

## Helps to Intercession

*These “Helps” were originally issued as a separate Tract by Messrs. Nisbet & Co., price 2d.*

*Anyone is at liberty to have the Tract reprinted, with such modifications as may be desired.*

**Pray without ceasing.** Who can do this? How can one do it who is surrounded by the cares of daily life? How can a mother love her child without ceasing? How can the eyelid, without ceasing, hold itself ready to protect the eye? How can I breathe and feel and hear without ceasing? I can do all these things because they are the functions of a healthy, natural life. And so, if the spiritual life is healthy, under the full power of the Holy Spirit, praying without ceasing will be

natural.

**Pray without ceasing.** Does it refer to continual acts of prayer, in which we are to persevere till we obtain, or to the spirit of prayerfulness that should animate us all the day? It includes both. The example of our Lord Jesus shows us this. We have to enter our closet for special seasons of prayer; we are at times to persevere there in urgent prayer. We are also all the day to walk in God’s presence, with the whole heart set upon heavenly things. Without set times of prayer, the spirit of prayer will be dull and feeble. Without continual prayerfulness, the set times will not avail.

**Pray without ceasing.** Does that refer to prayer for ourselves or others? To both. It is because many confine it to themselves that they fail so in practicing it. It is only when the branch gives itself to bear fruit, more fruit, much fruit, that it can live a healthy life, and expect a rich inflow of sap. The death of Christ brought Him to the place of everlasting intercession. Your death with Him to sin and self sets you free from the cares of self, and elevates you to the dignity of

intercessor – one who can get life and blessing from God for others. Know your calling; begin this your work. Give yourself wholly to it, and before you know it, you will be finding something of this *Praying without ceasing* within you.

**Pray without ceasing.** How can I learn it? The best way of learning to do a thing – in fact, the only way – is *to do it*. Begin by setting apart some time every day, say ten or fifteen minutes, in which you say to God and to yourself, that you come to Him now as an intercessor for others. Let it be after your morning or evening prayer, or any other time. If you cannot secure the same time every day, be not troubled. Only see that you do your part. Christ chose you and appointed you to pray for others.

If at first you do not feel any special urgency or faith or power in your prayers, let not that hinder you. Quietly tell your Lord Jesus of your feebleness; believe that the Holy Spirit is in you to teach you to pray, and be assured that if you begin, God will help you. God cannot help you unless you begin and keep on.

**Pray without ceasing.** How do I know what to pray for? If once you begin, and think of all the needs around you, you will soon find enough. But to help you, what follows this section contains subjects and hints for prayer for a month. It is meant that we should use it month by month, until we know more fully to follow the Spirit's leading, and until we have learned, if need be, to make our own list of subjects, and can dispense with it. In regard to the use of these helps, a few words may be needed.

**1. How to pray.** You notice for every day there are two headings – **What to Pray** and **How to Pray**. If only the subjects were given, one might fall into the routine of mentioning names and things before God, and the work would become a burden. The hints under the heading **How to Pray** are meant to remind us of the spiritual nature of the work, of the need for divine help, and to encourage faith in the certainty that God, through the Spirit, will give us grace to pray aright, and will also hear our prayer. One does not at once learn to take his place boldly, and to dare to believe that he will be heard. Therefore, take a few moments each day to listen to

God's voice reminding you of how certainly even you will be heard, and calling on you to pray in that faith in your Father, to claim and take the blessing you plead for. And let these words about **How to Pray** enter your heart and occupy your thoughts at other times too. The work of intercession is Christ's great work on earth, entrusted to Him because He gave Himself as a sacrifice to God for men. The work of intercession is the greatest work a Christian can do. Give yourself a sacrifice to God for men, and the work will become your glory and your joy too.

**2. What to pray.** Scripture calls us to pray for many things: for all saints; for all men; for kings and all rulers; for all who are in adversity; for the sending forth of laborers; for those who labor in the gospel; for all converts; for believers who have fallen into sin; for one another in our own immediate circles. The church is now so much larger than when the New Testament was written; the number of types of work and workers is so much greater; the needs of the church and the world are so much better known, that we need to take time and thought to see where prayer is needed, and to what

our spirit through the Holy Spirit is most drawn out. The Scripture's calls to prayer demand a large heart – taking in all saints, and all men, and all needs. An attempt has been made in these helps to indicate what the chief subjects are that need prayer, and that ought to interest every Christian.

It will be felt difficult by many to pray for such large spheres as are sometimes mentioned. Let it be understood that in each case we may make special intercession for our own circle of interest coming under that heading. And it is hardly necessary to say, further, that where one subject appears of more special interest or urgency than another, we are free for a time, day after day, to take up that subject. Only if time is really given to intercession, and the spirit of believing intercession is cultivated, is the object attained. While, on the one hand, the heart must be enlarged at times to take in everything, the more pointed and definite our prayer can be, the better. With this view, paper is left blank on which we can write down special petitions we desire to bring before God.

