

GC Online Prayer Room Devotions

Quotes used by Gem Castor

May 19
7am

2 Chronicles 7:14 “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land.”

- “**A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work.**

There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessing upon us, but **because we are unprepared to receive it.**

- It is our work, by **confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer to fulfill the conditions** upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing. **A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer.**” Selected Messages, bk. 1, p. 121

REVIVAL, n. [from revive.]

Return, recall or recovery to life from death or apparent death; as the revival of a drowned person.

Recall, return or recovery from a state of neglect, oblivion, obscurity or depression

... to **fulfill the conditions** upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing.

Conditions

Christ has promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to His church, and the promise belongs to us as much as to the first disciples. But like every other promise, **it is given on conditions.**

- There are many who believe and profess to claim the Lord's promise; they talk about Christ and about the Holy Spirit, yet receive no benefit.
- They do not surrender the soul to be guided and controlled by the divine agencies.
- We cannot use the Holy Spirit. **The Spirit is to use us.** Through the Spirit God works in His people "to will and to do of His good pleasure." Philippians 2:13.
- But many will not submit to this. They want to manage themselves. This is why they do not receive the heavenly gift.
- Only to those who **wait humbly** upon God, who watch for His guidance and grace, is the Spirit given.

There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessing upon us, but **because we are unprepared to receive it.**

This promised blessing, if claimed by faith, would bring all other blessings in its train, and it is to be given liberally to the people of God. – {TM 174.2}

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➤ Absolute Reliance

.. whatever **prevents** us from making **Christ our entire dependence,** is **abomination** in the sight of God. – {ST August 24, 1891 Par. 9}

The **tenor** of the Bible is to **inculcate distrust of human power** and to **encourage trust in divine power**. – {PP 717.1}

God cannot glorify His name through His people while they are leaning upon man and making flesh their arm. Their present state of weakness will continue until Christ alone shall be exalted; until, with John the Baptist, they shall say from a **humble and reverent heart**: “He must increase, but I must decrease.” – {5T 729.1}

Men cannot depart from the counsel of God, and retain their peace and restfulness of soul. There is **no insanity so dreadful, so hopeless**, as that of **following human wisdom, unguided by the wisdom of God**. – {ST September 7, 1888 Par. 12}

There is a necessity for the Lord Himself to communicate His own ideas to the soul. What a thought! – that instead of our poor, earthly, contracted ideas and plans the Lord will communicate to us His own ideas, His own thought, noble, broad, far-reaching, always leading heavenward! – {2TT 188.1}

- **David had sought and obtained divine instruction, and he obeyed the voice of the Lord**, and gave the glory of his success to the Lord, who had delivered the enemies of Israel into his hands. **Oh that the people of God, at all times and in every extremity, would seek the Lord**, who is the sovereign ruler of all worlds, and the general of all the armies of those who honor and serve him. **We need to pray more, and to trust less in our own power**. When sincere prayer is offered, and our souls are humbled in deep contrition before God, and are not lifted up in self-importance, the Lord will bless his people. **The promise is given, that those who commit their way unto the Lord, shall be directed in the path of righteousness**. Those who truly seek and obtain God’s favor and help, and preserve their union with Heaven, will not glorify themselves, but they will glorify God for his great power and majesty that has wrought in their behalf. – {ST June 22, 1888 Par. 11}

- **The Lord himself directed Gideon's mind in the adoption of a plan which the latter immediately set out to execute..** – {ST July 14, 1881 Par. 5}

This is what we need especially now!!!

As the will of man co-operates with the will of God, it becomes **omnipotent**. Whatever is to be done at His command, may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings. --" {COL 333.1}

Omnipotent -Almighty; possessing unlimited power; all powerful
- Having unlimited power of a particular kind

When the minister fully realizes his own **helplessness** without the aid of Christ, **the danger of his becoming exalted will be removed**, and **Christ will absorb everything; his presence will pervade the whole soul**, and **impress all the senses**. – {ST January 27, 1890 Par. 5}

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The Lord had, through His prophets, foretold that Israel would be governed by a king; but it does not follow that this form of government was best for them or according to His will. He permitted the people to follow their own choice, because they refused to be guided by His counsel. **Hosea declares that God gave them a king in His anger. Hosea 13:11.** When men choose to have their own way, without seeking counsel from God, or in opposition to His revealed will, He often grants their desires, in order that, through the bitter experience that follows, they may be led to realize their folly and to repent of their sin. Human pride and wisdom will prove a dangerous guide. That which the heart desires contrary to the will of God will in the end be found a curse rather than a blessing. – {PP 605.3}

Samuel was instructed to grant the request of the people, but to warn them of the Lord's disapproval, and also make known what would be the result of their course.

