blessed occasions were when prayer was interwoven with Bible study.

This material can be worked through individually or in groups, keeping in mind the following principles:

- A true revival will always be based on God's Word, the Bible.
- God's Word inspires our prayers.
- When we pray, the Holy Spirit has the opportunity to work in our hearts, impress biblical truth and bring repentance.
- Morning hours are usually the best time for such a meeting.

Then the mind is quiet and unaffected by the rush and tumult of the day.

- Praying by the sanctuary model is not a mystical experience; we should not try to experience some metaphysical or supernatural reality, bringing our consciousness away from our immediate surroundings. The sanctuary is a pedagogical tool: by going through a series of steps—in a short time and on a very small scale—, it offers a clearer understanding of the plan of salvation, which in reality is the process of a lifetime.

- When God's love is understood at the level of the heart, people's numbed sensibilities will be awakened. Weeping or spontaneous expressions of praise should not be condemned. The participants should feel free to express their feelings and emotions of repentance, love, peace, joy, or burden for those for whom they intercede.

- We must beware, however, of making the awakening of emotions the main purpose of our prayer meetings or the criteria for evaluating the success of a meeting. Some people will manifest stronger feelings and emotions than others. This is not necessarily a reflection of their spirituality and we should be wary of judging a person's state before God by the emotions they are experiencing at one particular moment. No one should feel guilty because they have prayed for the Holy Spirit and have not received some particular experience or emotion. The real test for receiving the Holy Spirit is not emotions, but a changed life.

“When the servants of God pray for His Spirit and blessing, it sometimes comes immediately; but it is not always then bestowed. At such times, faint not. Let your faith hold fast the promise that it will come. Let your trust be fully in God, and often that blessing will come when you need it most, and you will unexpectedly receive help from God when you are presenting the truth to unbelievers, and will be enabled to speak the word with clearness and power.” *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 121.2

May this material prove a blessing to many, is my hope and prayer. May the simple Gospel message of the Sanctuary bring us closer to each other, and to our Savior, who is waiting with longing desire to be with us and claim us as His own.

Raquel V.

Praying Through the Sanctuary

Ignorance brings darkness and confusion. Our thoughts are often confused; and this brings darkness to our minds.

Job 37:19

Show us what we should say unto him; for we cannot place ideas in order because of the darkness. (translated from Spanish version Reina-Valera 1960)

Even Christians experience darkness and confusion. The psalmist Asaph was confused as he beheld the prosperity of the wicked and the hard life of God's children:

Psalm 73:1-17

- 1 Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart.
- 2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.
- 3 For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
- 4 For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm.
- 5 They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men.
- 6 Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment.
- 7 Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish.

8 They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily.
9 They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.
10 Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them.
11 And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High?
12 Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.
13 Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency.
14 For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning.
15 If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children.
16 When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;
17 **Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.**

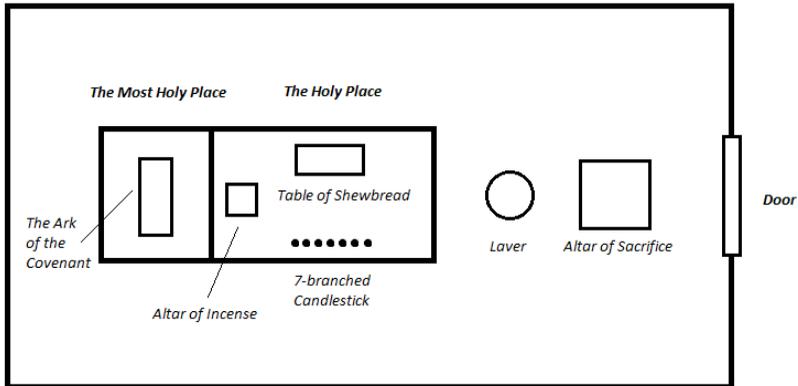
When he entered the sanctuary of God, he found answers to all his questions. The Sanctuary message brings clarity. It makes our Christian path clear. It shows us the way to God.

Psalm 77:13

Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?

A New and Living Way

The sanctuary is a very simple structure:



Above the mercy seat in the Most Holy Place was the Shekinah glory, indicating God's presence. Before the fall, man was with God and held direct communion with Him, with "no obscuring veil between" (PP 50.3).