**3. Answers to prayer.** More than one little book has been published in which Christians may keep a register of their petitions, and note when they are answered. Room has been left on every page for this, so that more definite petitions with regard to individual souls or special spheres of work may be recorded, and the answers looked for. When we pray for all saints, or for missions in general, it is difficult to know when or how our prayer is answered, or whether our prayer has had any part in bringing the answer. It is of extreme importance that we should prove that God hears us, and to this end take note of what answers we look for, and when they come. On the day of praying for all saints, take the saints in your congregation, or in your prayer meeting, and ask for a revival among them. Take, in connection with missions, some special station or missionary, or more than one, and plead for blessing. And expect and look for its coming, that you may praise God.

**4. Prayer circles.** There is no desire in publishing this invitation to intercession to add another to the many existing prayer unions or praying bands. The first object is to stir

the many Christians who practically, through ignorance of their calling, or through unbelief as to their prayer availing much, take but very little part in the work of intercession; and then to help those who do pray to some fuller apprehension of the greatness of the work, and the need of giving their whole strength to it. There is a circle of prayer, which asks for prayer on the first day of every month for the fuller manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit throughout the church. I have given the words of that invitation as the subject for the first day, and taken the same thought as a keynote all through. The more one thinks of the need and the promise, and the greatness of the obstacles to be overcome in prayer, the more one feels it must become our life-work day by day, to which every other interest is subordinated.

But while not forming a large prayer union, it is suggested that it may be helpful to have small prayer circles to unite in prayer, either for one month, with some special object introduced daily along with the others, or for a year or longer, with the goal of strengthening each other in the grace of intercession. If a minister were to invite some of his neighboring brethren to join for some special requests along

with the printed subjects for supplication, or a number of the more earnest members of his congregation to unite in prayer for revival, then some might be trained to take their place in the great work of intercession, who now stand idle because *there was no ... intercessor*.

**5. Who is sufficient for these things?** The more we study and try to practice this grace of intercession, the more we become overwhelmed by its greatness and our feebleness. Let every such impression lead us to listen: *My grace is sufficient for thee*, and to answer truthfully: **Our sufficiency is of God**. Take courage; it is in the intercession of Christ you are called to take part. The burden and the agony, the triumph and the victory are all His. Learn from Him, yield to His Spirit in you,

to know how to pray. He gave Himself as a sacrifice to God for men, that He might have the right and power of intercession. *He has ... born the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors*. Let your faith rest boldly on His finished work. Let your heart wholly identify itself with Him in His death and His life. **Like Him**, give yourself **to God** as a sacrifice for men: it is your highest nobility; it is your true and full union to Him; it will be to you, as to Him, your power of intercession. Beloved Christian! come and give your whole heart and life to intercession, and you will know its blessedness and its power. God asks nothing less; the world needs nothing less; Christ asks nothing less; let nothing less be what we offer to God.

## Day 1

### What to Pray

*For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ ... that he would grant you, ... to be strengthened with might by his Spirit.*

– Ephesians 3:14, 16

*Wait for the promise of the Father.* – Acts 1:4

Pray for “the fuller manifestation of the grace and energy of the blessed Spirit of God, in the removal of all that is contrary to God’s revealed will, so that we grieve not the Holy Spirit, but that He may work in mightier power in the church, for the exaltation of Christ and the blessing of souls.”

God has one promise to and through His exalted Son; our Lord has one gift to His church; the church has one need; all prayer unites in the one petition – the power of the Holy Spirit. Make it your one prayer.

### How to Pray

*If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?* – Luke 11:11, 13

Ask as simply and trustfully as a child asks for bread. You can do this because *God has sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.* This Spirit is in you to give you childlike confidence. In the faith of His praying in you, ask for the power of that Holy Spirit everywhere. Mention places or circles where you especially ask it to be seen.

### Prayers and Answers

(Touch a line on your ereader to add a note/comment)

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## Day 2

### What to Pray

*The Spirit itself makes entreaty for us.*

– Romans 8:26

I will pour ... the Spirit of grace.

– Zechariah 12:10

“The evangelization of the world depends first of all upon a revival of prayer. Deeper than the need for men – aye, deep down at the bottom of our spiritless life – is the need for the forgotten secret of prevailing, worldwide prayer.”

Every child of God has the Holy Spirit in him to pray. God waits to give the Spirit in full measure. Ask for yourself, and all who join, the outpouring of the Spirit of supplication. Ask it for your own prayer circle.

### How to Pray

*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.* – Ephesians 6:18

*Praying in the Holy Spirit.* – Jude 20

Our Lord gave His disciples on His resurrection day the Holy Spirit to enable them to wait for the full outpouring on the day of Pentecost. It is only in the power of the Spirit already in us, acknowledged and yielded to, that we can pray for His fuller manifestation. Say to the Father, it is the Spirit of His Son in you, urging you to plead His promise.

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 3

### What to Pray

*Praying always with all prayer and supplication  
praying in the Spirit and watching in this with all per-  
severance and supplication for all saints.*

– Ephesians 6:18

Every member of a body is interested in the welfare of the whole, and exists to help and complete the others. Believers are one body, and ought to pray, not so much for the welfare of their own church or society, but, first of all, for all saints. This large, unselfish love is the proof that Christ's Spirit and love is teaching them to pray. Pray first for all and then for the believers around you.

