SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON QUARTERLY

ERIC KREYE

PRAYER AND VICTORIOUS LIVING

SENIOR DIVISION, No. 270, FOURTH QUARTER, 1962

AID TO MORE EFFICIENT SABBATH SCHOOLS

JUNIOR GUIDE

This paper, slanted for junior-age folks, makes the Sabbath school lessons attractive for the adolescent.

THE BLESSING OF DAILY STUDY

"The beauty and riches of the word have a transforming influence on mind and character."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 132.

"There is nothing more calculated to strengthen the intellect than the study of the Scriptures. No other book is so potent to elevate the thoughts, to give vigor to the faculties, as the broad, ennobling truths of the Bible. If God's word were studied as it should be, men would have a breadth of mind, a nobility of character, and a stability of purpose rarely seen in these times."—*Steps to Christ,* page 90.

My Daily Lesson Study Pledge

As one who greatly desires to improve his knowledge of the Scriptures, I pledge myself to the careful and prayerful study of some portion of my Sabbath school lesson each day of the week.

Name .....

LESSON TITLES FOR THE QUARTER

1. The Mighty Conqueror
2. How Jesus Gained the Victory
3. The Armor of God—I
4. The Armor of God—II
5. Meeting Temptations and Trials Triumphantly
6. Prayer—What Is It?
7. Effectual Prayer
8. Conditions to Answered Prayer—I
9. Conditions to Answered Prayer—II
10. Meeting Life's Disappointments
11. Notable Prayers of the Bible
12. The Divine Exemplar in Prayer
13. Complete Victory in Christ

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Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly

PRAYER AND VICTORIOUS LIVING

Lesson 1, for October 6, 1962

The Mighty Conqueror

MEMORY VERSE: "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil." 1 John 3:8.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," chapter 48; "The Great Controversy," chapter 29; "Patriarchs and Prophets," chapter 1; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

Check Here

Sabbath afternoon: General survey. ☐
Sunday: Questions 1-5. ☐
Monday: Questions 6, 7; read from Study Helps. ☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-11; read from Study Helps. ☐
Wednesday: Questions 12-14. ☐
Thursday: Read from Study Helps. ☐
Friday: Review entire lesson. ☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Enemy

1. His character. John 8:44.
2. His fall. Isa. 14:12-14.
3. His expulsion from heaven. Rev. 12:7-9; Luke 10:18; John 12:31.
4. His chief activity. Rev. 12:9, 10.

II. Christ the Victor

5. Gains victory in the wilderness. Mark 1:12, 13; Heb. 4:15.
6. Triumphs on the cross. John 19:30.
7. Conquers death. Matt. 28:5-7.
8. Destroys the works of Satan and establishes His kingdom. 1 John 3:8; 2 Peter 3:11-13.

III. The Wiles of the Devil

9. Armor of God needed to withstand. Eph. 6:12, 13.
10. Saints not ignorant of. 2 Cor. 2:11.
11. Purpose of. 1 Peter 5:8.
12. Special object of. Rev. 12:17.

IV. Satan's Destruction

13. Predicted. Gen 3:15.
14. Accomplished. Rev. 20:9, 10; Matt. 25:41.

THE LESSON

Introduction

In the controversy in which each one must play a part, it is well to know as much as possible concerning the enemy we face—his character, methods, and objectives. One of the most frequently asked theological questions is, Why was sin permitted? That we individually may be triumphant has been made possible by the wonderful plan of redemption, of which the key part was Christ's death on Calvary. He has won the victory, and His victory may be ours. How to lay hold of it is to be our study.

The Enemy

1. How did Jesus characterize the great enemy of the human race? John 8:44.

NOTE.—"Satan was 'a murderer from the beginning' (John 8:44); and as soon as he had obtained power over the human race, he not only prompted them to hate and slay one another, but, the more boldly to defy the authority of God, he made the violation of the sixth commandment a part of their religion."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 337.

2. How did the prophet Isaiah describe Lucifer's fall? Isa. 14:12-14.

NOTE.—"Little by little Lucifer came to indulge the desire for self-exaltation. The Scripture says, 'Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness.' Ezekiel 28:17. 'Thou has said in thine heart, . . . I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: . . . I will be like the Most High.' Isaiah 14:13, 14."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 35.

"Lucifer had said, 'I will be like the Most High' (Isa. 14:12, 14); and the desire for self-exaltation had brought strife into the heavenly courts, and had banished a multitude of the hosts of God. Had Lucifer really desired to be like the Most High, he would never have deserted his appointed place in heaven; for the spirit of the Most High is manifested in unselfish ministry. Lucifer desired God's power, but not His character. He sought for himself the highest place, and every being who is actuated by his spirit will do the same. Thus alienation, discord, and strife will be inevitable. . . . Every individual regards every other as an obstacle in the way of his own advancement, or a steppingstone on which he himself may climb to a higher place."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 435, 436.

3. How is Satan's expulsion from heaven described? Rev. 12:7-9; Luke 10:18; John 12:31.

4. What is one of the chief characteristics of Satan's work? Rev. 12:9, 10. Compare Zech. 3:1; Rev. 20:10.

NOTE.—"There is a grand rebellion in the earthly universe. Is there not a great leader of that rebellion? Is not Satan the life and soul of every species of rebellion which he himself has instigated? Is he not the first great apostate from God? A rebellion exists. Lucifer revolted from his allegiance and makes war on the divine government. . . .

"The principles of Satan's working in heaven are the same principles by which he works through human agents in this world. It is through these corrupting principles that every earthly empire and the churches have been increasingly corrupted. It is by the working out of these principles that Satan deceives and corrupts the whole world from the beginning to the ending. He is continuing this same policy-working, originally begun in the heavenly universe. He is energizing the whole world with his violence with which he corrupted the world in the days of Noah."—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* vol. 4, pp. 1163, 1164.

Christ the Victor

5. When Jesus came in human flesh what did Satan attempt to do and with what result? Mark 1:12, 13; Heb. 4:15.

NOTE.—"All the energies of apostasy were rallied against the Son of God. Christ was made the mark of every weapon of hell. . . . The enticements which Christ resisted were those that we find it so difficult to withstand. They were urged upon Him in as much greater degree as His character is superior to ours. With the terrible weight of the sins of the world upon Him, Christ withstood the test upon appetite, upon the love of the world, and upon that love of display which leads to presumption. These were the temptations that overcame Adam and Eve, and that so readily overcome us."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 116, 117.

6. As Jesus gave up His life on the cross, what significant statement did He make? John 19:30.

NOTE.—"Christ did not yield up His life till He had accomplished the work which He came to do, and with His parting breath He exclaimed, 'It is finished.' John 19:30. The battle had been won. His right hand and His holy arm had gotten Him the victory. As a Conqueror He planted His banner on the eternal heights. Was there not joy among the angels? All heaven triumphed in the Saviour's victory. Satan was defeated, and knew that his kingdom was lost.

"To the angels and the unfallen worlds the cry, 'It is finished,' had a deep significance. It was for them as well as for us that the great work of redemption had been accomplished. They with us share the fruits of Christ's victory."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 758.

7. When Jesus' disciples went to the sepulcher to embalm His body, what glorious fact did they learn? Matt. 28:5-7. Compare Heb. 2:14.