When man fell, he lost the glory of God and became estranged from Him. All the lost people are outside the sanctuary, outside the court.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; [...]

Ezekiel 33:11

Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: [...]

God did not leave man to perish. He loved man so much that He personally reached out to him. Christ was one with the Father, sitting on the throne in the Most Holy Place. He left heaven and took on human flesh, so He could open a new and living way for us:

Hebrews 10:19-20

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

Jesus traveled the whole way from the Most Holy Place to the Door.

- He left His Father's throne (**Most Holy Place**)
- He took on human flesh (**Veil**, see Hebrews 10:19,20)
- He lived a holy life full of the Holy Spirit, Bible study, prayer, and service for others (**Holy Place**)
- He was baptized (**Laver**)
- He died on the cross (**Altar**)
- He became the door to salvation (**Door**, see John 10:7,9; 14:6)

Christ opened a “new and living way” for us. Our way back to God begins at the door. This journey back to God is divided into three main stages:

- Justification (**Altar and Laver**)
- Sanctification (**Holy Place**)
- Glorification (**Most Holy Place**)

Romans 6:22

But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God [*justification*], ye have your fruit unto holiness [*sanctification*], and the end everlasting life [*glorification*].

Early Writings, p. 78

I dreamed of seeing a temple to which many people were flocking. Only those who took refuge in that temple would be saved when time should close. All who remained outside would be forever lost. The multitudes without, who were going their various ways, were deriding and ridiculing those who were entering the temple, and told them that this plan of safety was a cunning deception, that, in fact, there was no danger whatever to avoid. They even laid hold of some to prevent them from hastening within the walls. EW 78.3

Fearing to be laughed at and ridiculed, I thought best to wait until the multitude were dispersed, or until I could enter unobserved by them. But the numbers increased instead of

diminishing, and fearful of being too late, I hastily left my home and pressed through the crowd. In my anxiety to reach the temple I did not notice or care for the throng that surrounded me. On entering the building, I saw that the vast temple was supported by one immense pillar, and to this was tied a Lamb all mangled and bleeding. We who were present seemed to know that this Lamb had been torn and bruised on our account. All who entered the temple must come before it and confess their sins.

The Sanctuary—an Evangelistic Tool

Every person on earth is somewhere on this journey. We may meet people with no religious interests, who are outside the door. Others are charmed by the love of Christ, at the altar of sacrifice. Others are struggling with surrender, at the laver, or serving God joyfully in the Holy Place. The sanctuary helps us evaluate ourselves correctly and see where we have "gaps" in our spiritual experience.

When we meet with any person with the purpose of sharing the Gospel, we should identify where that person is on this journey and help them with the next step. For example, it is useless to try to convince someone to accept the Sabbath (the Ten Commandments in the Most Holy Place) if they have not understood yet Christ's personal love for them (Altar) nor have surrendered their lives to Him (Laver).

The sanctuary is a diagnostic tool that equips us to help others. If we

know where they are, we can know what is their next step, their immediate need to advance in their journey towards God.

The Sanctuary in “Steps to Christ”

The book *Steps to Christ* is written according to the pattern of the Sanctuary.

Altar

Chapter 1—God's Love for Man

Chapter 2—The Sinner's Need of Christ

Chapter 3—Repentance

Chapter 4—Confession

Laver

Chapter 5—Consecration

Chapter 6—Faith and Acceptance

Chapter 7—The Test of Discipleship

Holy Place

Chapter 8—Growing Up Into Christ

Chapter 9—The Work and the Life

Chapter 10—A Knowledge of God [God's Word]

Chapter 11—The Privilege of Prayer

Chapter 12—What to Do with Doubt

Most Holy Place

Chapter 13—Rejoicing in the Lord

OUTSIDE THE COURT

Outside the court are people who are lost. The Holy Spirit works on their hearts continually. In order for a sinner to approach the door, he needs to accept in his heart three important truths:

1. He is a sinner.
2. He doesn't have a solution to his problem.
3. Only God has the solution.

John 16:8

And when he [the Comforter] is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

Heart-searching question: When was the last time you were so convicted of sin, that you felt the only just consequence for your sinfulness was eternal death—complete obliteration from existence?