### How to Pray

*By this shall everyone know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. – John 3:35*

*I pray ... that they all may be one; ... that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

– John 17:20-21

*But I beseech you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the [love] of the Spirit, that ye help me with prayers to God for me. – Romans 15:30*

*And above all things have fervent [love] among yourselves. – 1 Peter 4:8*

If we are to pray, we must love. Let us say to God that we do love all His saints; let us say that we love especially every child of His we know. Let us pray with fervent love, in the love of the Spirit.

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 4

### What to Pray

God is the Holy One. His people are a holy people. He speaks: I am holy; I am the Lord who makes you holy. Christ prayed: Sanctify them. Make them holy through Thy truth. Paul prayed: *that your hearts may be confirmed in holiness. And the very God of peace sanctify you completely.*

Pray for all saints – God’s holy ones – throughout the church, that the Spirit of holiness may rule them. Pray especially for new converts. Pray for the saints in your own neighborhood or congregation. Pray for any you are especially interested in. Think of their special need, weakness, or sin, and pray that God may make them holy.

### How to Pray

The things that are impossible with men are possible with God. When we think of the great things we ask for, we think of how little likelihood there is of their coming, and of our own insignificance. Prayer is not only wishing, or asking, but also believing and accepting. Be still before God and ask Him to show you how to know Him as the Almighty One, and then leave your petitions with Him who does wonders.

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 5

### What to Pray

*Holy Father, those whom thou hast given me, keep them in thy name. I do not pray that thou should take them out of the world, but that thou should keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, as I am not of the world. – John 17:11, 15-16*

In the last night of His life, Christ asked three things for His disciples: that they might be kept as those who are not of the world; that they might be sanctified; and that they might be one in love. You cannot do better than pray as Jesus prayed. Ask for God's people that they may be kept separate from the world and its spirit; that they, by the Holy Spirit, may live as those who are not of the world.

### How to Pray

*Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, then have we confidence in God; and whatsoever we ask, we re-*

*ceive of him because we keep his commandments and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. – 1 John 3:21-22*

Learn these words by heart. Get them into your heart. Join the ranks of those who, with John, draw nigh to God with an assured heart that *does not condemn us, then we have confidence in God*. In this spirit pray for your brother who sins (1 John 5:16). In the quiet confidence of an obedient child, plead for those of your brethren who may be giving way to sin. Pray for all to be kept from the Evil One. And say often, *Whatsoever we ask, we receive ... because we keep ... and do.*

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 6

### What to Pray

*I pray ... that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, ... that the world may know that thou hast sent me and hast loved them as thou hast loved me ... that the love with which thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.* – John 17:20-26

*But the fruit of the Spirit is ... [love].*

– Galatians 5:22

Believers are one in Christ, as He is one with the Father. The love of God rests on them, and can dwell in them. Pray that the power of the Holy Spirit may so work this love in believers, that the world may see and know God's love in them.

Pray much for this.

### How to Pray

*I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem,*

*which shall never hold their peace day nor night; ye that make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent and give him no rest.* – Isaiah 62:6-7a

Study these words until your whole soul is filled with the consciousness: I am appointed as an intercessor. Enter God's presence in that faith. Study the world's need with that thought – it is my work to intercede; the Holy Spirit will teach me for what and how. Let it be an abiding consciousness: My great life-work, like Christ's, is intercession – to pray for believers and those who do not yet know God.

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 7

### What to Pray

*But I beseech you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the [love] of the Spirit, that ye help me with prayers to God for me. – Romans 15:30*

*He will yet deliver us; ye also helping with prayer. – 2 Corinthians 1:10-11*

What a great host of ministers there are in Christ's church. What need they have of prayer. What a power they might be, if they were all clothed with the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray definitely for this; long for it. Think of your own minister, and ask it especially for him. Connect every thought of the ministry, in your town or neighborhood or the world, with the prayer that all may be filled with the Spirit. Plead for them the promise: *[T]arry ... until ye are endued with power from on high and Ye shall receive the [power] of the Holy Spirit which shall come upon you.*

### How to Pray

*But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy chamber, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father who is in secret. – Matthew 6:6*

*He went up into a mountain apart to pray; ... he was there alone. – Matthew 14:23; John 6:15*

Take time and realize, when you are alone with God: Here am I now, face to face with God, to intercede for His servants. Do not think you have no influence, or that your prayer will not be missed. Your prayer and faith will make a difference. Cry in secret to God for His ministers.

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 8

### What to Pray

*Ye also helping us with prayer, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons, thanks may be given by many on our behalf.*

– 2 Corinthians 1:11

What multitudes there are of workers in connection with our churches and missions, our railways and postmen, our soldiers and sailors, our young men and young women, our fallen men and women, our poor and sick. God be praised for this! What could they accomplish if each were living in the fullness of the Holy Spirit? Pray for them; it makes you a partner in their work, and you will praise God each time you hear of blessing anywhere.

### How to Pray

*What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?*

– Luke 18:41

The Lord knew what the man wanted, and yet He asked him. The utterance of our wish gives point to the transaction in which we are engaged with God, and so awakens faith and expectation. Be very definite in your petitions, so as to know what answer you may look for. Just think of the great host of workers, and ask and expect God definitely to bless them in answer to the prayers of His people. Then ask still more definitely for workers around you. Intercession is not the breathing out of pious wishes; its aim is, in believing, persevering prayer, to receive and bring down blessing.