But the people returned the answer, "Nay; but **we will have a king over us**; that we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles." – {PP 607.1}

- *By choosing a king they rejected God*
- *They took for granted HIS dealings*

For the sake of earthly distinction they sacrifice the unspeakable honor to which God has called them, of showing forth the praises of Him who hath called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9. – {PP 607.2}

With deep sadness Samuel listened to the words of the people; but the Lord said unto him, "Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king." The prophet had done his duty. He had faithfully presented the warning, and it had been rejected. With a heavy heart he dismissed the people, and himself departed to prepare for the great change in the government. – {PP 607.3}

- Deliverance from Egypt
- Red Sead Crossing
- Jericho
- Jordan Crossing

Gideon's 300 men

- **Judges 7:2** "The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, '**My own hand has saved me.**' 300/32,000= .9375

- The most complete and perfect system which men have ever devised, apart from the power and wisdom of God, will prove a failure; while the humble means which God sanctions must succeed. – {ST July 21, 1881 Par. 10}

- The Lord can do but little for the children of men, because they are so full of pride and vain glory. They exalt self, magnifying their own strength, learning, and wisdom. **It is necessary for God to disappoint their hopes and frustrate their plans, that they may learn to trust in him alone.** {ST July 14, 1881 Par. 9}

- Jehoshaphat

God desired His people to look to Him alone as their Law-giver and their Source of strength. Feeling their dependence upon God, they would be constantly drawn nearer to Him. They would become elevated and ennobled, fitted for the high destiny to which He had called them as His chosen people. But when a man was placed upon the throne, it would tend to turn the minds of the people from God. They would trust more to human strength, and less to divine power, and the errors of their king would lead them into sin and separate the nation from God. – {PP 606.1}

- **We have pushed God out of HIS throne**

- **For this reason Jesus came to introduce to us the Holy Spirit**

- **Through the Holy Spirit's in dwelling in us, Jesus longs to be the King of our life.**

Col 1:27 (NKJV) To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**

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Their thoughts were stormy and unreasonable, and the Lord gave them something else to afflict their souls and occupy their minds. God often does this when men create burdens and troubles for themselves. The disciples had no need to make trouble. Already danger was fast approaching. – {DA 380.2}

A violent tempest had been stealing upon them, and they were unprepared for it. It was a sudden contrast, for the day had been perfect; and when the gale struck them, they were afraid. **They forgot their disaffection, their unbelief, their impatience.**

- *A storm is needed to shake us or of our wrong course that we may see where God desires to lead us.*

Everyone worked to keep the boat from sinking. It was but a short distance by sea from Bethsaida to the point where they expected to meet Jesus, and in ordinary weather the journey required but a few hours; but now they were driven farther and farther from the point they sought. **Until the fourth watch of the night they toiled at the oars. Then the weary men gave themselves up for lost. In storm and darkness the sea had taught them their own helplessness, and they longed for the presence of their Master.** – {DA 380.3}

Jesus had not forgotten them. The Watcher on the shore saw those fear-stricken men battling with the tempest. Not for a moment did He lose sight of His disciples. With deepest solicitude His eyes followed the storm-tossed boat with its precious burden; for these men were to be the light of the world. **As a mother in tender love watches her child, so the compassionate Master watched His disciples. When their hearts were subdued, their unholy ambition quelled, and in humility they prayed for help, it was given them.** – {DA 381.1}

Psa 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

Psa 139:24 And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

The Saviour longs to give us a greater blessing than we ask; and He delays the answer to our request that He may show us the evil of our own hearts, and our deep need of His grace. He desires us to renounce the selfishness that leads us to seek Him. Confessing our helplessness and bitter need, we are to trust ourselves wholly to His love. – {DA 200.3}

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Jesus' Prayer Life

No other life was ever so crowded with labor and responsibility as was that of Jesus; **yet how often He was found in prayer! How constant was His communion with God!** Again and again in the history of His earthly life are found records such as these: **“Rising up a great while before day, He went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.” “Great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. And He withdrew Himself into the wilderness, and prayed.” “And it came to pass in those days, that He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.”** **Mark 1:35; Luke 5:15, 16; 6:12.** – {DA 362.3}

In a life wholly devoted to the good of others, **the Saviour found it necessary to withdraw** from the thoroughfares of travel and from the throng that followed Him day after day. He must turn aside from a life of ceaseless activity and contact with human needs, to **seek retirement and unbroken communion with His Father.** As one with us, a sharer in our needs and weaknesses, **He was wholly dependent upon God,** and in the secret place of prayer He sought divine strength, that He might go forth braced for duty and trial. In a world of sin Jesus endured struggles and torture of soul. In

communion with God He could unburden the sorrows that were crushing Him. **Here He found comfort and joy.** – {DA 362.4}

In Christ the cry of humanity reached the Father of infinite pity. **As a man He supplicated the throne of God till His humanity was charged with a heavenly current that should connect humanity with divinity. Through continual communion He received life from God,** that He might impart life to the world. **His experience is to be ours.** – {DA 363.1}

“Come ye yourselves apart,” He bids us. **If we would give heed to His word, we should be stronger and more useful.** The disciples sought Jesus, and told Him all things; and He encouraged and instructed them. **If today we would take time to go to Jesus and tell Him our needs, we should not be disappointed; He would be at our right hand to help us. We need more simplicity, more trust and confidence in our Saviour.** He whose name is called **“The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace;”** He of whom it is written, **“The government shall be upon His shoulder,” is the Wonderful Counselor.** We are invited to ask wisdom of Him. He “giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not.” Isaiah 9:6; James 1:5. – {DA 363.2}

In all who are under the training of God is to be revealed a life that is not in harmony with the world, its customs, or its practices; and everyone needs to have a personal experience in obtaining a knowledge of the will of God. **We must individually hear Him speaking to the heart.** When every other voice is hushed, and in quietness we wait before Him, **the silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God.**

- **Christ is ever sending messages to those who listen for His voice.** – {Pr 61.2}
- **John 10:27 (NKJV) My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.**

He bids us, “Be still, and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10. **Here alone can true rest be found.** And this is the effectual preparation for all who labor for God. **Amid the hurrying throng, and the strain of life’s intense activities, the soul that is thus refreshed will be surrounded with an atmosphere of light and peace.** The life will **breathe out fragrance,** and will **reveal a divine power** that will **reach men’s hearts.** – {DA 363.3}

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If you have given yourself to God, to do His work, you have no need to be anxious for tomorrow. He whose servant you are, **knows the end from the beginning. The events of tomorrow, which are hidden from your view, are open to the eyes of Him who is omnipotent.** – {Pr 226.5}

Luk 12:7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than **many sparrows.**

Luk 12:7 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; **you are of more value than many sparrows.**

Nothing Surprises God

Mat 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, **Take no thought for your life,** what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Mat 6:25 “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life— whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing?

Mat 6:26 Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are?

Not even a sparrow falls to the ground without the Father’s notice. Satan’s hatred against God leads him to hate every object of the Saviour’s care. He seeks to mar the handiwork of God, and he delights in destroying even the dumb

creatures. It is only through God's protecting care that the birds are preserved to gladden us with their songs of joy. But He does not forget even the sparrows. "Fear ye not therefore, **ye are of more value than many sparrows.**" – {DA 356.4}

Mat 6:27 Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

Mat 6:32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.

Mat 6:33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

- **Mat 6:33** But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
- **Mat 6:34** Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.

All who have chosen God's service are to rest in His care.

Christ pointed to the birds flying in the heavens, to the flowers of the field, and bade His hearers consider these objects of God's creation. "**Are not ye of much more value than they?**" He said. Matthew 6:26, R. V. **The measure of divine attention bestowed on any object is proportionate to its rank in the scale of being.** The little brown sparrow is watched over by Providence. The flowers of the field, the grass that carpets the earth, share the notice and care of our heavenly Father. The great Master Artist has taken thought for the lilies, making them so beautiful that they outshine the glory of Solomon. **How much more does He care for man, who is the image and glory of God. He longs to see His children reveal a character after His similitude.** As the sunbeam imparts to the flowers their varied and delicate tints, so does God impart to the soul the beauty of His own character. – {DA 313.2}

"**Be not therefore anxious for the morrow.**" Matthew 6:34, R. V. **We are to follow Christ day by day. God does not bestow help**

for tomorrow. He does not give His children all the directions for their life journey at once, lest they should become confused. **He tells them just as much as they can remember and perform. The strength and wisdom imparted are for the present emergency.** “If any of you lack wisdom,” — for today, — “let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.” James 1:5. — {DA 313.4}

*All who choose Christ’s kingdom of love and righteousness and peace, making its interest paramount to all other, are linked to the world above, and **every blessing needed for this life is theirs.** In the book of God’s providence, the volume of life, we are each given a page. That page contains every particular of our history; even the hairs of the head are numbered. **God’s children are never absent from His mind.** — {DA 313.3}*

God has been Misrepresented Where is God when we are hurting

Psa 33:6 By the **word of the LORD were the heavens made;** and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

Psa 33:9 For **He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.**

- **Do not forget what you live for,**
- **what you live by and**
- **who you live for.**

- **If we have a correct knowledge of the character of God, Satan will not be able to overwhelm our souls with doubt and discouragement.** — {ST April 11, 1892 Par. 3}

Joh 16:33 *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: **but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.***

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Unity

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as *we are*

Joh 17:21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

John 17:21 (SDABC5): 21. ***Maybe one.*** There would be diversities of gifts (1 Cor. 12), but there was to be unity of spirit, objectives, and beliefs. There were to be no strivings for supremacy such as had recently plagued the Twelve (Luke 22:24–30). ***The unity springing from the blended lives of Christians would impress the world of the divine origin of the Christian church.***

➤  Vietnam

Joh 17:22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:

Mat 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

God's people are not to be in confusion, lacking order and harmony, consistency and beauty. **The Lord is greatly dishonored when disunion exists among His people.** Truth is a unit. The unity that God requires must be cultivated day by day if we would answer the prayer of Christ. The disunion that is striving for existence among those who profess to believe the last message of mercy to be given to the world, must find no place; for it would be a fearful hindrance to the advancement of God's work. His servants are to be one, as Christ is one with the Father; their powers, illuminated, inspired, and sanctified, must be united to make a complete whole. **Those who love God and keep His commandments are not to draw apart; they are to press together.** —1904, Testimonies for the Church 8:174, 175. — {1TT 45.3}

The unity of believers is to be an evidence to the world of the divine power and mission of Christ. This should be the mighty argument to convince the world that Christ is the Son of God, the Redeemer of fallen man. **The love existing between believers is to be similar to the love existing between the Father and the Son.** And this love in the soul is the evidence of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We are to love God supremely, and our neighbors as ourselves. It is in the lack of this love that thousands fail, and are found transgressors of the law. Supreme love for God will lead to love for our fellow-men, and the commandment of Christ is, "Love one another as I have loved you," "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for another." **We cannot have this love unless Jesus is abiding in the heart by living faith.** .. This unity and love will exist wherever the Spirit of the Lord abides; heart will be bound to heart, and works of righteousness will appear in the daily life. — {ST April 13, 1891 Par. 1}

- **Milwaukee**
- **Trials or**

Look at the cross of Calvary. It is a standing pledge of the boundless love, the measureless mercy, of the heavenly Father. O that all might repent and do their first works. **When the churches do this, they will love God supremely and their neighbors as themselves.** Ephraim will not envy Judah, and Judah will not vex Ephraim. **Divisions will then be healed, the harsh sounds of strife will no more be heard** in the borders of Israel. Through the grace freely given them of God, all will seek to answer the prayer of Christ, that His disciples should be one, even as He and the Father are one. Peace,

love, mercy, and benevolence will be the abiding principles of the soul. The love of Christ will be the theme of every tongue, and it will no more be said by the True Witness, "I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love" (Revelation 2:4). The people of God will be abiding in Christ, the love of Jesus will be revealed, and one Spirit will animate all hearts, regenerating and renewing all in the image of Christ, fashioning all hearts alike. As living branches of the True Vine, all will be united to Christ, the living head. Christ will abide in every heart, guiding, comforting, sanctifying, and presenting to the world the unity of the followers of Jesus, thus bearing testimony that the heavenly credentials are supplied to the remnant church. In the oneness of Christ's church it will be proved that God sent His only-begotten Son into the world. – {1SM 385.1}

When God's people are one in the unity of the Spirit, all of Phariseeism, all of self-righteousness, which was the sin of the Jewish nation, will be expelled from all hearts. The mold of Christ will be upon each individual member of His body, and His people will be new bottles into which He can pour His new wine, and the new wine will not break the bottles. God will make known the mystery which hath been hidden for ages. He will make known what are the "riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory"

(Colossians 1:27) [verses 28, 29 also quoted]. – {1SM 386.1}

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1 pm

- In the schools of Egypt, **Moses received the**
- **highest civil and military training.**
- **Of great personal attractions,**
- **noble in form and stature,**
- **of cultivated mind and princely bearing, and**
- **renowned as a military leader,**
- **he became the nation's pride.** The king of Egypt was also a member of the priesthood; and Moses, though refusing to participate in the heathen worship, was initiated into all the mysteries of the Egyptian religion. **Egypt** at this time being still the most powerful and most highly civilized of

nations, Moses, as its prospective sovereign, was heir to the highest honors this world could bestow. But his was a nobler choice. For the honor of God and the deliverance of His downtrodden people, Moses sacrificed the honors of Egypt. Then, in a special sense, God undertook his training. – {Ed 62.1}

Not yet was Moses prepared for his lifework. He had yet to learn the lesson of dependence upon divine power. He had mistaken God's purpose. It was his hope to deliver Israel by force of arms. For this he risked all, and failed. In defeat and disappointment he became a fugitive and exile in a strange land. – {Ed 62.2}

- *Isaiah 55:8* For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD.
- For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

In the wilds of Midian, Moses spent forty years as a keeper of sheep. Apparently cut off forever from his life's mission, he was receiving the discipline essential for its fulfillment.

Amidst the solemn majesty of the mountain solitudes **Moses was alone with God.** Everywhere the Creator's name was written. Moses seemed to stand in His presence and to be overshadowed by His power. **Here his self-sufficiency was swept away. In the presence of the Infinite One he realized how weak, how inefficient, how short-sighted, is man.** – {Ed 63.2}

- *This is what COVID has done to us, we realised how weak and inefficient we are!*
- **Moses learned something else in the school of CHRIST**
- **HUMILITY 101**
- *God is trying to teach us something that we refuse to learn most of the time*

Here Moses **gained** that which **went with him throughout the years of his toilsome and care-burdened life—a sense of the personal presence of the Divine One.** Not merely did he look down the ages for Christ to be made manifest in the flesh; **he saw Christ accompanying the host of Israel in all their travels.** When misunderstood and misrepresented, when called to bear reproach and insult, to face danger and death, **he was able to endure “as seeing Him who is invisible.”** Hebrews 11:27. – {Ed 63.3}

Moses did not merely think of God, he saw Him. God was the constant vision before him. Never did he lose sight of His face. – {Ed 63.4}

- **Not important to be called or labelled as great as long as you know that you are walking closely with the Great I Am**

Such was the experience that Moses gained by his forty years of training in the desert. To impart such an experience, **Infinite Wisdom counted not the period too long or the price too great.** – {Ed 64.1}

- *This is the training that even AUP Medschool could not achieve, couldn't prepare you for*

The **highest testimony to the greatness of Moses**, the judgment passed upon his life by Inspiration, is, **“There has never been another prophet like Moses, for the Lord talked to him face to face.”** **Deuteronomy 34:10.** – {Ed 64.2}

Deuteronomy 34:10 (SDABC1): 10. **Face to face.** A figure of speech to describe **intimate association, friendship shared.** Compare the experiences of Jacob (Gen. 32:30) and Gideon (Judges 6:22). No other human being ever had a closer association with Jehovah. He is justly known as the world's greatest emancipator and lawgiver. **He has influenced history throughout all succeeding time.** A strong personality to begin with, Moses had a fellowship with God that greatly developed and strengthened his character.

- **John 17:3** And **this is life eternal, that they might know Thee** the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.
- **Real Greatness is Knowing God**
- **If we want to know HIM deeper we must enter the door of Humility**

I am the way the Truth and the life.. John 14:6

If we don't know HIM, we actually don't know where we're going.

Mat 23:11 But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.

Mat 23:12 And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

Before honor is humility. **To fill a high place before men, Heaven chooses the worker who, like John the Baptist, takes a lowly place before God. The most childlike disciple is the most efficient in labor for God.** The heavenly intelligences can co-operate with him who is seeking, not to exalt self, but to save souls. **He who feels most deeply his need of divine aid will plead for it; and the Holy Spirit will give unto him glimpses of Jesus that will strengthen and uplift the soul.**

My experience yesterday

From communion with Christ he will go forth to work for those who are perishing in their sins. He is anointed for his mission; and he succeeds where many of the learned and intellectually wise would fail. – {DA 436.3}

But when men exalt themselves, feeling that they are a necessity for the success of God's great plan, the Lord causes them to be set aside. It is made evident that the Lord is not dependent upon them. **The work does not stop because of their removal from it, but goes forward with greater power.** – {DA 436.4}

The **simplicity**, the **self-forgetfulness**, and the **confiding love of a little child** are the **attributes that Heaven values**. **These are the characteristics of real greatness.** – {DA 437.1}

- Let us praise God for showing us the humble and simple ways that HE
 - Confession of our prideful spirit
 - Lord please help me give you _____
-

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7 pm

Greater Works Than This

“Verily, verily, I say unto you,” Christ continued, “He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also.” The Saviour was deeply anxious for His disciples to understand for what purpose His divinity was united to humanity. He came to the world to display the glory of God, that man might be uplifted by its restoring power. God was manifested in Him that He might be manifested in them. **Jesus revealed no qualities, and exercised no powers, that men may not have through faith in Him. His perfect humanity is that which all His followers may possess, if they will be in subjection to God as He was.** – {DA 664.4}

- **Dependent**
- **Yielded**
- **Surrendered**

And greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto My Father.” By this Christ did not mean that the disciples’ work would be of a more exalted character than His, but that it would have greater extent. **He did not refer merely to miracle working, but to all that would take place under the working of the Holy Spirit.** – {DA 664.5}

The Saviour’s promise to His disciples is a promise to His church to the end of time. God did not design that His wonderful plan to redeem men should achieve only insignificant results. All who

will go to work, trusting not in what they themselves can do, but in what God can do for and through them, will certainly realize the fulfillment of His promise. “Greater works than these shall ye do,” He declares; “because I go unto My Father.” – {DA 667.2}

Even these words fail of expressing the greatness and the glory of God’s purpose to be accomplished through His people. Not to this world only but to the universe are we to make manifest the principles of His kingdom. The apostle Paul, writing by the Holy Spirit, says: “Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be [made] known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.” Ephesians 3:8-10. – {2TT 367.2}

As yet the disciples were unacquainted with the Saviour’s unlimited resources and power. He said to them, “Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My name.” John 16:24. **He explained that the secret of their success would be in asking for strength and grace in His name.** He would be present before the Father to make request for them. The prayer of the humble suppliant He presents as His own desire in that soul’s behalf. **Every sincere prayer is heard in heaven. It may not be fluently expressed; but if the heart is in it, it will ascend to the sanctuary where Jesus ministers, and He will present it to the Father without one awkward, stammering word, beautiful and fragrant with the incense of His own perfection.** – {DA 667.3}

The greatest blessing that God can give to man is the spirit of earnest prayer. All heaven is open before the man of prayer....The ambassadors of Christ **will have power with the people after they have, with earnest supplication, come before God.** —(The Review and Herald, October 20, 1896.) – {Pr 83.3}

The path of sincerity and integrity is not a path free from obstruction, but **in every difficulty we are to see a call to prayer.** There is no one living

who has any power that he has not received from God, and the source whence it comes is open to the weakest human being. “Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name,” said Jesus, “that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in My name, I will do it.” – {DA 667.4}

None need feel that they are powerless: for Christ declares, “**All power** is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.” He has promised that **He will give this power to His workers. His power is to become their power.** – (Colporteur Ministry, 108.) – {Pr 88.2}

➤ **Father please remind me that you are greater than my**

May 22
6 am

Throughout all the churches there is one subject of vital importance that has been neglected. We have failed to make the Holy Spirit the theme of our thought and instruction. – {ST May 9, 1892 Par. 6}

How greatly do the workers **need a baptism of the Holy Spirit**, that they may become true missionaries for God. – Testimonies on Sabbath-School Work, 73, 74. – {CSW 155.2}

God’s work is to be carried forward with power. **We need the baptism of the Holy Spirit.** – Testimonies For The Church 9:109-111 (1909). – {Ev 66.3}

There needs to be a waking up among God’s people, that His work may be carried forward with power. **We need the baptism of the Holy Spirit.** – {Ev 558.4}

Carl Dates

Former President Of Southern Baptist Convention

If God were to take the Holy Spirit out of our midst today, about 95% of what we are doing in our church would go on and we would not even know the difference.

Yet if God would have taken the Holy Spirit out of the midst of the first Christian community about 95% of what they are doing would have ceased immediately

This is the greatest strategy that God has given us!

The Greatest Solution... Answer..!!!

- **Joh 15:5** "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; **for without Me you can do nothing.**
- **Joh 5:30** **I can of Myself do nothing.**

Without the Spirit of God a knowledge of His word is of no avail. The theory of truth, **unaccompanied by the Holy Spirit, cannot quicken the soul or sanctify the heart.** – {COL 408.3}

It is the **absence of the Spirit** that makes the gospel ministry so **powerless.** Learning, talent, eloquence, every natural or acquired endowment, may be possessed; but, **without the presence of the Spirit of God, no heart will be touched, no sinner won to Christ.** On the other hand, if they are connected with Christ, if the gifts of the Spirit are theirs, the **poorest** and **most ignorant** of His disciples **will have a power** that will tell upon hearts. **God makes them channels for the outflowing of the highest influence in the universe.** – {8T 21.4}

Zechariah 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

(TLB) Then he said, “This is God’s message to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord Almighty—**you will succeed because of my Spirit, though you are few and weak.**’

Yes; **in giving the Holy Spirit, it was impossible for God to give more. To this gift nothing could be added. By it all needs are supplied. The Holy Spirit is the vital presence of God,** and if appreciated **will call forth praise and thanksgiving,** and will ever be **springing up unto everlasting life.** *The restoration of the Spirit is the covenant of grace. Yet how few appreciate this great gift, so costly, yet so free to all who will accept it? When faith takes hold of the blessing, there **comes rich spiritual good.** But too often the blessing is not appreciated. We need an enlarged conception* in order to comprehend its value. – {ST August 7, 1901 Par. 4}

This **promised blessing, if claimed by faith, would bring all other blessings in its train,** and it is **to be given liberally** to the people of God. – {TM 174.2}

Standing in the way of God

"The Lord has shown me that **men in responsible positions are standing directly in the way of His work** ... When all shall take their appointed place in God's work, earnestly seeking wisdom and guidance from Him, then **a great advance** will have been made toward letting light shine upon the world. **When men shall cease to place themselves in the way, God will work among us as never before.**" E.G. White, Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5, page 726

God would work mightily for His people today if they would place themselves wholly under His guidance. They need the **constant abiding of the Holy Spirit.** **If there were more prayer** in the councils of those bearing responsibilities, more humbling of the heart before God, **we should see abundant evidence of divine leadership,** and **our work would make rapid progress.** –(Testimonies for the Church 8:238.) – {Pr 50.4}

.. **whatever prevents us from making Christ our entire dependence, is abomination in the sight of God.** – {ST August 24, 1891 Par. 9}

○ **Dennis Smith p15**

As a Christian pastor, I have to admit that one easily becomes so involved in the work of God that one begins doing his own planning and doing, giving little consideration as to whether the planning and doing are under the promptings and guidance of the Holy Spirit. I'm afraid that much of the activity in the church is the result of man's plans and efforts, not those of the Spirit.

The **tenor** of the Bible is to **inculcate distrust of human power** and to **encourage trust in divine power**. – {PP 717.1}

- “A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it.

- It is our work, by **confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer** to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing. A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer.”
Selected Messages, bk. 1, p. 121

Joh 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

Joh 17:22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

Mat 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

2 Chronicles 7:14 "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land."

What should our prayers be?

In giving Jesus to the world God gave all heaven in one gift. Then why is it, **when God has left nothing undone that could be done, that there are not more brought from darkness to light?**—It is because the human will does not cooperate with the divine intelligences. If the Lord's will and way were carried out, humanity would be reached through humanity, and **every lost prodigal would be brought home**, and saved through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who tasted death for every man. Sin would no longer exist. But it is humanity that bars the way. It is for lack of the copartnership of man, because of rebellion, that the way is blocked up. The revelation of God's truth comes to us through human agents. Christ came to the world as the Son of Man. This was the only way in which he could reach humanity. Jesus enters into humanity, that through his power and grace humanity may become partaker of the divine nature. "Ye are laborers together with God." Man must cooperate with Jesus Christ, and through earnest endeavor work out his own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God that worketh in us to will and to do of his good pleasure. Man works out what God works in, not by means of finite endeavor, but by the strength imparted through the divine nature. Those who are building up a Christlike character, will not, cannot, withhold their interest from the work of aiding Christ in seeking and saving that which is lost. — {ST January 1, 1894 Par. 4}
... It is the neglect of men in failing to cooperate with Jesus that leaves the world so long unreclaimed.

As the will of man co-operates with the will of God, it becomes **omnipotent**. Whatever is to be done at His command, may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings. --" {COL 333.1}

Omnipotent -Almighty; possessing unlimited power; all powerful
- Having unlimited power of a particular kind

May 22

1 pm

DA 72- Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled

This chapter is based on John 13:31-38; John 14; John 15; John 16; John 17.

DA 83.4

It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ. We should take it point by point, and let the imagination grasp each scene, especially the closing ones. As we thus dwell upon His great sacrifice for us, **our confidence in Him will be more constant, our love will be quickened, and we shall be more deeply imbued with His spirit.**

In My Name

Joh 14:14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

As yet the **disciples were unacquainted** with the **Saviour's unlimited resources and power.** He said to them, **Joh 16:24 Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.**

He explained that the secret of their success would be in asking for strength and grace in His name. He would be present before the Father to make request for them. – {DA 667.3}

Your Worth- In My Name

“In My name,” Christ bade His disciples pray. **In Christ's name His followers are to stand before God. Through the value of the sacrifice made for them, they are of value in the Lord's sight.**

Because of the imputed righteousness of Christ they are accounted precious. For Christ's sake the Lord pardons those that fear Him. **He does not see in them the vileness of the sinner. He recognizes in them the likeness of His Son, in whom they believe.** – {DA 667.5}

The Lord is disappointed when His people place a low estimate upon themselves. **He desires His chosen heritage to value themselves according to the price He has placed upon them. God wanted them, else He would not have sent His Son on such an expensive errand to redeem them.** He has a use for them, and **He is well pleased when they make the very highest demands upon Him, that they may glorify His name. They may expect large things if they have faith in His promises.** – {DA 668.1}

Holy Spirit's Presence

Before offering Himself as the sacrificial victim, Christ sought/asks for the most essential and complete gift to bestow upon His followers, a gift that would bring within their reach the boundless resources of grace. – {DA 668.5}

The Holy Spirit is Christ's representative, .. By the Spirit the Saviour would be accessible to all.

In this sense He would be nearer to them than if He had not ascended on high. – {DA 669.2}

Holy Spirit's Love

Jesus read the future of His disciples. He saw one brought to the scaffold, one to the cross, one to exile among the lonely rocks of the sea, others to persecution and death. He encouraged them with the promise that in every trial He would be with them. **That promise has lost none of its force.** The Lord knows all about His faithful servants who for His sake are lying in prison or who are banished to lonely islands. **He comforts them with His own presence.** When for the truth's sake the believer stands at the bar of unrighteous tribunals, **Christ stands by his side.** All the reproaches that fall upon him, fall upon

Christ. Christ is condemned over again in the person of His disciple. When one is incarcerated in prison walls, **Christ ravishes the heart with His love.** When one suffers death for His sake, Christ says, *“I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore, ... and have the keys of hell and of death.”* Revelation 1:18. **The life that is sacrificed for Me is preserved unto eternal glory.** – {DA 669.3}

At all times and in all places, in all sorrows and in all afflictions, when the outlook seems dark and the future perplexing, and we feel helpless and alone, the Comforter will be sent in answer to the prayer of faith. Circumstances may separate us from every earthly friend; but no circumstance, **no distance, can separate us from the heavenly Comforter.** **Wherever we are, wherever we may go, He is always at our right hand to support, sustain, uphold, and cheer.** – {DA 669.4}

Holy Spirit as Teacher

The **disciples still failed to understand Christ's** words in their spiritual sense, and again He explained His meaning. **By the Spirit, He said, He would manifest Himself to them. “The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things.”** No more will you say, I cannot comprehend. No longer will you see through a glass, darkly. You shall “be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge.” Ephesians 3:18, 19. – {DA 670.1}

In describing to His disciples the office work of the **Holy Spirit, Jesus sought to inspire them with the joy and hope that inspired His own heart.**

He rejoiced because of the abundant help He had provided for His church. The Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts that He could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people. The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. **The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. Sin**

could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. – {DA 671.2}

What The Disciples Nearly Missed Out On

Because of their selfishness and earthliness, even the disciples of Jesus **could not comprehend the spiritual glory** which He sought to reveal unto them.

It was not until after Christ's ascension to His Father, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the believers, that the disciples fully appreciated the Saviour's character and mission. **After they had received the baptism of the Spirit, they began to realize that they had been in the very presence of the Lord of glory.** As the sayings of Christ were brought to their remembrance, their minds were opened to comprehend the prophecies, and to understand the miracles which He had wrought. The wonders of His life passed before them, and they were as men awakened from a dream. They realized that "the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the Only-begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." John 1:14. **They never wearied of rehearsing His words and works. His lessons, which they had but dimly understood, now came to them as a fresh revelation. The Scriptures became to them a new book.** – {DA 506.4}

How dimly had they comprehended the prophetic scriptures! .. But after they were illuminated by the Holy Spirit, how they longed to see Him again, and to place themselves at His feet! How they wished that they might come to Him, and have Him explain the scriptures which they could not comprehend! How attentively would they listen to His words! – {DA 507.1}