NOTE.—"He is risen, He is risen! The women repeat the words again and again. No need now for the anointing spices. The Saviour is living, and not dead. They remember now that when speaking of His death He said that He would rise again. What a day is this to the world! Quickly the women depart from the sepulcher 'with fear and great joy; and did run to bring His disciples word.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* page 789.

"The voice that cried from the cross, 'It is finished,' was heard among the dead. It pierced the walls of sepulchers, and summoned the sleepers to arise. Thus will it be when the voice of Christ shall be heard from heaven. That voice will penetrate the graves, and unbar the tombs, and the dead in Christ shall arise. At the Saviour's resurrection a few graves were opened, but at His second coming all the precious dead shall hear His voice, and shall come forth to glorious, immortal life. The same power that raised Christ from the dead will raise His church, and glorify it with Him, above all principalities, above all powers, above every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in the world to come."—*Ibid.,* p. 787.

8. For what purpose did Jesus come to this world, and how will His purpose finally be accomplished? 1 John 3:8; 2 Peter 3:11-13.

NOTE.—"In the wilderness of temptation, in the Garden of Gethsemane, and on the cross, our Saviour measured weapons with the prince of darkness. His wounds became the trophies of His victory in behalf of the race. When Christ hung in agony upon the cross, while evil spirits rejoiced and evil men reviled, then indeed His heel was bruised by Satan. But that very act was crushing the serpent's head. Through death He destroyed 'him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.' Hebrews 2:14. This act decided the destiny of the rebel chief, and made forever sure the plan of salvation. In death He gained the victory over its power; in rising again, He opened the gates of the grave to all His followers. In that last great contest, we see fulfilled the prophecy, 'It shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.' Genesis 3:15."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 701, 702.

The Wiles of the Devil

9. What do we need in order to contend successfully with the wiles of Satan? Eph. 6:12, 13.

10. Of what did Paul declare the Corinthian believers were not ignorant? 2 Cor. 2:11.

11. What does Satan hope to accomplish with his wiles? 1 Peter 5:8.

12. Who are the special objects of his hatred? Rev. 12:17.

NOTE.—"Those who love and keep the commandments of God are most obnoxious to the synagogue of Satan, and the powers of evil will manifest their hatred toward them to the fullest extent possible. John foresaw the conflict between the remnant church and the power of evil, and said, 'The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.' "—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* vol. 7, p. 974.

> "In order to do the will of God, we must search His word, that we may know His doctrine, and put to the task all our entrusted ability."—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work,* page 73.

Satan's Destruction

13. When and under what circumstances was Satan's destruction first predicted? Gen. 3:15.

NOTE.—" 'Bruise,' *shuph.* This word means 'to crush' or 'to lie in wait for.' It is evident that crushing the head is far more serious than crushing the heel. It is important to notice that although the enmity foretold is to be between the seed of the woman and that of the serpent, it is the head of the serpent and not its seed that is to be crushed. In retaliation, the serpent will have been able to do no more than to bruise the heel of the woman's seed." *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Gen. 3:15.

14. When and under what circumstances will his destruction take place? Rev. 20:9, 10. Compare Matt. 25:41.

NOTE.—"Even when it was decided that he could no longer remain in heaven, Infinite Wisdom did not destroy Satan. Since the service of love can alone be acceptable to God, the allegience of His creatures must rest upon a conviction of His justice and benevolence. The inhabitants of heaven and of other worlds, being unprepared to comprehend the nature or consequences of sin, could not then have seen the justice and mercy of God in the destruction of Satan. Had he been immediately blotted from existence, they would have served God from fear rather than from love. The influence of the deceiver would not have been fully destroyed, nor would the spirit of rebellion have been utterly eradicated. Evil must be permitted to come to maturity. For the good of the entire universe through ceaseless ages Satan must more fully develop his principles, that his charges against the divine government might be seen in their true light by all created beings, that the justice and mercy of God and immutability of His law might forever be placed beyond all question."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 498, 499.

"It is interesting to note that in the book of Genesis Satan's end is predicted; and in the last book of the Bible, Revelation, we read of its accomplishment in the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:10)."—H. M. S. Richards, *What Jesus Said,* pages 121, 122.

Questions for Meditation

1. Do I show by a life of calm, serene trust that I know Satan is a defeated foe?

2. Have I completely severed all connections with him, and given complete allegiance to Christ?

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Lesson 2, for October 13, 1962

How Jesus Gained the Victory

MEMORY VERSE: "For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succor them that are tempted." Heb. 2:18.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," chapters 12, 13; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

Check Here

Sabbath afternoon: General survey. ☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4. ☐
Monday: Questions 5, 6; begin reading from Study Helps. ☐
Tuesday: Questions 7-9; read further from Study Helps. ☐
Wednesday: Questions 10-13. ☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps. ☐
Friday: Review entire lesson. ☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Christ's Incarnation

1. Accomplished. Gal. 4:4; John 1:14.
2. Christ's nature and work preceding. John 1:1-3.
3. A great condescension. Phil. 2:6-8; 2 Cor. 8:9.
4. Purpose. Heb. 2:17.

II. Christ and Temptation

5. Tempted in all points. Heb. 4:15.
6. Complete victory over sin. 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5.
7. First great temptation. Matt. 4:1-4.
8. Second great temptation. Matt. 4:5-7.
9. Third great temptation. Matt. 4:8-11.

III. Elements of Victory

10. Prayer and suffering. Heb. 5:7-9.
11. Resistance. Heb. 12:3, 4.
12. Watchfulness and prayer. Matt. 26:41.
13. Help in Christ. Heb. 4:16.

THE LESSON

Introduction

Jesus is our example in all things. "He would not parley with temptation. Jesus met Satan with the words of Scripture. 'It is written,' He said. In every temptation the weapon of His warfare was the word of God. Satan demanded of Christ a miracle as a sign of His divinity. But that which is greater than all miracles, a firm reliance upon a 'Thus saith the Lord,' was a sign that could not be controverted."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 120.

Christ's Incarnation

1. At the proper moment in history, whom did God send unto the world? Gal. 4:4; John 1:14.

NOTE.—" 'When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son.' Providence had directed the movements of nations, and the tide of human impulse and influence, until the world was ripe for the coming of the Deliverer. The nations were united under one government. One language was widely spoken, and was everywhere recognized as the language of literature. From all lands the Jews of the dispersion gathered to Jerusalem to the annual feasts. As these returned to the places of their sojourn, they could spread throughout the world the tidings of the Messiah's coming."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 32.

2. What had been Christ's nature and work before the incarnation? John 1:1-3.

3. In what striking way did Paul describe Christ's condescension? Phil. 2:6-8; 2 Cor. 8:9.

4. What is Christ able to do as a result of His having become man? Heb. 2:17.

> "Where there is no active labor for others, love wanes, and faith grows dim."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 825.

Christ and Temptation

5. In His humanity, to what was Christ exposed? Heb. 4:15.

NOTE.—"Many claim that it was impossible for Christ to be overcome by temptation. Then He could not have been placed in Adam's position; He could not have gained the victory that Adam failed to gain. If we have in any sense a more trying conflict than had Christ, then He would not be able to succor us. But our Saviour took humanity, with all its liabilities. He took the nature of man, with the possibility of yielding to temptation. We have nothing to bear which He has not endured."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 117.