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 9

### What to Pray

“The evangelization of the world depends first of all upon a revival of prayer. Deeper than the need for men – aye, deep down at the bottom of our spiritless life – is the need for the forgotten secret of prevailing, world-wide prayer.”

*As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul ... And when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they released them. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Spirit, departed.*

– Acts 13:2-4

Pray that our mission work may all be done in this spirit – waiting on God, hearing the voice of the Spirit, sending forth men with fasting and prayer. Pray that in our churches, our mission interest and mission work may be in the power of the Holy Spirit and of prayer. It is a Spirit-filled, praying church that will send out Spirit-filled missionaries, mighty in prayer.

### How to Pray

*I give myself unto prayer. – Psalm 109:4*

*And we will give ourselves continually to prayer.*

– Acts 6:4

*Do not be rash with thy mouth and do not let thy heart be hasty to utter any thing before God.*

– Ecclesiastes 5:2

*He ... continued all night in prayer to God.*

– Luke 6:12

Time is one of the chief standards of value. The time we give is proof of the interest we feel.

We need time with God to realize His presence; to wait for Him to make Himself known; to consider and feel the needs we plead for; to take our place in Christ; to pray till we can believe that we have received. Take time in prayer, and pray down blessings on the mission work of the church.

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 10

### What to Pray

“What the world needs today is, not only more missionaries, but the outpouring of God’s Spirit on everyone whom He has sent out to work for Him in the foreign field.”

*But ye shall receive the virtue of the Holy Spirit which shall come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses ... unto the uttermost parts of the earth.*

– Acts 1:8

God always gives His servants power equal to the work He asks of them. Think of the greatness and difficulty of this particular work – casting Satan out of his strongholds – and pray that everyone who takes part in it may receive and do all his work in the power of the Holy Spirit. Think of the difficulties of your missionaries, and pray for them.

### How to Pray

*(For he is faithful that promised). She believed him to*

*be faithful who had promised.*

– Hebrews 10:23; 11:11

Just think of God’s promises to His Son, concerning His kingdom; to the church, concerning the heathen; to His servants, concerning their work; to yourself, concerning your prayer; and pray in the assurance that He is faithful, and only waits for prayer and faith to fulfill them. *Faithful is he that has called you (to pray), who will also do it (what He has promised).*

Take up individual missionaries, make yourself one with them, and pray till you know that you are heard. Oh, begin to live for Christ’s kingdom as the one thing worth living for!

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 11

### What to Pray

*Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*

– Matthew 9:38

What a remarkable call of the Lord Jesus for help from His disciples in getting the need supplied. What an honor put upon prayer. What a proof that God wants prayer and will hear it.

Pray for laborers, for all students in theological seminaries, training homes, and Bible institutes, that they may not go forth unless He fits them and sends them forth; that our churches may train their students to seek for the sending forth of the Holy Spirit; that all believers may hold themselves ready to be sent forth, or to pray for those who can go.

### How to Pray

*And Jesus, answering, said unto them, Have faith in God. ... whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Re-*

*move thyself and cast thyself into the sea, and shall not doubt in his heart but shall believe that what he says shall be done whatsoever he says shall be done unto him. – Mark 11:22-23*

**Have faith in God!** Ask Him to make Himself known to you as the faithful, mighty God, who works all in all; and you will be encouraged to believe that He can give suitable and sufficient laborers, however impossible this appears. But remember: this is in answer to prayer and faith.

Apply this to every opening where a good worker is needed. The work is God's. He can give the right workman.

**But He must be asked and waited on.**

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 12

### What to Pray

*I will send [the Comforter] unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment. – John 16:7-8*

God's one desire, the one object of Christ's being manifested, is to take away sin. The first work of the Spirit on the world is conviction of sin. Without that, there is no deep or abiding revival, and no powerful conversion. Pray for it, that the gospel may be preached in such power of the Spirit, that men may see that they have rejected and crucified Christ, and cry out, What shall we do?

Pray most earnestly for a mighty power of conviction of sin wherever the gospel is preached.

### How to Pray

*Or who shall take hold of my strength? Make peace with me. – Isaiah 27:5*

*And there is none that calls upon thy name, that wakes*

*himself up to take hold of thee. – Isaiah 64:7*

*Stir up the gift of God, which is in thee.*

– 2 Timothy 1:6

First, take hold of God's strength. God is a Spirit. I cannot take hold of Him, and hold Him fast, except by the Spirit. Take hold of God's strength, and hold on till it has done for you what He has promised. Pray for the power of the Spirit to convict of sin.

Second, stir up yourself – by the power that is in you by the Holy Spirit – to take hold. Give your whole heart and will to it, and say, *I will not let thee go except thou bless me.*

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 13

### What to Pray

*And it shall come to pass that he that is left in Zion ... shall be called holy, ... When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion ... by the spirit of judgment and by the spirit of burning. – Isaiah 4:3-4*

A washing by fire! a cleansing by judgment! He that has passed through this shall be called holy. The power of blessing for the world, the power of work and intercession that will avail, depends upon the spiritual state of the church; and that can only rise higher as sin is discovered and put away. Judgment must begin at the house of God. There must be conviction of sin for sanctification. Beseech God to give His Spirit as a spirit of judgment and a spirit of burning – to discover and burn out sin in His people.