Prayer outside the court

Offer a simple prayer to God for these three things in your life:

1. To understand, in a deeper way, that you are a sinner.
2. To understand that you cannot do anything to solve the problem of sin.
3. To understand that you need Christ.

THE DOOR

John 10:9

I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

Many people accept the truth that they are sinners and that they need Christ for salvation. They enter in through the door. However, many stay between the door and the altar their whole lives. They never have a personal encounter with Christ at the cross. They accept that Christ died for the world, but never really understand it in a personal way and therefore never experience true conversion of heart.

Sadly, this is the case of many church members, church administrators, and even pastors and leaders. These people are not hypocrites; they are sincere in their desire to follow God. They rejoice in the light coming from others who are further down the road, but never truly advance themselves.

What many people in our churches need today is a deep, personal understanding of what Christ did for them at the cross.

THE ALTAR OF SACRIFICE

Leviticus 4:27-29

27 And if any one of the common people sin through ignorance, while he doeth somewhat against any of the commandments of the Lord concerning things which ought not to be done, and be guilty;

28 Or if his sin, which he hath sinned, come to his knowledge: then he shall bring his offering, a kid of the goats, a female without blemish, for his sin which he hath sinned.

29 And he shall lay his hand upon the head of the sin offering, and slay the sin offering in the place of the burnt offering.

In ancient Israel, when the Holy Spirit convicted a man of sin, he brought a lamb or a young goat to the altar. On the altar was the fire, a symbol of the final punishment for guilt. Now, in front of the altar stood two beings: one guilty and one innocent. Justice required that the guilty die in the flames, and the innocent live.

The sinner would place his hands on the head of the innocent animal and confess his sin. In this way, through a simple act of confession and faith, the sinner's guilt was TRANSFERRED to the animal, and the animal's innocence was transferred to the sinner.

Like the lamb on the altar, Jesus took our place and died in our stead:

John 1:29

[...] Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Isaiah 53:4-7,11-12

4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

6 [...] the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

11 [...] by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

12 [...] he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

The Desire of Ages, p. 25

Christ was treated as we deserve, that we might be treated as He deserves. He was condemned for our sins, in which He had no share, that we might be justified by His righteousness, in which we had no share. He suffered the death which was

ours, that we might receive the life which was His. “With His stripes we are healed.”

When we confess our sins, they are transferred upon Christ. This happens by confession and simple faith. Christ imputes on us His own righteousness, in which we had no share. We cannot add anything to this righteousness. “All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6).

Christ, the Lamb, takes our place in virtue of His sacrifice on the cross, while we are as “a brand plucked out of the fire” (Zech. 3:2). After being justified, we become co-laborers with Christ to save others from the fire of judgment (Jude 23).

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Not of works, lest any man should boast.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

The Youth's Instructor, August 30, 1894

Faith is a very simple matter; it is confidence in God.

Signs of the Times, September 9, 1889

What is faith? It is simply taking God at his word; it is believing that God will do just as he has promised.

A Strange Symbol

John 3:14

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

A serpent is often used in the Bible to refer to Satan (Gen. 3:15; Rev. 12:9; 20:2). It is very strange that in a particular context, the Bible uses the same symbol to represent Christ. Why a serpent?

2 Corinthians 5:21

For **he hath made him to be sin for us**, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

This is no metaphorical language. Christ was verily made sin in our stead. At the cross, He took the sins of the whole world upon Himself.

David committed adultery, theft, and murder. He confessed his sin, and Christ took that sin upon Himself. He did not take those sins with two fingers, as if loath to be contaminated, and present them to the Father saying “Here are David’s sins.” He *became* sin and paid its penalty at the cross.

Every sin brings pain to the heart of God.

Education, p. 263

The cross is a revelation to our dull senses of the pain that, from its very inception, sin has brought to the heart of God. Every departure from the right, every deed of cruelty, every failure of humanity to reach His ideal, brings grief to Him.

Let us lift up the cross before the people. The sight of the cross will bring repentance, confession, and faith in Christ as their substitute.