6. How successful was Christ in His battle against temptation? 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5.

NOTE.—"Though susceptible to temptation and 'in all points tempted like as we are,' Jesus was nevertheless altogether 'without sin.' . . .

"Our Saviour 'assumed the liabilities of human nature, to be proved and tried' (EGW ST Aug. 2, 1905; cf. DA 117, 131). 'Like every child of Adam He accepted the results of the working of the great law of heredity' (DA 49).

" 'He could have sinned; . . . but not for one moment was there in Him an evil propensity' (EGW Letter 8, 1895 . . .). He took 'the nature but not the sinfulness of man' (EGW ST May 29, 1901). 'He vanquished Satan in the same nature over which in Eden Satan obtained the victory' (EGW YI April 25, 1901).

" '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' (DA 664; cf. 24). 'In His human nature He maintained the purity of His divine character' (ML 323). 'No trace of sin marred the image of God within Him' (DA 71; cf. 123)."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* vol. 5, p. 918.

7. While Jesus was fasting and praying in the wilderness, what great temptation came to Him, and how did He meet it? Matt. 4:1-4.

NOTE.—"Though he [Satan] appears as an angel of light, these first words betray his character. 'If thou be the Son of God.' Here is the insinuation of distrust. Should Jesus do what Satan suggests, it would be an acceptance of the doubt. . . . If Christ's confidence in God could be shaken, Satan knew that the victory in the whole controversy would be his."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 118, 119.

8. What was the second great temptation that confronted Jesus, and how did He meet it? Matt. 4:5-7.

NOTE.—"The tempter thought to take advantage of Christ's humanity, and urge Him to presumption. But while Satan can solicit, he cannot compel to sin. He said to Jesus, 'Cast Thyself down,' knowing that he could not cast Him down; for God would interpose to deliver Him. Nor could

Satan force Jesus to cast Himself down. Unless Christ should consent to temptation, He could not be overcome. Not all the power of earth or hell could force Him in the slightest degree to depart from the will of His Father. The tempter can never compel us to do evil."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 125.

"Presumption is Satan's counterfeit of faith. Faith claims God's promises, and brings forth fruit in obedience. Presumption also claims the promises, but uses them as Satan did, to excuse transgression. Faith would have led our first parents to trust the love of God, and to obey His commands. Presumption led them to transgress His law, believing that His great love would save them from the consequence of their sin. It is not faith that claims the favor of Heaven without complying with the conditions on which mercy is to be granted. Genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of the Scriptures."—*Ibid.,* p. 126.

9. What was His third great temptation, and how did Jesus obtain the victory? Matt. 4:8-11.

NOTE.—"Christ's victory was as complete as had been the failure of Adam. So we may resist temptation, and force Satan to depart from us. Jesus gained the victory through submission and faith in God, and by the apostle He says to us, 'Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you.' James 4:7, 8. We cannot save ourselves from the tempter's power; he has conquered humanity, and when we try to stand in our own strength, we shall become a prey to his devices; but 'the name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.' Prov. 18:10. Satan trembles and flees before the weakest soul who finds refuge in that mighty name."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 130, 131.

"Behold the Son of God bowed in prayer to His Father! Though He is the Son of God, He strengthens His faith by prayer, and by communion with Heaven gathers to Himself power to resist evil and to minister to the needs of men."—*Gospel Workers,* page 511.

Elements of Victory

10. What were some of the elements that entered into Jesus' victory? Heb. 5:7-9.

NOTE.—"Jesus Himself, while He dwelt among men, was often in prayer. Our Saviour identified Himself with our needs and weakness, in that He became a suppliant, a petitioner, seeking from His Father fresh supplies of strength, that He might come forth braced for duty and trial. He is our example in all things. . . . His humanity made prayer a necessity and a privilege. He found comfort and joy in communion with His Father. And if the Saviour of men, the Son of God, felt the need of prayer, how much more should feeble, sinful mortals feel the necessity of fervent, constant prayer."—*Steps to Christ,* pages 93, 94.

"Not even by a thought did He yield to temptation. . . . And how this is accomplished, Christ has shown us. By what means did He overcome in the conflict with Satan? By the word of God. Only by the word could He resist temptation."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 123.

11. How great was Jesus' struggle against sin? Heb. 12:3, 4.

NOTE.—"It was a difficult task for the Prince of life to carry out the plan which He had undertaken for the salvation of man, in clothing His divinity with humanity. He had received honor in the heavenly courts, and was familiar with absolute power. It was as difficult for Him to keep the level of humanity as for men to rise above the low level of their depraved natures, and be partakers of the divine nature.

"Christ was put to the closest test, requiring the strength of all His faculties to resist the inclination when in danger, to use His power to deliver Himself from peril, and triumph over the power of the prince of darkness. Satan showed his knowledge of the weak points of the human heart, and put forth his utmost power to take advantage of the weakness of the humanity

which Christ had assumed in order to overcome his temptations on man's account."—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* vol. 7, p. 930.

12. What counsel did Jesus give to His disciples to fortify them against being overcome? Matt. 26:41.

13. Because of Jesus' victory, where are we encouraged to find help in our struggle against sin? Heb. 4:16.

NOTE.—"It would be well to spend a thoughtful hour each day reviewing the life of Christ from the manger to Calvary. We should take it point by point and let the imagination vividly grasp each scene, especially the closing ones of His earthly life. By thus contemplating His teachings and sufferings, and the infinite sacrifice made by Him for the redemption of the race, we may strengthen our faith, quicken our love, and become more deeply imbued with the spirit which sustained our Saviour."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 374.

Questions for Meditation

1. How much do I sense the awful risk Jesus took to save me?

2. Why did He take such a risk?

3. Have I invited Christ into my heart to be my victor?

Lesson 3, for October 20, 1962

The Armor of God—I

MEMORY VERSE: "Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Eph. 6:11.

STUDY HELPS: "Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing," pages 141-144 (1943 ed., pp. 203-207); "Testimonies," vol. 5, pp. 394, 395; "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 219, 220; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

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Wednesday: Questions 12, 13; read further from Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Spiritual Warfare

1. The enemy. Eph. 6:12.
2. The weapons. 2 Cor. 10:3, 4.
3. The effectiveness of the weapons. 2 Cor. 10:5.
4. The armor. Eph. 6:11-13.

II. The Belt of Truth

5. Part of the armor. Eph. 6:14, first part.
6. Definition of truth. John 17:17; 14:6; Ps. 119:142, 151.
7. Truth can be discovered. John 8:32.
8. Deception for those who love not the truth. 2 Thess. 2:9-12.

III. The Breastplate of Righteousness

9. As part of the armor. Eph. 6:14, last part.
10. Faith and love included in the breastplate. 1 Thess. 5:8.
11. The Bible instructs in righteousness. 2 Tim. 3:16.
12. Doers of righteousness contrasted with sinners. 1 John 3:7, 8.
13. Righteousness promised. Matt. 5:6.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Nothing is apparently more helpless, yet really more invincible, than the soul that feels its nothingness and relies wholly on the merits of the Saviour. God would send every angel in heaven to the aid of such a one, rather than allow him to be overcome."—*Testimonies,* vol. 7, p. 17.