### How to Pray

*And whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name,*

*that will I do, ... If ye ask any thing in my name, I will do it. – John 14:13-14*

Ask in the name of your Redeemer God, who sits upon the throne. Ask what He has promised, what He gave His blood for, that sin may be put away from among His people. Ask – this prayer is after His own heart – for the spirit of deep conviction of sin to come among His people. Ask for the spirit of burning. Ask in the faith of His name – the faith of what He wills, of what He can do – and look for the answer. Pray that the church may be blessed and be made a blessing in the world.

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 14

### What to Pray

*That the generation to come ... might not be as their fathers, ... a generation that did not set their heart aright and whose spirit was not steadfast with God. –*

Psalm 78:7-8

*I will pour my Spirit upon thy seed and my blessing upon thine offspring. – Isaiah 44:3*

Pray for the rising generation who are to come after us. Think of the young men and young women and children of this age, and pray for all the agencies at work among them; that in associations and societies and unions, in homes and schools, Christ may be honored, and the Holy Spirit get possession of them. Pray for the young of your own neighborhood.

### How to Pray

*[The Lord] grant thee according to thine heart.*

– Psalm 20:4

*Thou hast given him his heart's desire.*

– Psalm 21:2

*I cried with my whole heart; answer me, O LORD. –*

Psalm 119:145

God lives, and listens to every petition with His whole heart. Each time we pray, the whole infinite God is there to hear. He asks that in each prayer the whole man be there too; that we shall cry with our whole heart. Christ gave Himself to God for men; and so He takes up every need into His intercession. If once we seek God with our whole heart, the whole heart will be in every prayer which we bring to this God. Pray with your whole heart for the young.

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 15

### What to Pray

*And this shall be my covenant with them, said the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words, which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from now on and for ever. – Isaiah 59:21*

The future of the church and the world depends, to an extent we little conceive of, on the education of the day. The church may be seeking to evangelize the heathen, while giving up her own children to secular and materialistic influences. Pray for schools and colleges, and that the church may realize and fulfill its momentous duty of caring for its children. Pray for godly teachers.

### How to Pray

*And they ... limited the Holy One of Israel.*  
– Psalm 78:41

*And he did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief. – Matthew 13:58*

*Is any thing too hard for the LORD?*

– Genesis 18:14

*Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power ... and there is nothing hidden from thee; ... Behold, I am the LORD, ... shall any thing be covered unto me?*

– Jeremiah 32:17, 27

Beware, in your prayers, above everything, of limiting God, not only by unbelief, but by imagining that you know what He can do. Expect unexpected things, above all that we ask or think. Each time you intercede, be quiet first and worship God in His glory. Think of what He can do, of how He delights to hear Christ, of your place in Christ, and then expect great things.

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 16

### What to Pray

*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 contends with thee, and I will save thy sons. – Isaiah 49:25*

Every part of the work of God's church is His work. He must do it. Prayer is the confession that He will, the surrender of ourselves into His hands to let Him work in us and through us. Pray for the hundreds of thousands of Sunday school teachers, that those who know God may be filled with His Spirit. Pray for your own Sunday school. Pray for the salvation of the children.

### How to Pray

*Having, therefore, a great high priest who penetrated the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, ... Let us, therefore, come boldly unto the throne of his grace. – Hebrews*

4:14, 16

These hints to help us in our work of intercession – what are they doing for us? Making us conscious of our feebleness in prayer? Thank God for this. It is the very first lesson we need on the way to pray the effectual prayer that availeth much. Let us persevere, taking each subject boldly to the throne of grace. As we pray, we shall learn to pray, and to believe, and to expect with increasing boldness. Hold fast your assurance: it is at God's command you come as an intercessor. Christ will give you grace to pray aright.

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 17

### What to Pray

*I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, giving of thanks, be made for all men, for kings, and for all that are in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and integrity. – 1 Timothy 2:1-2*

What a faith in the power of prayer! A few feeble and despised Christians are to influence the mighty Roman emperors, and help in securing peace and quietness. Let us believe that prayer is a power that is taken up by God in His rule of the world. Let us pray for our country and its rulers; for all the rulers of the world; for rulers in cities or districts in which we are interested. When God's people unite in this, they may count upon their prayer effecting in the unseen world more than they know. Let faith hold this fast.

### How to Pray

*And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much*

*incense of the prayers of all the saints, that he should offer upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense of the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. And the angel took the censer and filled it with fire of the altar and cast it into the earth; and there were voices and thunderings and lightnings and an earthquake. – Revelation 8:3-5*

The same censer brings the prayers of the saints before God and casts fire upon the earth. The prayers that go up to heaven have their share in the history of this earth. Be sure that your prayers enter God's presence.

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 18

### What to Pray

*I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for ... kings, and for all that are in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and integrity. For this is good and pleasing in the sight of God our Saviour.*

– 1 Timothy 2:1-3

*He makes wars to cease unto the end of the earth. –*

Psalm 46:9

What a terrible sight! – the military armaments in which the nations find their pride. What a terrible thought! – the evil passions that may at any moment bring on war. And what a prospect! – the suffering and desolation that must come. God can, in answer to the prayers of His people, give peace. Let us pray for it, and for the rule of righteousness on which alone it can be established.