John 12:32

And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

1 Corinthians 2:2

For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

Manuscript 49, 1898, par. 43

Hanging upon the cross, Christ was the gospel. Now we have a message, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world.” [John 1:29.] Will not our church members keep their eyes fixed on a crucified and risen Saviour, in whom their hopes of eternal life are centered? This is our message, our argument, our doctrine, our warning to the impenitent, our encouragement for the sorrowing, the hope for every believer. If we can awaken an interest in men’s minds that will cause them to fix their eyes on Christ, we may step aside, and ask them only to continue to fix their eyes upon the Lamb of God.



Prayer at the altar

- Ask for the Holy Spirit to convict you of specific sins in your life.
- Spend a few minutes in silence before God and allow Him to speak to your mind (Ps. 46:10).
- Confess specific sins. Private sins should be confessed privately to God, and sins that are public should be confessed in public.
- Ask God to forgive you through the merits of Christ’s blood.
- Believe that God hears and answers your prayer.
- Give thanks to God for His forgiveness.

Very often, God does not reveal all of our sins at once. It is not a one-time event. As we grow in our walk with God, our understanding of Christ's sacrifice will be enlarged. We will have an increasingly deeper perception of the grievousness of sin, and a correspondingly deeper experience of repentance.

When we are exposed to the Word of God, the Holy Spirit has the opportunity to convict us of sin. If we take time daily to study His requirements, we will often discover unfulfilled duties and other sins that we might unconsciously be guilty of.

As our minds are cleared, God will reveal to us sins that are more deeply rooted in the heart—sins that are complex and subtle, like pride and selfishness.

If we confess our sins and believe in Christ for their cleansing, He will take them away. A change will take place in our lives. Others will see the effects of justification in our characters.

For further study:

- The conversion experience of Martin Luther (*The Great Controversy*, chapter 7)
- The conversion experience of John Wesley (*The Great Controversy*, chapter 14)
- The conversion experience of Ellen White (*Life Sketches*, chapter 2 “Conversion”; *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, “My Conversion”, “Feelings of Despair”)

FRUITS AT THE ALTAR

There are specific signs that can be recognized in all who have met Christ personally at the cross.

1. Sensitiveness towards sin

If you sin one day, you will kneel beside your bed that evening and confess that specific sin. The next day it will be a little harder to step on your conscience and commit the same sin again, knowing that in the evening you must kneel again and confess your sin once more, thus bringing pain to the heart of God.

2. Gratitude

A forgiven sinner will feel gratitude towards God for His undeserved grace. (Luke 17:12-19)

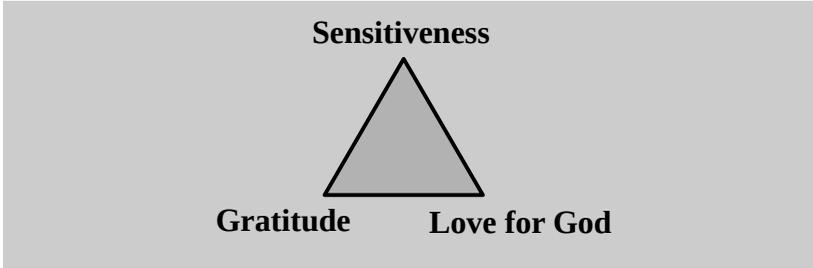
3. Love for God

Love will spring up in the heart of a man who has seen and understood God's great love for him. (1 John 4:19)

Luke 7:36-50

Mary Magdalene: Sensitiveness towards sin – Gratitude –
Love for God

Simon: No sensitiveness towards sin – No gratitude – No love
for God



4. Peace

Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

When we give up pride, the peace of God will fill our hearts. Pride brings toil and constant weariness. There is labor in seeking to be righteous in our own strength, through our own merits. But when we accept the perfect righteousness of Christ, we have peace.

5. Humility (victory over pride)

Matthew 11:28-29

28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

6. Not judging others

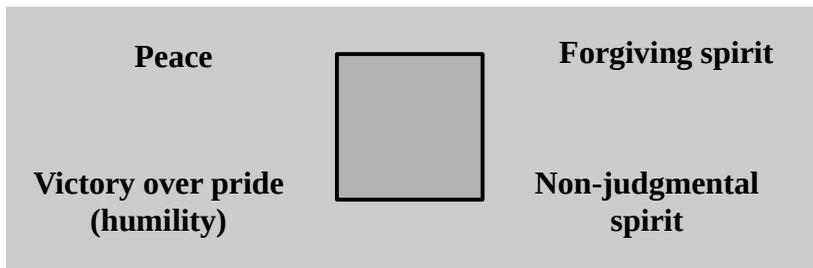
- Romans 14:10-13; Matthew 7:1-5.
- When we judge a person, we place ourselves in a position where we cannot help.
- We should show sensitiveness towards the sinner.
- Satan is the accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:10).
- We should not judge ourselves either (1 Cor. 4:3-4; 1 John 3:19-20).