Remorse took hold of the disciples because they had allowed the prevailing unbelief to leaven their opinions and becloud their understanding. The Light of this dark world had been shining amid its gloom, and they had failed to comprehend whence were its beams. They asked themselves why they had pursued a course that made it necessary for Christ to

reprove them. **They often repeated His conversations, and said, Why did we allow earthly considerations and the opposition of priests and rabbis to confuse our senses, so that we did not comprehend that a greater than Moses was among us, that One wiser than Solomon was instructing us?** – {DA 508.1}

Jesus Was Trying to Prepare them for What's Ahead of Them

They are to contend with supernatural forces, but they are assured of supernatural help. All the intelligences of heaven are in this army. And more than angels are in the ranks. **The Holy Spirit, the representative of the Captain of the Lord's host, comes down to direct the battle.** Our infirmities may be many, our sins and mistakes grievous; but the grace of God is for all who seek it with contrition. The power of Omnipotence is enlisted in behalf of those who trust in God. – {DA 352.2}

What was Jesus Willing to Lose

Ever before Him He saw the result of His mission. His earthly life, so full of toil and self-sacrifice, **was cheered by the prospect that He would not have all this travail for nought.** By giving His life for the life of men, He would win back the world to its loyalty to God. **Although** the baptism of blood must first be received; **although** the sins of the world were to weigh upon His innocent soul; **although** the shadow of an unspeakable woe was upon Him; **yet for the joy that was set before Him, He chose to endure the cross, and despised the shame.** – {DA 410.2}

But When they Fully Acknowledged HIM

As priests and rulers combined against them, and they were brought before councils and thrust into prison, the followers of Christ rejoiced "that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name." Acts 5:41. **They rejoiced to prove, before men and angels, that they recognized the glory of Christ, and chose to follow Him at the loss of all things.** – {DA 508.3}

May 22

7 pm

Praise

Shall all our devotional exercises consist in asking and receiving? Shall we be always thinking of our wants and never of the benefits we receive? **Shall we be recipients of His mercies and never express our gratitude to God, never praise Him for what He has done for us?** We do not pray any too much, but we are too sparing of giving thanks. **If the loving-kindness of God called forth more thanksgiving and praise, we would have far more power in prayer.** **We would abound more and more in the love of God and have more bestowed to praise Him for.** You who complain that God does not hear your prayers, **change your present order and mingle praise with your petitions.** **When you consider His goodness and mercies you will find that He will consider your wants.** – {2TT 110.2}

Prayer and Praise

Pray, pray earnestly and without ceasing, but do not forget to praise.

Not because of someone's personality or attribute

King David

1Ch 16:4 And he appointed certain of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, and to record, and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel:

(AMPC+) **1Ch 16:4** He appointed Levites to minister before the ark of the Lord and to celebrate [*by calling to mind*], thanking and praising the Lord, the God of Israel:

1Ch 23:30 They are also to stand every morning to thank and praise the Lord, and likewise at evening,

1Ch 23:5 And, said David, 4,000 shall be gatekeepers and **4,000 are to praise the Lord** with the instruments which I made for praise.

God's goodness in hearing and answering prayer places us under heavy obligation to express our thanksgiving for the favors bestowed upon us. We should praise God much more than we do. The blessings received in answer to prayer should be promptly acknowledged. The record of them should be placed in our diary, that when we take the book in hand, we may remember the goodness of the Lord, and praise His holy name.—(The Review and Herald, May 7, 1908.) – {Pr 115.3}

- **promptly acknowledged**-why? Because we easily forget!

➤ **And as a result!**... (next quote)

We often lose great blessings by neglecting to praise the Giver. Let us make melody to him in our hearts and with our voices. **The soul may ascend nearer Heaven, on the wings of praise.** God is worshiped with song and music in the courts above. And as we thus express our gratitude, we are **approximating to the worship of the heavenly hosts.** "**Whoso offereth praise, glorifieth God.**" Let us with reverent joy come before our Creator "with thanksgiving and the voice of melody." – {ST January 26, 1882 Par. 20}

So much is given to me that I have no time to ponder that which I don't have.

-Hellen Keller

It is better for us that God does not always answer our prayers just when we desire, and in just the manner we wish. He will do more and better for us than to accomplish all our wishes, for our wisdom is folly. –
{1TT 214.3}

God desires His obedient children to claim His blessing and to come before Him with **praise and thanksgiving.** God is the Fountain of life and power. **He can make the wilderness a fruitful field** for the people that keep His commandments, for this is for the glory of His name. He has done for His chosen people that which should inspire every heart with thanksgiving, and **it grieves Him that so little praise is offered.** **He desires to have a stronger expression**

from His people, showing that they know they have reason for joy and gladness. – {3TT 30.3}

➤ **Secret Santa**

If we keep the Lord ever before us, **allowing our hearts to go out in thanksgiving and praise to Him**, we shall have a **continual freshness in our religious life**. Our prayers will take the form of a conversation with God as we would talk with a friend. **He will speak His mysteries to us personally**. Often there will come to us a **sweet joyful sense of the presence of Jesus**.—
(Christ's Object Lessons, 129.) – {Pr 118.1}

If the loving-kindness of God called forth more thanksgiving and praise, we would have far more power in prayer...– {2TT 110.2}

➤ *How often should we thank God*

Eph 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;