### How to Pray

*What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also.*

– 1 Corinthians 14:15

We need to pray in our spirit, as the vehicle of the intercession of God's Spirit, if we are to take hold of God in faith and power. We need to pray with our understanding, if we are really to enter deeply into the needs we bring before Him. Take time to apprehend intelligently, in each subject, the nature, the extent, the urgency of the request, the ground and way and certainty of God's promise as revealed in His Word. Let the mind affect the heart. Pray with our understanding and in our spirit.

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 19

### What to Pray

*Having the appearance of godliness, but denying the power thereof.* – 2 Timothy 3:5

*Thou hast a name that thou livest and art dead.*  
– Revelation 3:1

There are five hundred million nominal Christians. The state of the majority is unspeakably awful. Formality, worldliness, ungodliness, rejection of Christ's service, ignorance, and indifference – to what an extent does all this prevail. We pray for the heathen – oh! do let us pray for those bearing Christ's name, many of whom are in worse than heathen darkness.

Does not one feel as if one ought to begin to give up his life, and to cry day and night to God for souls? In answer to prayer, God gives the power of the Holy Spirit.

### How to Pray

*Only in God does my soul rest; from him comes my sav-*

*ing health.* – Psalm 62:1

Prayer has its power in God alone. The nearer a man comes to God Himself, the deeper he enters into God's will; the more he takes hold of God, the more power in prayer.

God must reveal Himself. If it pleases Him to make Himself known, He can make the heart conscious of His presence. Our posture must be that of holy reverence, of quiet waiting and adoration.

As your month of intercession passes on, and you feel the greatness of your work, be still before God; thus you will get power to pray.

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 20

### What to Pray

*Behold, these shall come from far; ... and these from the land of Sinim. – Isaiah 49:12*

*Princes shall come out of Egypt; Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God. – Psalm 68:31*

*I the LORD will hasten it in its time. – Isaiah 60:22*

Pray for the heathen, who are yet without the Word. Think of China, with her three hundred million people – a million a month dying without Christ. Think of dark Africa, with its two hundred million. Think of thirty million a year going down into the thick darkness. If Christ gave His life for them, will you not do so? You can give yourself up to intercede for them. Just begin, if you have never yet begun, with this simple monthly school of intercession. The ten minutes you give will make you feel this is not enough. God's Spirit will draw you on. Persevere, however feeble you are. Ask God to give you some country or tribe to pray for. Can anything be nobler than to do as Christ did? Give your life for the heathen.

### How to Pray

*Call unto me, and I will answer thee and shew thee great and difficult things, which thou dost not know. –*

*Jeremiah 33:3*

*Thus hath the Lord GOD said: I will yet be enquired of ... to do it for them. – Ezekiel 36:37*

Both texts refer to promises definitely made, but their fulfillment would depend upon prayer: God would be inquired of to do it.

Pray for God's fulfillment of His promises to His Son and His church, and expect the answer. Plead for the heathen: plead God's promises.

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 21

### What to Pray

*And I will pour upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and of prayer, and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced. – Zechariah 12:10*

*Brethren, certainly the desire of my heart and my prayer to God ... is for saving health. – Romans 10:1*

Pray for the Jews. Their return to the God of their fathers stands connected, in a way we cannot tell, with wonderful blessing to the church, and with the coming of our Lord Jesus. Let us not think that God has foreordained all this, and that we cannot hasten it. In a divine and mysterious way, God has connected His fulfillment of His promise with our prayers. His Spirit's intercession in us is God's forerunner of blessing. Pray for Israel and the work done among them. And pray too: Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

### How to Pray

*For we know not how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself makes entreaty for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. – Romans 8:26*

In your ignorance and feebleness, believe in the secret indwelling and intercession of the Holy Spirit within you. Yield yourself to His life and leading habitually. He will help your infirmities in prayer. Plead the promises of God even where you do not see how they are to be fulfilled. God knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. Pray with the simplicity of a little child; pray with the holy awe and reverence of one in whom God's Spirit dwells and prays.

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 22

### What to Pray

*Remember those that are in bonds as bound with them and those who suffer adversity as being yourselves also in the body. – Hebrews 13:3*

What a world of suffering we live in! How Jesus sacrificed all and identified Himself with it! Let us in our measure do so too. The persecuted Stundists and Armenians and Jews, the famine-stricken millions of India, the hidden slavery of Africa, the poverty and wretchedness of our great cities – and so much more – what suffering there is among those who know God and who know Him not. And then in smaller circles, in ten thousand homes and hearts, what sorrow. In our own neighborhood, how many are needing help or comfort. Let us have a heart for, and let us think of the suffering. It will stir us to pray, to work, to hope, to love more. And in a way and time we know not, God will hear our prayer.

### How to Pray

*And he spoke a parable unto them to this end, that it*

*behooves us always to pray and not faint.*

– Luke 18:1

Do you not begin to feel prayer is really the help for this sinful world? What a need there is of unceasing prayer! The very greatness of the task makes us despair! What can our ten minutes of intercession avail? It is right we feel this: this is the way in which God is calling and preparing us to give our life to prayer. Give yourself wholly to God for men, and amidst all your work, your heart will be drawn out in love to people, and drawn up to God in dependence and expectation. To a heart thus led by the Holy Spirit, it is possible to pray always and not to faint.