1 Corinthians 4:3-4

I judge not mine own self... but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

7. Forgiving spirit

- Jesus removes any limit for forgiveness (Matt. 18:21-22).
- We forgive fully and completely, without holding grudges.
- We forgive ourselves also.



8. Giving of yourself

- Our greatest pleasure will be to spend and to be spent for others.

2 Corinthians 12:15

And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; [...]

1 Thessalonians 2:8

So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

9. Increased capacity to endure suffering

- We do not seek for it, but we will recognize its value.
- It gives us experience and tools to help others.

1 Peter 4:12-13

12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

10. Self-control

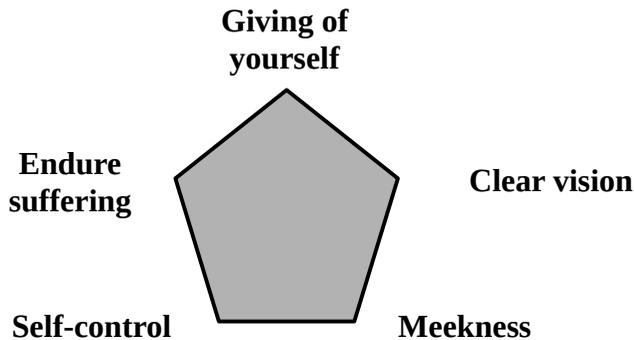
- Jesus exercised self-control when He was on the cross (Matt. 27:34).
- When we are tempted to give loose rein to temptation (anger, etc.), we remember that Christ on the cross controlled himself, and this gives us power to do the same.

11. Meekness

- Matthew 11:29
- Meekness is self-control and peace combined.

12. A clearer vision of the plan of salvation

- Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:1-22)



Steps to Christ, pp. 57, 59

A person may not be able to tell the exact time or place, or trace all the chain of circumstances in the process of conversion; but this does not prove him to be unconverted. Christ said to Nicodemus, “The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone that is born of the Spirit.” John 3:8. Like the wind, which is invisible, yet the effects of which are plainly seen and felt, is the Spirit of God in its work upon the human heart. That regenerating power, which no human eye can see, begets a new life in the soul; it

creates a new being in the image of God. While the work of the Spirit is silent and imperceptible, its effects are manifest. If the heart has been renewed by the Spirit of God, the life will bear witness to the fact. [...]

Duty becomes a delight, and sacrifice a pleasure. The path that before seemed shrouded in darkness, becomes bright with beams from the Sun of Righteousness.



Prayer for the fruits of the altar

1. Sensitiveness towards sin
2. Gratitude
3. Love for God
4. Peace
5. Humility
6. Non-judgmental spirit
7. Forgiving spirit
8. Giving of ourselves
9. Capacity to endure suffering
10. Self-control
11. Meekness
12. Clear vision of the plan of salvation

THE LAVER

Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

When we meet Christ at the cross, the next natural step will be a complete surrender of ourselves to him. This is symbolized by baptism. We die to self—surrendering our will—and ask God to transform it.

- Romans 6:3-6
- Galatians 3:26-27
- Colossians 3:3
- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Luke 9:23 (daily surrender)

In the new life, our greatest pleasure will be to do the will of God (Psalm 40:7-8). The Holy Spirit writes God's law on our hearts.

- Psalm 40:7-8
- Ezekiel 36:26-27; Jeremiah 31:33
- God's finger wrote the law on stone (Ex. 31:19).
- The Holy Spirit writes the law in our hearts (compare Matthew 12:28 and Luke 11:20).

Surrender is a crucial step. If this is not done, our previous experience with Jesus will not be effective. The rich young ruler is an example of someone who failed at this step (Mark 10:17-22).

Maybe God asks us to surrender a small thing, which may be an idol to us. Sometimes He asks us to surrender certain things that are not bad in themselves, but which tend to wean our affections from God.

