

Principles of Prayer and Promises

Advanced Seminar

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” Psalm 27:1.

PPP: Lesson 10:

Praying For Others.

1. There are precious promises for those who pray for others.

“And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.” Job 42:10.

The Lord turned the captivity of Job when he prayed, not only for himself, but for those who were opposing him. When he felt earnestly desirous that the souls that had trespassed against him might be helped, he himself received help. Let us pray, not only for ourselves, but for those who have hurt us, and are continuing to hurt us. Pray, pray, especially in your mind. Give not the Lord rest; for His ears are open to hear sincere, importunate prayers, when the soul is humbled before Him. SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 3, 1141.

“But I [Jesus] say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;” Matthew 5:44.

“Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.” Luke 6:28.

“Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.” 1 Peter 3:8, 9.

“Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.” Mark 14:38.

2. There are promises we can claim for the Lord to work to save others who have fallen into sin.

“If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it. All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.” 1 John 5:16, 17.

Jesus set an example for us: **“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;” John 17:20.**

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16.

“There are those all around you who have woes, who need words of sympathy, love, and tenderness, and our humble, pitying prayers.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 3, 530.

“In calling God our Father, we recognize all His children as our brethren. We are all a part of the

great web of humanity, all members of one family. In our petitions we are to include our neighbors as well as ourselves. No one prays aright who seeks a blessing for himself alone." Sons and Daughters of God, 267.

3. As Christians, we actually have great power promised to us as we pray for God's will to be done for others. We even have a special promise when two or more of us join our prayers in praying for someone.

Jesus said: "Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven." Matthew 18:18, 19.

With that promise we can also ask in the name of Jesus for Satan's power over someone to be broken and for the angels and the Holy Spirit to help the break away from sin.

4. We can Pray For Blessings To Bless Others. Jesus gave promises and told a story about this.

"And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." Luke 11:5-10

When we pray, **"Give us this day our daily bread," Luke 11:3**, we ask for others as well as ourselves. And we acknowledge that what God gives us is not for ourselves alone. God gives to us in trust, that we may feed the hungry. Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, 111, 112.

5. We can have Private Prayers to Intercede For Others, even asking that their sins be forgiven. We have many examples in the Bible of people interceding for others. Moses is one.

"And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped. And he said, If now I have found grace in thy sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray thee, go among us; for it is a stiffnecked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for thine inheritance." Exodus 34:8, 9.

"And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written." Exodus 32:31, 32.

"Save thy people, and bless thine inheritance: feed them also, and lift them up for ever." Psalm 28:9.

"In private prayer all have the privilege of praying as long as they desire and of being as explicit as they please. They can pray for all their relatives and friends. The closet is the place to tell all their private difficulties, and trials, and temptations. A common meeting to worship God is not the place to open the privacies of the heart." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 2, 578.

6. Parents can and should Pray For their Children. Older adults also can pray for the younger people and for the children of the church.

“We should pray to God much more than we do. There is great strength and blessing in praying together in our families, with and for our children.” Child Guidance, 525.

“Watch continually to cut off the current and roll back the weight of evil Satan is pressing in upon your children. The children cannot do this of themselves. Parents can do much. By earnest prayer and living faith, great victories will be gained.” Spiritual Gifts, bk. 4b, 139.

“But thus saith the LORD, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children.” Isaiah 49:25.

“Thus saith the LORD; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the LORD; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy. And there is hope in thine end, saith the LORD, that thy children shall come again to their own border.” Jeremiah 31:16, 17.

“Even the babe in its mother’s arms may dwell as under the shadow of the Almighty through the faith of the praying mother.” The Desire of Ages, 512.

7. The Lord promised His people power and authority when they are fully surrendered to Him.

“And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.” Matthew 10:1.

“Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.” Luke 9:1.

“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.” Mark 16:17, 18.

“And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.” Luke 10:17.

There is real power in the name of Jesus!

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” Matthew 28:18.

Why do so few people really believe in the power of prayer? In order to have power in prayer, We must be surrendered to the Lord and not be cherishing sin in our hearts.

“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:” Psalm 66:18.

“Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them?” Ezekiel 14:3.

“He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.” Proverbs 28:9.

We have an example in the Bible of people who were not Christians trying to use the name of Jesus like a charm to drive away evil spirits.

“Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.” Acts 19:13-17.

But what happens when a real Christian in faith calls on the name of Jesus?

“And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: [fortune-telling] The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.” Acts 16:16-18.

“And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus: Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand. :” Acts 13:6-11.

“And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God:” Acts 3:2-9.

“Every promise in the Book is mine;
Every chapter every verse every line,
All are blessings of His love divine,
Every promise in the Book is mine!”