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 23

### What to Pray

*I continue to labour, contending according to his operation, which he works in me mightily.*

– Colossians 1:29

You have your own special work; make it a work of intercession. Paul labored, striving according to the working of God in him. Remember, God is not only the Creator, but He is also the great workman, who works all in all. You can only do your work in His strength, by Him working in you through the Spirit. Intercede much for those among whom you work, till God gives you life for them.

Let us all intercede too for each other, for every worker throughout God's church, however solitary or unknown.

### How to Pray

*Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. –*

James 4:8

The nearness of God gives rest and power in prayer. The

nearness of God is given to him who makes it his first object. *Draw near to God; seek the nearness to Him, and He will give it; he will draw near to you.* Then it becomes easy to pray in faith.

Remember that when God first takes you into the school of intercession, it is almost more for your own sake than that of others. You have to be trained to love, and wait, and pray, and believe. Only persevere. Learn to set yourself in His presence, to wait quietly for the assurance that He draws nigh. Enter His holy presence, wait there, and spread your work before Him. Intercede for the souls you are working among. Get a blessing from God, and His Spirit into your own heart, for them.

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 24

### What to Pray

*Beginning from Jerusalem.* – Luke 24:47

Each one of us is connected with some congregation or circle of believers, who are to us the part of Christ's body with which we come into most direct contact. They have a special claim on our intercession. Let it be a settled matter between God and you that you are to labor in prayer on its behalf.

Pray for the minister and all leaders or workers in it. Pray for the believers according to their needs. Pray for conversions.

Pray for the power of the Spirit to manifest itself. Band yourself with others to join in secret in definite petitions. Let intercession be a definite work, carried on as systematically as preaching or Sunday school. And pray, expecting an answer.

### How to Pray

*I have set watchmen ... which shall never hold their peace day nor night.* – Isaiah 62:6

*His own elect who cry day and night unto him.*

– Luke 18:7

*Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face and might complete that which is lacking in your faith.* – 1 Thessalonians 3:10

*Now she that is a widow indeed and desolate, trusts in God, and is diligent in supplications and prayers night and day.* – 1 Timothy 5:5

When the glory of God, and the love of Christ, and the need for souls are revealed to us, the fire of this unceasing intercession will begin to burn in us for those who are near and those who are far off.

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 25

### What to Pray

*Therefore he is able to save to the uttermost those that come unto God by him, seeing that he ever lives to make intercession for them.*

– Hebrews 7:25

*And we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word... And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied ... greatly. – Acts 6:4, 7*

Christ's power to save, and save completely, depends on His unceasing intercession. The apostles withdrawing themselves from other work to give themselves continually to prayer was followed by the number of the disciples multiplying exceedingly. As we, in our day, give ourselves to intercession, we shall have more and mightier conversions. Let us plead for this. Christ is exalted to give repentance. The church exists with the divine purpose and promise of having conversions. Let us not be ashamed to confess our sin and feebleness, and cry to God for more conversions in Christian

and heathen lands, and those whom you know and love.

Plead for the salvation of sinners.

### How to Pray

*And she said, Yes, Lord, yet the little dogs eat of the crumbs ... O woman, great is thy faith; be it unto thee even as thou desire. – Matthew 15:27-28*

You feel unworthy and unable to pray aright. To accept this heartily, and to be content still to come and be blessed in your unworthiness, is true humility. It proves its integrity by not seeking for anything, but simply trusting His grace. And so it is the very strength of a great faith, and gets a full answer. *[Y]et the little dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table* – let that be your plea as you persevere for someone possibly possessed of the Devil. Let not your littleness hinder you for a moment.

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 26

### What to Pray

*They sent Peter and John unto them, who, ... prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them; they were baptized only into the name of the Lord Jesus.) – Acts 8:14-16*

*Now he who confirms us with you unto Christ and has anointed us is God; who has also sealed us and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.*

– 2 Corinthians 1:21-22

How many new converts remain feeble? How many fall into sin? How many backslide entirely? If we pray for the church – its growth in holiness and devotion to God’s service – pray especially for the young converts. How many stand alone, surrounded by temptation? How many have no teaching on the Spirit in them, and the power of God to establish them? How many in heathen lands are surrounded by Satan’s power? If you pray for the power of the Spirit in the church, pray especially that every young convert may know that he may claim and receive the fullness of the Spirit.

### How to Pray

*Moreover as for me, in no wise should I sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you. – 1 Samuel 12:23*

It is sin against the Lord to cease praying for others. When once we begin to see how absolutely indispensable intercession is, just as much a duty as loving God or believing in Christ, and how we are called and bound to it as believers, then we shall feel that to cease intercession is grievous sin. Let us ask for grace to take up our place as priests with joy, and give our life to bring down the blessing of heaven.

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 27

### What to Pray

*I will bless thee ... and thou shalt be a blessing.... in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. – Genesis 12:2-3*

*God be merciful unto us and bless us and cause his face to shine upon us. That thy way may be known upon the earth, thy saving health among all the Gentiles.*

– Psalm 67:1-2

Abraham was only blessed that he might be a blessing to all the earth. Israel prays for blessing, that God may be known among all nations. Every believer, just as much as Abraham, is only blessed that he may carry God's blessing to the world.

Cry to God that His people may know this, that every believer is only to live for the interests of God and His kingdom. If this truth were preached and believed and practiced, what a revolution it would bring in our mission work. What a host of willing intercessors we should have. Plead with God to work it by the Holy Spirit.

### How to Pray

*Then Peter said, ... such as I have I give thee ... The Holy Spirit fell on them, as on us at the beginning.... God gave them the same gift as he did unto us. – Acts 3:6; 11:15, 17*

As you pray for this great blessing on God's people, the Holy Spirit taking entire possession of them for God's service, yield yourself to God, and claim the gift anew in faith. Let each thought of feebleness or shortcoming only make you more urgent in prayer for others; as the blessing comes to them, you too will be helped. With every prayer for conversions or mission work, pray that God's people may know how wholly they belong to Him.

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 28

### What to Pray

*Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it does not see him, or know him; but ye know him, for he dwells with you and shall be in you. – John 14:17*

*Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit? – 1 Corinthians 6:19*

The Holy Spirit is the power of God for the salvation of men. He only works as He dwells in the church. He is given to enable believers to live wholly as God would have them live, in the full experience and witness of Him who saves completely. Pray to God that every one of His people may know the Holy Spirit! That He, in all His fullness, is given to them! That they cannot expect to live as their Father would have them live, without having Him in His fullness, without being filled with Him! Pray that all God's people, even far away in churches gathered out of heathendom, may learn to say, I believe in the Holy Spirit.

### How to Pray

*Epaphras, who is one of you, a slave of Christ, salutes you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand firm, perfect and fulfilled in all the will of God. – Colossians 4:12*

To a healthy man, labor is a delight; in what interests him he labors fervently. The believer who is in full health, whose heart is filled with God's Spirit, labors fervently in prayer. For what? For his brethren to stand perfect and complete in all the will of God; that they may know what God wills for them, how He calls them to live, and be led and walk by the Holy Spirit. Labor fervently in prayer that all God's children may know this, as possible, as divinely sure.

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 29

### What to Pray

*I have chosen you and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, ... that whatever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it unto you. – John 15:16*

*Until now ye have asked nothing in my name; ... In that day ye shall ask in my name. – John 16:24, 26*

Has not our school of intercession taught us how little we have prayed in the name of Jesus? He promised His disciples: In that day, when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, ye shall ask in My name. Are there not tens of thousands with us mourning the lack of the power of intercession? Let our intercession today be for them and all God's children, that Christ may teach us that the Holy Spirit is in us, and what it is to live in His fullness, and to yield ourselves to His intercession work within us. The church and the world need nothing so much as a mighty Spirit of intercession to bring down the power of God on earth. Pray for the descent from heaven of the Spirit of intercession for a great prayer revival.

### How to Pray

*If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. – John 15:7*

Our acceptance with God, our access to Him, is all in Christ. As we consciously abide in Him we have liberty, not a liberty to our old nature or our self-will, but the divine liberty from all self-will, to ask what we will, in the power of the new nature, and it shall be done. Let us keep this place, and believe even now that our intercession is heard, and that the Spirit of supplication will be given all around us.

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 30

### What to Pray

*For our gospel did not come unto you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and in full assurance.* – 1 Thessalonians 1:5

*Those that have preached the gospel unto you by the Holy Spirit sent down from heaven.* – 1 Peter 1:12

What numbers of Bibles are being circulated. What numbers of sermons on the Bible are being preached. What numbers of Bibles are being read in homes and schools. How little blessing when it comes *in word only*; what divine blessing and power when it comes *in the Holy Spirit*, when it is preached *by the Holy Spirit sent down from heaven*. Pray for Bible circulation, and preaching and teaching and reading, that it may all be in the Holy Spirit, with much prayer. Pray for the power of the Spirit with the Word in your own neighborhood, wherever it is being read or heard. Let every mention of “the Word of God” awaken intercession.

### How to Pray

*Persevere in prayer and watch in the same with thanksgiving, praying also together for us that God would open unto us the door of the word.*

– Colossians 4:2-3

Do you not see how all depends upon God and prayer? As long as He lives and loves, and hears and works, as long as there are souls with hearts closed to the Word, as long as there is work to be done in carrying the word – **Pray without ceasing. Continue steadfastly in prayer, watching therein with thanksgiving. These words are for every Christian.**

### Prayers and Answers

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## Day 31

### What to Pray

*I AM the vine, ye are the branches.* – John 15:5

*For I have given you an example that ye should do as I have done to you.* – John 13:15

As branches we are to be so like the Vine, so entirely identified with it, that all may see that we have the same nature, and life, and spirit. When we pray for the Spirit, let us not only think of a Spirit of power, but the very disposition and temper of Christ Jesus. Ask and expect nothing less: for yourself, and all God's children, cry for it.

### How to Pray

*That ye help me with prayers to God for me.*

– Romans 15:30

*For I would ye knew what great conflict I have for you.*

– Colossians 2:1

All the powers of evil seek to hinder us in prayer. Prayer is a conflict with opposing forces. It needs the whole heart and all our strength. May God give us grace to strive in prayer till we prevail.

### Prayers and Answers

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