Spiritual Warfare

1. In the battles of life, against what powers do we wrestle? Eph. 6:12.

NOTE.—"The church of Christ may be fitly compared to an army. The life of every soldier is one of toil, hardship, and danger. On every hand are vigilant foes, led on by the prince of the powers of darkness, who never slumbers and never deserts his post. Whenever a Christian is off his guard, this powerful adversary makes a sudden and violent attack. Unless the members of the church are active and vigilant, they will be overcome by his devices."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 394.

2. How does the apostle Paul describe the weapons of our warfare? 2 Cor. 10:3, 4.

NOTE.—"Paul does not need worldly weapons. He does not use means which appeal to human passions or lusts, as men do in a political struggle or in the competitive rivalries of business. These are useless in the warfare of the spirit. Its weapons are those of truth, and love, and righteousness, which have in them the power that alone can conquer evil where it has its root—in the hearts of men. These weapons Paul enumerates in Eph. 6, where he also counsels the Ephesians to be 'strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might' (Eph. 6:10)."—*The Interpreter's Bible,* vol. 10, p. 384.

3. When we employ these weapons, of what complete victory are we assured? 2 Cor. 10:5.

NOTE.—"The will must be placed on the side of God's will. You are not able, of yourself, to bring your purposes and desires and inclinations into submission to the will of God; but if you are 'willing to be made willing,' God will accomplish the work for you, even 'casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.' "—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* page 142.

4. If we would be complete victors, how must we be equipped? Eph. 6:11-13.

NOTE.—"It is not safe for us, when going into battle, to cast away our weapons. It is then that we need to be equipped with the whole armor of God. Every piece is essential."—*Testimonies,* vol. 7, p. 190.

"The Lord can bring victory out of that which may seem to us discomfiture and defeat. We are in danger of forgetting God, of looking at the things which are seen, instead of beholding by the eye of faith the things which are unseen."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 481.

The Belt of Truth

5. What is the first-named portion of the armor of God that we are to wear? Eph. 6:14, first part.

NOTE.—Satan has a dozen counterfeits for every truth. By science falsely so-called, he captures millions; by a counterfeit gospel, doctrines, miracles, and revivals, he leads other millions into allegiance with him though they still wear the cloak of professing Christianity. So plausible, so deceptive, so convincing are his counterfeits that Jesus said if possible the very elect would be led astray. Matt. 24:24. The girdle of truth (Eph. 6:14) is the answer to who shall be able to stand. There is power in truth. Satan hates truth. His traffic is in lies. He "abode not in the truth." John 8:44. He ever seeks to change "the truth of God into a lie," causing men to worship "the creature more than the Creator." Rom. 1:25. The girdle of truth will make us impregnable to Satan's sophistries. "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32.

6. What is truth? John 17:17; 14:6; Ps. 119:142, 151.

7. What is promised to those who know the truth? John 8:32.

8. What will be the experience of those who love not the truth? 2 Thess. 2:9-12.

NOTE.—"The unregenerate not only reject truth but even refuse to entertain a love for truth, that is, they hate truth. This attitude does not concern truth in the abstract, but 'the truth,' the one great truth that comes from God, which is embodied in Christ Jesus. Final condemnation of sinners will be based on their rejection of Jesus, who is 'the truth' (John 14:6). Their refusal to cherish a love for what is true makes them susceptible to being influenced by all that is deceitful, by all the machinations of the wicked one."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 2 Thess. 2:10.

The Breastplate of Righteousness

9. What is the next-mentioned part of the armor of God? Eph. 6:14, last part.

NOTE.—"As the breastplate covers the heart of the soldier, righteousness preserves the life of the believer, and protects the 'vital organs' of spiritual life."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Eph. 6:14.

"When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. Then as the Lord looks upon us He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 312.

10. What is included in the Christian's breastplate? 1 Thess. 5:8.

NOTE.—"That is, the breastplate which *is* faith and love. The two qualities, faith and love, are integral parts of righteousness. Faith is the active laying hold of that righteousness that Christ imparts to the believer. Love, that great attribute of God's character (1 John 4:8), is shed abroad in our hearts by God's Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5)."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 Thess. 5:8.

11. From what source does man receive instruction in righteousness? 2 Tim. 3:16.

NOTE.—"Never attempt to search the Scriptures unless you are ready to listen, unless you are ready to be a learner, unless you are ready to listen to the word of God as though His voice were speaking directly to you from the living oracles. Never let mortal man sit in judgment upon the word of God or pass sentence as to how much of this is inspired and how much is not inspired, and that this is more inspired than some other portions. God warns him off that ground. God has not given him any such work to do."—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* vol. 7, p. 919.

"Receive into the soul by faith the incorruptible seed of the word, and it will bring forth a character and a life after the similitude of the character and the life of God."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 38.

12. With whom are the doers of righteousness contrasted? 1 John 3:7, 8.

NOTE.—"In the simplest language John sets before us true practical godliness. This simplicity does not show shallowness, but depth. John is speaking to real men and women, and the Holy Spirit directed him to write in such a way that they would be brought in contact with a real, living God. He shows us what God is doing, and what man must do to meet God's requirements. John does not present the truth hesitatingly, but in a decided manner. He speaks positively."—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* vol. 7, p. 951.

13. What is promised to those who hunger and thirst after righteousness? Matt. 5:6.

NOTE.—"If you have a sense of need in your soul, if you hunger and thirst after righteousness, this is an evidence that Christ has wrought upon your heart, in order that He may be sought unto to do for you, through the endowment of the Holy Spirit, those things which it is impossible for you to do for yourself."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* page 19.

Questions for Meditation

1. Do I have a true appreciation for the truth of God?

2. Is my religion of the heart or of the head?

3. How can I tell the difference?

Lesson 4, for October 27, 1962

The Armor of God—II

MEMORY VERSE: "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Eph. 6:17.

STUDY HELPS: "Patriarchs and Prophets," pp. 153-155; "Steps to Christ," chapter, "Faith and Acceptance;" "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-3.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-8.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 9, 10; begin reading Study Helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 11-13.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Shoes

1. The gospel of peace. Eph. 6:15.
2. Isaiah's figure of speech. Isa. 52:7; Rom. 10:15.
3. The source of peace. Rom. 5:1; John 14:27.

II. The Shield

4. Faith. Eph. 6:16, first part.
5. Faith defined. Heb. 11:1.
6. The source of faith. Rom. 12:3.
7. Faith nourished by the word. Rom. 10:17.
8. Victory through faith. Eph. 6:16, last part.

III. The Helmet

9. Salvation. Eph. 6:17, first part.
10. The measure of God's salvation. Heb. 2:3; 7:25; Rev. 22:17.

IV. The Sword

11. Word of God. Eph. 6:17, last part.
12. Word otherwise represented. Jer. 15:16; 23:29; Ps. 119:105; 1 Peter 2:2.
13. Victory ours through the word. Ps. 119:11.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Those who endeavor to obey all the commandments of God will be opposed and derided. They can stand only in God. In order to endure the trial before them, they must understand the will of God as revealed in His word; they can honor Him only as they have a right conception of His character, government, and purposes, and act in accordance with them. None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict. To every soul will come the searching test: Shall I obey God rather than men? The decisive hour is even now at hand. Are our feet planted on the rock of God's immutable word? Are we prepared to stand firm in defense of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus?"—*The Great Controversy,* pages 593, 594.

