

10 Days of Prayer 2017

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Day 9—The Commandments

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.” Ps. 119:18

Suggested Format for the Prayer Time

Praise (approximately 10 minutes)

- Begin your prayer time by praising God that because He loved us, He gave us His law.
- Praise God that His law is a law of love.
- Praise God that He wants to write His law in your heart.

Confession and Claiming Victory Over Sin (approximately 5 minutes)

- Ask God to show you the sins that you need to confess privately. Claim His victory over those sins.
- Ask God for forgiveness for times when you willingly chose to go against God’s law.
- Thank God that He forgives you according to 1 John 1:9.

Supplication and Intercession (approximately 35 minutes)

- Ask that the Holy Spirit will write His law in your mind and heart, according to the promise in Hebrews 10:15-17.
- Ask God to help you live a life full of Christ’s joy.
- Pray that God will give you love in your heart for Him and for those around you.
- Ask God to help you live a life that shows others that His law is a law of love to both God and man.
- Ask God to help you deny self for the truth’s sake so that you can make a holy impression on the world.
- Pray that our church will use every appropriate social media format to share the three angels’ messages in practical, creative, and fresh ways with twenty-first century people.
- Pray for continued focus on the belief of biblical creation, which shows that our world was created in six literal, consecutive days by the word of the Lord.
- Pray for increased participation in evangelistic outreach by all church institutions as they support the ongoing mission of the church.
- Pray for a wide acceptance of comprehensive health ministry (“medical missionary work”), which allows church members to follow Christ’s selfless example of meeting the daily needs of others.
- Pray for refugees around the world who are suffering. Pray especially for those from closed countries to become believers in Jesus while they have the opportunity to interact with Christians.
- Pray for God to call retired teachers and educators to minister to the 2,566 people groups within the 14 countries of Southern Asia-Pacific Division.
- Pray for God to raise up prayer warriors to intercede for the 2,568 people groups within the 4 countries of Southern Asia Division.
- Pray for each local church Sabbath School / Personal Ministries Department as they seek God’s plan to minister to their communities through Bible study and personal witnessing.
- Pray that the seven (or more) people on your list will understand that God’s law is a law of love, and that if they love Him they should keep His commandments.
- Pray for any personal needs you have.

Thanksgiving (approximately 10 minutes)

- Thank God for giving us the law to guide us.
- Thank God that He calls us to show others His love.
- Thank God that His law in our hearts can bring our own interests into subordination to high and eternal considerations.

Suggested Songs to Sing

“Trust and Obey” (SDA Hymnal #590); “We’ll Build on the Rock” (SDA Hymnal #531); “A Mighty Fortress” (SDA Hymnal #506); “Draw Me Nearer” (SDA Hymnal #306); “Wholly Thine” (SDA Hymnal #308).

The Commandments

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.” Ps. 119:18

God’s law is the law of love. He has surrounded you with beauty to teach you that you are not placed on earth merely to delve for self, to dig and build, to toil and spin, but to make life bright and joyous and beautiful with the love of Christ—like the flowers, to gladden other lives by the ministry of love. (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 97)

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. (Ps. 19:7, 8)

The work Christianity is designed to achieve in the world is not to depreciate the law of God, not to detract from its sacred dignity in the slightest degree, but it is to write that law in the mind and heart. When the law of God is thus implanted in the soul of the believer, he is approaching eternal life through the merits of Jesus. . . .

The object of the gospel is met when this great end is achieved. Its work from age to age is to unite the hearts of His followers in a spirit of universal brotherhood, through belief of the truth, and thus establish heaven’s system of order and harmony in the family of God on earth, that they may be accounted worthy to become members of the royal family above. God, in His wisdom and mercy, tests men and women here, to see if they will obey His voice and respect His law, or rebel as Satan did. . . . (*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 50)

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. (1 John 5:3, 4)

The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all intelligent beings depends upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness. God desires from all His creatures the service of love—service that springs from an appreciation of His character. He takes no pleasure in a forced obedience; and to all He grants freedom of will, that they may render Him voluntary service. (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 34)

God has given His holy law to man as His measure of character. By this law you may see and overcome every defect in your character. You may sever yourself from every idol, and link yourself to the throne of God by the golden chain of grace and truth. (*Bible Echo*, Jan. 14, 1901, par. 3)

The law of love calls for the devotion of body, mind, and soul to the service of God and our fellow men. And this service, while making us a blessing to others, brings the greatest blessing to ourselves. Unselfishness underlies all true development. Through unselfish service we receive the highest culture of every faculty. (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 32)

The yoke that binds to service is the law of God. The great law of love revealed in Eden, proclaimed upon Sinai, and in the new covenant written in the heart, is that which binds the human worker to the will of God. If we were left to follow our own inclinations, to go just where our will would lead us, we should fall into Satan’s ranks and become possessors of his attributes. Therefore God confines us to His will, which is high, and noble, and elevating. He desires that we shall patiently and wisely take up the duties of service. The yoke of service Christ Himself has borne in humanity. He said, “I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart.” Psalm 40:8. “I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me.” John 6:38. Love for God, zeal for His glory, and love for fallen humanity, brought Jesus to earth to suffer and to die. This was the controlling power of His life. This principle He bids us adopt. (*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 329, 330)

To love God and man is the Christian’s whole duty. The law of love is written upon the tablets of the soul, the Spirit of God dwells in him, and his character appears in good works. Jesus became poor that through His poverty we might be made rich. What sacrifices are we willing to make for His sake? Have we His love enshrined in our hearts? Do we love our neighbor as Christ loved us? If we have this love for souls, it will lead us to consider carefully whether by our words, our acts, our influence in any way, we are placing temptation before those who have little moral power. We shall not censure the weak and suffering, as the Pharisees were continually doing, but we shall endeavor to remove every stone of stumbling from our brother’s path lest the lame be turned out of the way. (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 359, 360)

Those who follow Christ’s example of self-denial for the truth’s sake make a great impression on the world. Their example is convincing and contagious. Men see that there is among God’s professed people that faith which works by love and purifies the soul from selfishness. In the lives of those who obey God’s commandments, worldlings see convincing evidence that the law of God is a law of love to God and man. (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 146)

The law of God in our hearts will bring our own interests in subordination to high and eternal considerations. (*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 50)