Often there is a clash of wills between parents and children. This is often the case in our relationship with God. Our own will often clashes with His will. Surrender is painful, but once we surrender completely, there is no more conflict and we experience peace.

Testimonies, vol. 1, p. 133.2

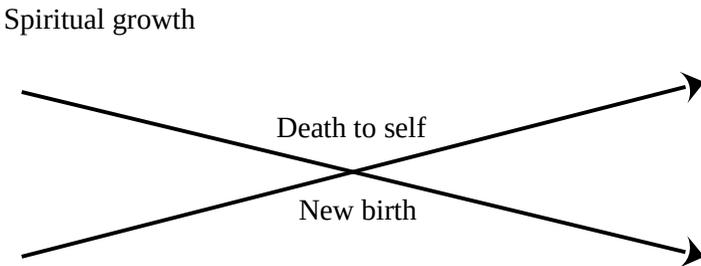
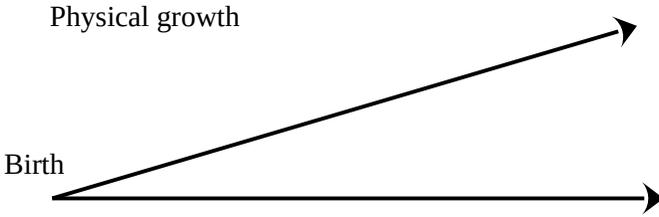
It is easy living after we are dead.

The surrender of the will is crucial to overcome addictions. At first, it is very painful. However, Christ is willing and able to take our will and change it, so that God's desires become our own.

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 159

No man can empty himself of self. We can only consent for Christ to accomplish the work. Then the language of the soul will be, Lord, take my heart; for I cannot give it. It is Thy property. Keep it pure, for I cannot keep it for Thee. Save me in spite of myself, my weak, unchristlike self. Mold me, fashion me, raise me into a pure and holy atmosphere, where the rich current of Thy love can flow through my soul.

It is not only at the beginning of the Christian life that this renunciation of self is to be made. At every advance step heavenward it is to be renewed.



Prayer at the laver

Surrender your life to God—plans for the future, career, personal aspirations, the desires of your heart. Ask God to reveal to you things that are not yet fully surrendered to him and other idols in your life.

Surrender at a deeper level

As we grow in Christ, God will stretch our faith to the extreme, teaching us deep surrender and trust. He might ask us to surrender the very promises and gifts He has given to us. We should be willing to lay all of His promises on the altar—willing not to receive the benefits that we've been promised.

The perfect example is Abraham. At the command of God he laid Isaac, the son of promise, on the altar. There are other such examples in the Bible of laying the promises of God on the altar of surrender (Hebrews 11:13,17-19). This was the experience of Job and of the Millerites in the autumn of 1844. It will also be the experience of those who will go through “the time of Jacob’s trouble,” who will choose to obey God despite their feelings of being forever lost.

God is the only One who can make us capable of this kind of trust. The experience of surrender will develop in us a deep, genuine love for Him—not only for His gifts and promises.

Surrender is death to self. It is choosing God simply out of love, without any selfish interest. It is abandoning oneself fully to God’s mighty arms of love, trusting that despite all appearances, He is always faithful and true.

God does not lie, and He will **always** fulfill His promises in some way or another. What we are really giving up is the way we think that they will be fulfilled. In Heaven, “the ways of Providence will be made clear... Where our finite minds discovered only confusion and broken promises, we shall see the most perfect and beautiful harmony.” (*Maranatha*, p. 321)

RESULTS OF SURRENDER

1. Power in Christ (Galatians 2:20)
2. Freedom (Psalm 107; Leviticus 14:4-7) – freedom from addictions or any habit that enslaves us

Leviticus 14:4-7

4 Then shall the priest command to take for him that is to be cleansed two birds alive...

5 And the priest shall command that one of the birds be killed in an earthen vessel over running water:

6 As for the living bird, he shall take it, and the cedar wood, and the scarlet, and the hyssop, and shall dip them and the living bird in the blood of the bird that was killed over the running water:

7 And he shall sprinkle upon him that is to be cleansed from the leprosy seven times, and shall pronounce him clean, and shall let the living bird loose into the open field.

3. Abundant life

John 10:10

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.



Prayer at the laver

1. Power in Christ
2. Freedom
3. Life abundant

THE HOLY PLACE

1. Living experience with God's Word (Table of Shewbread)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matthew 4:4• 1 Peter 1:23-25• John 5:39• John 6:48,51,63• John 15:3,7• Psalm 19:7-14• Exodus 16:16-18,21
(daily food) | <p>The Power of God's Word:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Genesis 1:3,11-12• Isaiah 55:10-11• Titus 1:2• Romans 4:17-22• John 15:7 |
|---|--|

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 147.2

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."

2. A life full of the Holy Spirit (Candlestick)

- We receive the Holy Spirit through the Word. (Deut. 32:2; Zech. 4:1-6; see *Great Controversy*, p. 267.1)
- He illumines the Word and reveals truth (John 16:13; Exodus 25:37 – the shape of the lamps had to reflect light upon the table of bread)
- Inspires our prayers, intercedes for us (Romans 8:26; Jude 20; Ephesians 6:18)
- Transforms our characters – fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-25)
- Equips us for service – gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4-11,28)
- Makes us a light in the world (Acts 1:8; Acts 2)

3. Sanctification

- 1 Thessalonians 4:3
- John 17:17
- *The Acts of the Apostles*, chapter 55 “Transformed by Grace”

The process of sanctification gives us victory where Adam and Eve failed (Gen. 3:1-13):

- 1) Implicit trust in God (His love, wisdom, and power).
- 2) Keeping distance from sin.
- 3) Using our five senses wisely (“avenues to the soul”).
- 4) Being a “help meet” for our significant other (Gen. 2:18).
- 5) Taking on responsibilities and duties; taking responsibility for our own actions.



Pray for:

1. A living experience with God's Word.
2. The Holy Spirit in your life.
3. Sanctification (trust, distance from sin, wise use of senses, becoming a suitable partner, responsibility)

4. Awareness of angels' presence in our lives (angels embroidered on the veil)

- 2 Kings 6:13-17
- Psalm 34:7
- Daniel 9:20-23; 10:12
- Hebrews 13:2

5. Intercessory prayer (Altar of Incense)

We are not prepared to offer intercessory prayer if we have not been at the cross and at the laver:

- Psalm 66:18
- Isaiah 1:15
- Isaiah 59:2
- James 4:3

Incense:

- Luke 1:10-11
- Revelation 8:3-4 (incense mixed with the prayers, see Heb. 9:12)
- Psalm 141:2

***Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 353.2**

The incense, ascending with the prayers of Israel, represents the merits and intercession of Christ, His perfect righteousness, which through faith is imputed to His people [...]

ABCs of Intercessory Prayer

Ask

Understand the power of God's Word (Matt. 8:5-10,13; Is. 55:10-11; Rom. 4:17-22).

Ask for the fulfillment of specific promises, with Bible in hand (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 147.2)

Believe

Mark 11:24

1 John 5:14-15

Claim – by giving thanks and talking faith

2 Corinthians 4:13

Mark 11:24

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 133

Every promise in the word of God furnishes us with subject matter for prayer, presenting the pledged word of Jehovah as our assurance. Whatever spiritual blessing we need, it is our privilege to claim through Jesus. We may tell the Lord, with the simplicity of a child, exactly what we need. We may state to Him our temporal matters, asking Him for bread and raiment as well as for the bread of life and the robe of Christ's righteousness. Your heavenly Father knows that you have need of all these things, and you are invited to ask Him concerning them. It is through the name of Jesus that every favor is received. God will honor that name, and will supply your necessities from the riches of His liberality.

But do not forget that in coming to God as a father you acknowledge your relation to Him as a child. You not only trust His goodness, but in all things yield to His will, knowing that His love is changeless. You give yourself to do His work. It was to those whom He had bidden to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness that Jesus gave the promise, "Ask, and ye shall receive." John 16:24.

The gifts of Him who has all power in heaven and earth are in store for the children of God. Gifts so precious that they come to us through the costly sacrifice of the Redeemer's blood; gifts that will satisfy the deepest craving of the heart, gifts lasting as eternity, will be received and enjoyed by all who will come to God as little children. Take God's promises as

your own, plead them before Him as His own words, and you will receive fullness of joy.