"If there is ever one time above another when men need to preserve their connection with God, it is when they are called to bear special responsibility. It is not safe for us, when going into battle, to cast away our weapons. It is then that we need to be equipped with the whole armor of God. Every piece is essential."—*Testimonies,* vol. 7, p. 190.

The Shoes

1. What is the third portion of the armor of God as described by the apostle Paul? Eph. 6:15.

2. What beautiful figure of speech is used by Isaiah of the bringers of good tidings to Zion? Isa. 52:7; Rom. 10:15.

NOTE.—"Where there is no active labor for others, love wanes, and faith grows dim."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 825.

"While the angels hold the four winds, we are to work with all our capabilities. . . . Human souls are hanging in the balance. . . . One soul is of more value to heaven than a whole world of property, houses, lands, money. For the conversion of one soul we should tax our resources to the utmost."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, pp. 21, 22.

3. What does the expression "shod with the gospel of peace" suggest to you? How is this peace obtained? Rom. 5:1; John 14:27.

NOTE.—No man can do battle with the devil without the peace of God in his heart. There can be no peace unless there is oneness with God; and there can be no oneness with God unless we are forever through with sin. No one is truly grounded and established until he is at peace with God. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God." Rom. 5:1. Only

those who have peace with God can effectively serve as messengers of peace to others. If we are not what we preach, our witnessing will be ineffectual. The gospel must live in us. Before we can truly recommend the Great Physician, we must be able to say, "He healed me."

> "The cause of God is a sure bank that can never fail, and the *investment* of our time, our interest, and our means in it is a treasure in the heavens that faileth not."—*Testimonies,* vol. 3, p. 90. (Italics supplied.)

The Shield

4. What part of the Christian armor is declared to be the most important? Eph. 6:16, first part.

5. What is faith? Heb. 11:1.

NOTE.—"Many hold faith as an opinion. Saving faith is a transaction, by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God. A living faith means an increase of vigor, a confiding trust, by which, through the grace of Christ, the soul becomes a conquering power."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 62.

6. What is the source of faith? Rom. 12:3.

7. How is faith nourished and enlarged? Rom. 10:17.

NOTE.—"How to exercise faith should be made very plain. To every promise of God there are conditions. If we are willing to do His will, all His strength is ours. Whatever gift He promises, is in the promise itself. 'The seed is the word of God.' Luke 8:11. As surely as the oak is in the acorn, so surely is the gift of God in His promise. If we receive the promise, we have the gift.

"Faith that enables us to receive God's gifts is itself a gift, of which some measure is imparted to every human being. It grows as exercised in appropriating the word of God. In order to strengthen faith, we must often bring it in contact with the word."—*Education,* pages 253, 254.

8. What alone can quench all the fiery darts of the evil one? Eph. 6:16, last part.

NOTE.—The devil has his fiery darts and there is no question about his deadly aim, but the child of God who hides behind the shield of faith will be fully protected. Thank God, "all" the "fiery darts" lose their power when they hit the shield of faith. Behind the shield of faith, we are safely hid in Christ. There is no other protection. Human resolutions, human schemes, human effort, will only fail; but Jesus never fails. The Christian experience of millions has been destroyed by the darts of pride, envy, jealousy, discouragement, worry, impurity, impatience, hatred; but, thank God, the shield of faith is able to quench all these.

The Helmet

9. What does the helmet represent? Eph. 6:17, first part.

NOTE.—The heart and the head are both vital parts of the body; hence the necessity for a covering or protection. Just as each soldier must individually wear a headgear, so each individual must put on salvation. As the governments furnish helmets for their soldiers, so the Lord of Hosts has prepared the helmet of salvation. It is of His planning that we are to take what He provides, and His provisions are ample. Salvation, like all God's promises and treasures, is a free gift.

10. What is the measure of God's salvation? Heb. 2:3; 7:25; Rev. 22:17.

The Sword

11. What is the last-mentioned part of the Christian's armor? Eph. 6:17, last part.

NOTE.—The word is called "the sword of the Spirit." It was given under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and is made effectual by His presence and power. The Spirit and the word are inseparable in the proclamation of the gospel.

"The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, pierces the heart of the sinner and cuts it in pieces. When the theory of the truth is repeated without its sacred influence being felt upon the soul of the speaker, it has no force upon the hearers, but is rejected as error."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 441.

12. To what else is the word likened? Jer. 15:16; 23:29; Ps. 119:105; 1 Peter 2:2.

13. What will God's word hidden in the heart do for the Christian? Ps. 119:11.

Questions for Meditation

1. Am I prepared to stand in defense of the truth of God?
2. What effort am I putting forth to get ready?
3. Can the Holy Spirit bring to my memory in time of need a truth I have not studied?

Lesson 5, for November 3, 1962

Meeting Temptations and Trials Triumphantly

MEMORY VERSE: "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee." Ps. 119:11.

STUDY HELPS: "Steps to Christ," chapter, "The Test of Discipleship;" "The Desire of Ages," pages 167-177; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-3.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-6.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 7-10.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 11-13; begin reading Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Natural Man

1. Has a sinful nature. John 3:6; Eph. 2:3, 5, 12.
2. Must be born again. John 3:3-5.
3. Receives a new nature. 2 Peter 1:4; Eph. 4:22-24.

II. The New Life

4. Evidences of the new birth. Rom. 8:14; 1 John 2:4-6; 3:14.
5. The old nature crucified. Rom. 6:6, 7, 11, 12.

6. Paul's fight with sin in his own life. 1 Cor. 9:26, 27.

III. Dealing With Temptation

7. Temptation defined. James 1:14; 2 Peter 3:17.
8. Help in time of temptation. Heb. 2:17, 18; Ps. 119:11.
9. Blessings in temptation. James 1:2-4.
10. Limits of temptations. 1 Cor. 10:13.

IV. Refusal to Do Wrong Is Not Enough

11. Must actively do right. Rom. 6:13.
12. Divine power essential. 2 Peter 2:9.
13. Immunity by divine birth. 1 John 3:9.

THE LESSON

Introduction

We must distinguish between the suggestion of evil and the cherishing of evil. We cannot prevent an evil suggestion from being made to us by the enemy of all righteousness. He may whisper it to the inner consciousness of our minds. He may speak to us through some human being. This is not sin. It becomes sin only as we cherish the evil suggestion. The servant of God stated it this way: "There are thoughts and feelings suggested and aroused by Satan that annoy even the best of men; but if they are not cherished, if they are repulsed as hateful, the soul is not contaminated with guilt, and no other is defiled by their influence."—Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald,* March 27, 1888.

The Natural Man

1. Since the fall of Adam, with what nature are all men born into this world? John 3:6; Eph. 2:3, 5, 12.

2. Since all born of the flesh inherit a sinful nature, what experience does Jesus say must come to every true Christian? John 3:3-5.

3. How is the new nature wrought in us? 2 Peter 1:4; Eph. 4:22-24.

NOTE.—"By an agency as unseen as the wind, Christ is constantly working upon the heart. Little by little, perhaps unconsciously to the receiver, impressions are made that tend to draw the soul to Christ. These may be received through meditating upon Him, through reading the Scriptures, or through hearing the word from the living preacher. Suddenly, as the Spirit comes with more direct appeal, the soul gladly surrenders itself to Jesus. By many this is called sudden conversion; but it is the result of long wooing by the Spirit of God, —a patient, protracted process. . . .

"It is impossible for finite minds to comprehend the work of redemption. Its mystery exceeds human knowledge; yet he who passes from death to life realizes that it is a divine reality. The beginning of redemption we may know here through a personal experience. Its results reach through the eternal ages."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 172, 173.

The New Life

4. What are some evidences that one has experienced the new birth? Rom. 8:14; 1 John 2:4-6; 3:14.

NOTE.—"There are many who have not a correct knowledge of what constitutes a Christian character, and their lives are a reproach to the cause of truth. If they were thoroughly converted they would not bear briers and thorns, but rich clusters of the precious fruits of the Spirit, —'love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.' The great danger is in neglecting a heartwork. Many feel well pleased with themselves; they think that a nominal observance of the divine law is sufficient, while they are unacquainted with the grace

of Christ, and He is not abiding in the heart by living faith."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 306.

"It it not enough to believe the theory of truth. It is not enough to make a profession of faith in Christ and have our names registered on the church roll. 'He that keepeth His commandments dwelleth in Him, and He in him. And hereby we know that He abideth in us, by the Spirit which He hath given us.' 'Hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.' 1 John 3:24; 2:3. This is the genuine evidence of conversion. Whatever our profession, it amounts to nothing unless Christ is revealed in works of righteousness."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 312, 313.

5. How is the Christian to deal with the old sinful nature? Rom. 6:6, 7, 11, 12.

NOTE.—" 'The prince of this world cometh,' said Jesus, 'and hath nothing in Me.' John 14:30. There was in Him nothing that responded to Satan's sophistry. He did not consent to sin. Not even by a thought did He yield to temptation. So it may be with us. Christ's humanity was united with divinity; He was fitted for the conflict by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. And He came to make us partakers of the divine nature. So long as we are united to Him by faith, sin has no more dominion over us. . . .

"And how this is accomplished, Christ has shown us. By what means did He overcome in the conflict with Satan? By the word of God. Only by the word could He resist temptation. 'It is written,' He said. And unto us are given 'exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.' 2 Peter 1:4. Every promise in God's word is ours. 'By every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God' are we to live. When assailed by temptation, look not to circumstances or to the weakness of self, but to the power of the word. All its strength is yours. 'Thy word,' says the psalmist, 'have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.' 'By the word of Thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer.' Ps. 119:11; 17:4."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 123.

6. How did Paul fight sin in his own life? 1 Cor. 9:26, 27.

NOTE.—Moffatt translates this passage thus: "Well, I run without swerving; I do not plant my blows upon the empty air—no, I maul and master my body, lest, after preaching to other people, I am disqualified myself." (*The Bible: A New Translation.* Copyright 1922, 1935, and 1950, by Harper & Brothers. Used by permission.)

Weymouth makes it read: "I, then, so run, as with no uncertain aim. I am a boxer who does not beat the air; I bruise my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after being a herald to others, I myself should be rejected." (*The New Testament in Modern Speech.* Used by permission of Harper & Brothers, publishers.)

"We are under solemn obligations to God to keep the spirit pure and the body healthy, that we may be a benefit to humanity, and render to God perfect service. The apostle utters these words of warning: 'Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.' He urges us onward by telling us that 'every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things.' He exhorts all who call themselves Christians to present their bodies 'a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God.' He says: 'I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be as castaway.' " *Testimonies,* vol. 2, p. 381.

Dealing With Temptation

7. What is the source of temptation? James 1:14; 2 Peter 3:17.

8. In time of trial and temptation, where may help be found? Heb. 2:17, 18; Ps. 119:11.

NOTE.—"Christ must become man so completely and fully that it can never be said that He is a stranger to any temptation, any sorrow, any trial or suffering that men must pass through. . . .

"Although this does not mean that His experiences must be identical with ours in every respect—for a thousand lifetimes would not be sufficient for that—it does mean that the trials must be representative, and must in principle include all that man has to suffer, and that in severity they must fully measure up to all that men have to bear."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Heb. 2:17.

9. In what way may temptations or trials turn out to be a blessing and a cause for joy? James 1:2-4.

NOTE.—"To the mature Christian the trials and tests of life need bring no burden of disappointment or discouragement. All this the Christian endures in faith and hope, 'as seeing Him who is invisible' (Heb. 11:27). Christian joy and courage are based, not on external circumstances—which may often be most forbidding—but on faith in God's overuling providence and in intelligent understanding of His dealings with men. Human philosophies of life, religious or secular, may prepare men to meet trouble philosophically, with a calm and patient spirit, but Christianity teaches men how to be joyful under such circumstances through an intelligent understanding of the causes of suffering and through faith in God."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on James 1:2.

"Temptations will pour in upon us, for by them we are to be tried during our probation upon earth. This is the proving of God, a revelation of our own hearts. There is no sin in have temptations; but sin comes in when temptation is yielded to." —*Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 358.

10. What assurance is given regarding the severity of temptations? 1 Cor. 10:13.

NOTE.—"Yet we should not lose courage when assailed by temptation. Often when placed in a trying situation we doubt that the Spirit of God has been leading us. But it was the Spirit's leading that brought Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. When God brings us into trial, He has a purpose to accomplish for our good. Jesus did not presume on God's promises by going unbidden into temptation, neither did He give up to despondency when temptation came upon Him. Nor should we. 'God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.' He says, 'Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the Most High: and call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me.' 1 Cor. 10:13; Ps. 50:14, 15."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 126, 129.

> "As our physical life is sustained by food, so our spiritual life is sustained by the word of God. And every soul is to receive life from God's word for himself."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 390.

Refusal to Do Wrong Is Not Enough

11. In addition to forsaking all sin, what else should the Christian do? Rom. 6:13. Compare Matt. 12:43-45.

NOTE.—"There were many in Christ's day, as there are today, over whom the control of Satan for the time seemed broken; through the grace of God they were set free from the evil spirits that had held dominion over the soul. They rejoiced in the love of God; but, like the stony-ground hearers of the parable, they did not abide in His love. They did not surrender themselves to God daily, that Christ might dwell in the heart; and when the evil spirit returned, with 'seven other spirits more wicked than himself,' they were wholly dominated by the power of evil.

"When the soul surrenders itself to Christ, a new power takes possession of the new heart. A change is wrought which man can never accomplish for himself. It is a supernatural work, bringing a super-

natural element into human nature. The soul that is yielded to Christ becomes His own fortress, which He holds in a revolted world, and He intends that no authority shall be known in it but His own. A soul thus kept in possession by the heavenly agencies is impregnable to the assaults of Satan."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 323, 324.

12. What is the Lord able to do for the tempted and tried? 2 Peter 2:9.

13. What will be the experience of one born of God? 1 John 3:9.

NOTE.—"Doth not commit sin" means "does not continue in habitual sin." The Christian ought not to commit a single sin, but if he does he has an advocate in Jesus Christ. 1 John 2:1.

"When there has been a departure from the right path, it is difficult to return. Barriers have been removed, safeguards broken down. One step in the wrong direction prepares the way for another. A single glass of wine may open the door of temptation which will lead to habits of drunkenness. A single vindictive feeling indulged may open the way to a train of feelings which will end in murder. The least deviation from right and principle will lead to separation from God and may end is apostasy. What we do once, we more readily and naturally do again; and to go forward in a certain path, be it right or wrong, is more easy than to start. It takes less time and labor to corrupt our ways before God than to engraft upon the character habits of righteousness and truth. Whatever a man becomes accustomed to, be its influence good or evil, he finds it difficult to abandon."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 578.

Questions for Meditation

1. Have I yielded completely to the Holy Spirit's regenerating power?

2. Are the evidences of regeneration seen daily in my life?

Lesson 6, for November 10, 1962

Prayer—What Is It?

MEMORY VERSE: "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverence and supplication for all saints." Eph. 6:18.

STUDY HELPS: "Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing," chapter, "The Lord's Prayer;" "Steps to Christ," chapter, "The Privilege of Prayer;" "Testimonies," vol. 7, pages 34-36; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-3.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-6.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 7-9; begin reading from Study Helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 10-13.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Prayer Made Necessary

1. Communion in Eden. Gen. 2:15, 16, 19; 3:8.
2. The original communion lost. Gen. 3:22-24.
3. Communion now through prayer. Luke 18:1; Isa. 55:6.

II. The One Addressed

4. The Father. Matt. 6:6; John 16:23, 24, 26.
5. Sometimes Jesus. Acts 7:59; Rev. 22:20.
6. The Father, in Jesus' name. John 14:13; 15:16.

III. General Admonitions Concerning Prayer

7. Ostentation decried. Matt. 6:5, 6.
8. Vain repetitions forbidden. Matt. 6:7, 8.
9. Sincerity enjoined. 1 Tim. 2:8.

IV. Encouragement to Prayer

10. All things a subject of prayer. Phil. 4:6.
11. Appropriate any time. 1 Thess. 5:17; Eph. 6:18; Col. 4:2.
12. The petitioner rewarded. Matt. 7:7.
13. The petitioner aided. Rom. 8:26, 27.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Through nature and revelation, through His providence, and by the influence of His Spirit, God speaks to us. But these are not enough; we need also to pour out our hearts to Him. In order to have spiritual life and energy, we must have actual intercourse with our heavenly Father. Our minds may be drawn out toward Him; we may meditate upon His works, His mercies, His blessings; but this is not, in the fullest sense, communing with Him. In order to commune with God, we must have something to say to Him concerning our actual life."—*Steps to Christ,* page 93.

Prayer Made Necessary

1. Before sin entered this world, how did the Creator commune with Adam and Eve? Gen. 2:15, 16, 19; 3:8.

NOTE.—"The Garden of Eden was the schoolroom, nature was the lesson book, the Creator Himself was the instructor, and the parents of the human family were the students. . . .

"In His interest for His children, our heavenly Father personally directed their education. Often they were visited by His messengers, the holy angels, and from them received counsel and instruction. Often as they walked in the garden in the cool of the day they heard the voice of God, and face to face held communion with the Eternal. His thoughts toward them were 'thoughts of peace, and not of evil.' Jeremiah 29:11. His every purpose was their highest good."—*Education,* pages 20, 21.

2. What put an end to direct communication between God and man in the Garden of Eden? Gen. 3:22-24. Compare Isa. 59:2.

NOTE.—"By sin man was shut out from God. . . . We may not in person approach into His presence; in our sin we may not look upon His face; but we can behold Him and commune with Him in Jesus, the Saviour."—*Education,* page 28.

3. What are men now urged to do? Luke 18:1; Isa. 55:6.

NOTE.—"Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend."—*Steps to Christ,* page 93.

"Unceasing prayer is the unbroken union of the soul with God."—*Ibid.,* p. 98.

"Why should the sons and daughters of God be reluctant to pray, when prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence?" —*Ibid.*, pp. 94, 95.

"Pray in your closet, and as you go about your daily labor let your heart be often uplifted to God. . . . These silent prayers rise like precious incense before the throne of grace. Satan, cannot overcome him whose heart is thus stayed upon God." —*Ibid.*, pp. 98, 99.

"Do not neglect secret prayer, for it is the soul of religion."—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, p. 163.

> "Time is short, and our forces must be organized to do a larger work."—*Testimonies,* vol. 9, p. 27.

The One Addressed

4. To whom generally should prayers be addressed? Matt. 6:6; John 16:23, 24, 26.

5. To whom else have petitions at times been directed? Acts 7:59; Rev. 22:20.

6. What is the pattern of address suggested by Jesus? John 14:13; 15:16.

NOTE.—"But to pray in the name of Jesus is something more than a mere mention of that name at the beginning and the ending of a prayer. It is to pray in the mind and spirit of Jesus, while we believe His promises, rely upon His grace, and work His works."—*Steps to Christ,* pages 100, 101.

General Admonitions Concerning Prayer

7. What counsel did Jesus give regarding acceptable prayer? Matt. 6: 5, 6.

NOTE.—"Prayer is not an expiation for sin; it has no virtue or merit of itself. All the flowery words at our command are not equivalent to one holy desire. The most eloquent prayers are but idle words if they do not express the true sentiments of the heart. But the prayer that comes from an earnest heart, when the simple wants of the soul are expressed, as we would ask an earthly friend for a favor, expecting it to be granted—this is the prayer of faith. God does not desire our ceremonial compliments, but the unspoken cry of the heart broken and subdued with a sense of its sin and utter weakness finds its way to the Father of all mercy."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* pages 86, 87.

8. What is to be avoided so far as the wording of our prayers is concerned? Matt. 6:7, 8.

NOTE.—"And when you pray don't rattle off long prayers like the pagans who think they will be heard because they use so many words. Don't be like them. After all, God, who is your Father, knows your needs before you ask Him." Matt. 6:7, 8. (*The New Testament in Modern English,* by J. B. Phillips. Copyright, 1958. Used by Permission of The Macmillan Company.)

"Prayer does not provide God with information of what He would otherwise be unaware, nor is it intended as a means of persuading Him to do what He would otherwise be unwilling to do. Prayer links us with the Omniscient One, and conditions our wills to cooperate effectively with His will."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Matt. 6:8.

9. What state of mind is inconsistent with true prayer? 1 Tim. 2:8.

NOTE.—"I desire therefore that in every place men should pray, without anger or quarreling or resentment or doubt [in their minds], lifting up holy hands." 1 Tim. 2:8, *The Amplified New Testament.* (Used by permission of the Lockman Foundation, La Habra, California.)

"Genuine prayer, whether public or private, can be made only in an atmosphere of love and forgiveness. The spirit of anger and revenge is incompatible with the Spirit of God and must be removed before there can be effective worship."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 Tim. 2:8.

Encouragement to Prayer

10. Under what conditions is prayer appropriate? Phil. 4:6.

NOTE.—"Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before God. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him. He who numbers the hairs of your head is not indifferent to the wants of His children. 'The Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.' James 5:11. His heart of love is touched by our sorrows and even by our utterances of them. Take to Him everything that perplexes the mind. Nothing is too great for Him to bear, for He holds up worlds, He rules over all the affairs of the universe. Nothing that in any way concerns our peace is too small for Him to notice."—*Steps to Christ,* page 100.

11. How constantly or continuously should prayers be offered? 1 Thess. 5:17; Eph. 6:18; Col. 4:2.

NOTE.—"We should pray in the family circle, and above all we must not neglect secret prayer, for this is the life of the soul. . . . There is no time or place in which it is inappropriate to offer up a petition to God."—*Steps to Christ,* pages 98, 99.

12. Of what response is the petitioner assured? Matt. 7:7.

13. Of what assistance is the petitioner assured? Rom. 8:26, 27.

NOTE.—"We can no more repent without the Spirit of Christ to awaken the conscience than we can be pardoned without Christ."—*Steps to Christ,* page 26.

"By the Spirit every sincere prayer is indited, and such prayer is acceptable to God. Wherever a soul reaches out after God, there the Spirit's working is manifest, and God will reveal Himself to that soul. For such worshipers He is seeking. He waits to receive them, and to make them His sons and daughters."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 189.

Questions for Meditation

1. What do I allow to keep me from the place of meditation and communion with God?

2. Is anything more important than prayer?

3. Could it be that just now someone needs my intercessory prayer?

Lesson 7, for November 17, 1962

Effectual Prayer

MEMORY VERSE: "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16, last part.

STUDY HELPS: "Steps to Christ," chapter, "Consecration;" "Christ's Object Lessons," chapter, "Shall Not God Avenge His Own?" "Prophets and Kings," pages 155-158; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

Check Here

Sabbath afternoon: General survey. ☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4. ☐
Monday: Questions 5-7; begin reading from Study Helps. ☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-10; read further from Study Helps. ☐
Wednesday: Questions 11-13. ☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps. ☐
Friday: Review entire lesson. ☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Earnest Search Enjoined

1. God's thoughts of peace. Jer. 29:11.
2. Wholehearted search. Jer. 29:13.
3. Wholehearted devotion. Luke 10:27.
4. Consistency in prayer habits. 1 Thess. 5:16-18.

II. Earnest Search Rewarded

5. Confidence in God. 1 John 5:14.
6. Righteousness promised. Hosea 10:12.
7. Daniel's prayer answered. Dan. 10:2, 3, 10-14.

III. Examples of Earnest Seekers

8. The importunate widow. Luke 18:1-8.
9. Daniel. Dan. 9:3, 20-23.
10. Jacob. Gen. 32:24-29.
11. The Syrophoenician woman. Mark 7:24-30.
12. Elijah. 1 Kings 18:41-45.
13. Elijah's example cited. James 5:16-18.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The need for importunity and perseverance in prayer is not to change God or His attitude toward us, for He delights to give. Delay may ensue because of our incapacity to receive the blessing asked for. Usually when prayer answers are delayed we should look within for the cause. Importunate prayer is God's means of increasing our capacity to receive and our ability to share what He gives. It is also His method of cultivating fellowship and oneness with the suppliant. It is in frequent communion that we come to know Him. Prayer does not change God, but it does change us. If the answer is delayed, or if it is No, do not question God's wisdom or mercy, but keep on praying. Sometimes in order to answer, God has to humble proud hearts, subdue hard natures, convict, convert, change conditions, permit sickness, or send adversity.

Earnest Search Enjoined

1. What thoughts or desires did God express for His ancient people? Jer. 29:11.

NOTE.—" 'That the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.' In the light of the Saviour's life, the hearts of all, even from the Creator to the prince of darkness, are revealed. Satan has represented God as selfish and oppressive, as claiming all, and giving nothing, as requiring the service of His creatures for His own glory, and making no sacrifice for their good. But the gift of Christ reveals the Father's heart. It testifies that the thoughts of God toward us are 'thoughts of peace, and not of evil.' Jer. 29:11. It declares that while God's hatred of sin is as strong as death, His love for the sinner is stronger than death. Having undertaken our redemption, He will spare nothing, however dear, which is necessary to the completion of His work. No truth essential to our salvation is withheld, no miracle of mercy is neglected, no divine agency is left unemployed. Favor is heaped upon favor, gift upon gift. The whole treasury of heaven is open to those He seeks to save. Having collected the riches of the universe, and laid open the resources of infinite power, He gives them all into the hands of Christ, and says, All these are for man. Use these gifts to convince him that there is no love greater than Mine in

earth or heaven. His greatest happiness will be found in loving Me."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 57.

2. How sincere should be our search for God? Jer. 29:13.

NOTE.—"The whole heart must be yielded to God, or the change can never be wrought in us by which we are to be restored to His likeness. By nature we are alienated from God. The Holy Spirit describes our condition in such words as these: 'Dead in trespasses and sins;' 'the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint;' 'no soundness in it.' We are held fast in the snare of Satan; 'taken captive by him at his will.' Ephesians 2:1; Isaiah 1:5, 6; 2 Timothy 2:26. God desires to heal us, to set us free. But since this requires an entire transformation, a renewing of our whole nature, we must yield ourselves wholly to Him."—*Steps to Christ,* page 43.

3. In the words of Christ, what constitutes wholehearted devotion to God? Luke 10:27.

4. In what spirit and how consistently should we pray? 1 Thess. 5: 16-18.

NOTE.—A house servant gave a group of ministers a good interpretation of the text, "pray without ceasing" when she said, "The more I have to do, the more I can pray. . . . When I first open my eyes in the morning, I pray, 'Lord, open the eyes of my understanding;' and, while I am dressing, I pray that I may be clothed with the robe of righteousness; and, when I have washed me, I ask for the washing of regeneration; and, as I begin to work, I pray that I may have strength equal to my day; when I begin to kindle up the fire, I pray that God's work may revive in my soul; and, as I sweep out the house, I pray that my heart may be cleansed from all its impurities; and, while preparing and partaking of breakfast, I desire to be fed with the hidden manna and the sincere milk of the word; and, as I am busy with the little children, I look up to God as my Father, and pray for the spirit of adoption, that I may be His child: and so on all day. Everything I do furnishes me with a thought for prayer."—Elon Foster, *6,000 Sermon Illustrations,* page 511.

Earnest Search Rewarded

5. What confidence may we have in God? 1 John 5:14.

6. What results did Hosea say would follow an earnest seeking after God? Hosea 10:12.

NOTE.—"The garden of the heart must be cultivated. The soil must be broken up by deep repentance for sin. Poisonous, satanic plants must be uprooted. The soil once overgrown by thorns can be reclaimed only by diligent labor. So the evil tendencies of the natural heart can be overcome only by earnest effort in the name and strength of Jesus. The Lord bids us by His prophet, 'Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.' 'Sow to yourselves in righteousness; reap in mercy.' Jer. 4:3; Hosea 10:12. This work He desires to accomplish for us, and He asks us to cooperate with Him."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 56.

7. After three weeks of earnest praying how was Daniel rewarded? Dan. 10:2, 3, 10-14.

Examples of Earnest Seekers

8. What is the lesson in the narrative of the importunate widow? Luke 18:1-8.

NOTE.—"The Lord says, 'