

The Three Angels' Call To Prayer

DAY 5 — THE OBEDIENT LIFESTYLE AND PRAYER

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him"— 1 John 5:14, 15

We Are Powerless, But He Is All-Powerful

The three angels' messages call us to a life of obedience. The first angel's message declares, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come" (Revelation 14:7). The New Testament was written in the Greek language and the word for *fear* used in this text can also be translated *respect, reverence, or honor*. It is an attitude of loyalty to God, a mental ascent to be obedient to His will. The wise man states it this way: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14).

When we think of keeping God's commandments it is very easy to reflect on our weaknesses, our frailty, and our inability to do what we in our inmost souls desire. Too often we desire to do right but fail to find the strength to carry out those desires. With the apostle Paul we must acknowledge, "For what I am doing I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do" (Romans 7:15). What was the apostle's solution to this dilemma? At the end of the chapter he asks the question, "Who will deliver me from this body of death?" And he responds with this positive statement of affirmation: "I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Romans 7:24, 25). There *is* a solution to the problem of constantly failing, repenting, and failing again. Paul says it is Jesus Christ our Lord. We are weak, but He is strong. We are frail, but He is almighty. We are powerless, but He is all-powerful. Ellen White states it beautifully in an article that she wrote in 1897:

*"Christ's example shows us that our only hope of victory is in continual resistance of Satan's attacks. He who triumphed over the adversary of souls in the conflict with temptation understands Satan's power over the race, and has conquered in our behalf. As an overcomer, He has given us the advantage of His victory, that in our efforts to resist the temptations of Satan, we may unite our weakness to His strength, our worthlessness to His merits. And, sustained by His enduring might, under strong temptation, we may resist in His all-powerful name and overcome as He overcame" (*Signs of the Times*, May 27, 1897).*

Claiming His Victory

We become overcomers in the Christian life when we focus on Christ's power, not our weakness. As we enter into prayer, let's claim the promise of 1 John 5:14, 15: "Now this is the confidence we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions we that we have asked Him." As we claim this promise by faith, Jesus will do marvelous things and strengthen us to live godly lives as we prepare for His soon return.

Prayer Time (30-45 Minutes)

Praying God's Word – Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil."

"Fear God"

Lord, we recognize that You are the Creator God, almighty, all-powerful, all-knowing. You are beyond our limited human comprehension, and yet You are closer to us than even our closest loved ones. We are in awe of Your majesty, and we worship You and desire to honor You with our lives.

"Keep His Commandments"

God, we have no ability inside of us to keep Your commandments, to be in harmony with Your will. Only Jesus can help us. We desire to do Your will, to be faithful, but so often we have failed. Thank You that Jesus has the power to bring victory into our lives. We look to Him and surrender ourselves into His faithful hands. Jesus, we ask that You live out Your life within us.

"Every Secret Thing Whether Good or Evil"

Father, I realize that nothing is hidden from You. You know my heart, You know my ups and downs. You are also fully aware of everything that happens all around the world. Thank You that despite how I might feel, Your thoughts toward me are full of love and grace, and I do not have to fear the judgment as I abide in Jesus.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.

Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.

Guidance: Ask God to grant wisdom for current challenges and decisions.

Our Church: Pray for regional and world church needs (see separate sheet with requests).

Local Requests: Pray for current needs of church members, family, and neighbors.

Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: Power in the Blood (#294); O Let Me Walk With Thee (#554); Have Thine Own Way (#567); I Surrender All (#309); All the Way My Savior Leads Me (#516); Nothing Between (#322); Take Time to Be Holy (#500); More Love to Thee (#458)