There are certain things that we will never receive if we don't ask for them:

The Great Controversy, p. 525.2

It is a part of God's plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask.



Intercessory prayer

- Pray that the Holy Spirit may reveal and inspire you what to pray for, and for whom.
- Pray for others and for yourself, for temporal and spiritual blessings.
- Pray for physical and spiritual healing.
- Pray for the advancement of God's work and for His church.
- Bring to God all of your desires. Ask for the fulfillment of His promises.
- Believe that He has answered and thank Him.

THE MOST HOLY PLACE

1. A greater understanding of the times we are living in

The priestly ministry of Jesus:

- The Day of Atonement began in 1844 (Daniel 8:14; *Early Writings*, p. 54.3 – 56.1)
- What Jesus Christ is doing in the heavenly sanctuary is what the High Priest did in the Day of Atonement in ancient times. Christ is both Lamb and High Priest (Leviticus 16:2-5,7-10).
- Christ entered within the veil with His own blood (Lev. 16:15-17).
- The judgment began in 1844; the books are being examined (Daniel 7:9-10,13-14).

Books of heaven:

1. Book of life, which contains the names of those who will be saved (Exodus 32:33; Daniel 12:1; Philippians 4:3; Revelation 3:5; 13:8; 20:12,15; 21:27).
2. Book of remembrance (Malachi 3:16-17; Nehemiah 13:14; Psalm 56:8; *Great Controversy*, p. 481)
3. Report of sins (*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 542.2; *Life Sketches*, pp. 241-242; *Great Controversy*, pp. 481-482)

What the people did during the judgment (Lev. 23:23-32)

- They had a holy assembly and searched their hearts.
- They humbled their hearts through fasting and prayer.
- They kept the Sabbath.
- They did no work.

- By faith, they followed the High Priest into the Most Holy Place.

We should do the same work today.

- The unity of the church is a condition for the outpouring of the Latter Rain (Joel 2:15-17,28,32; Acts 2:1-4).
- Fasting represents true health reform and medical missionary work, which prepares a people who will be able to stand in the day of the Lord (Isaiah 58:1-11).
- The outpouring of the Holy Spirit will bring a deeper understanding of the importance of the Sabbath (Isaiah 58:12-14; *Selected Messages*, vol. 3, p. 388).
- We should engage in no labor that will absorb our attention from our work as Seventh-day Adventists (*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 19)

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, p. 19.1

In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import—the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention.

- We need to follow Christ by faith into the Most Holy Place. (*Early Writings*, pp. 54-56).

Manuscript 8, 1888

We must enter by faith into the sanctuary with Him. We must commence the work in the sanctuary of our souls. We are to cleanse ourselves from all defilement.

- We are in danger of giving up our distinctive Seventh-day Adventist doctrines (*The Day Star*, March 14, 1846):

***The Day Star*, March 14, 1846**

I saw one after another leave the company who were praying to Jesus in the Holiest, go and join those before the throne and they at once received the unholy influence of Satan.*

* The rest of the vision is found in *Early Writings*, pp. 54-56, “End of the 2300 Days.” The above statement was not included in *Early Writings*, but it appeared in the original manuscript, published in the Millerite paper *The Day Star*.

2. The Law of God written in our hearts (the stones with the Ten Commandments inside the ark)

- Jesus wants to cleanse His people completely (Malachi 3:1-4).
- The cleansing of the heart prepares God's people for the outpouring of the latter rain (Hosea 10:12; 6:3).
- The Holy Spirit writes the law of God in our hearts (Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 36:26-27).
- In the ark there was a bowl with manna (Exodus 16:33-34). This represents true medical missionary work, which is closely related to the right development of our characters (Isaiah 58).

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 69.1

Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 415

It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. His

character is to be made known. Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy, and truth. [...]

Those who wait for the Bridegroom's coming are to say to the people, "Behold your God." The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them.



Pray for:

1. A deeper realization of the times we are living in—the Day of Atonement.
2. A clear understanding of Christ's ministry in the heavenly sanctuary
3. A clear understanding of the work which we must do in these times.
4. God's law written in our hearts.
5. A perfect reflection of Christ's character in us, so that God's character might be proclaimed to the world.

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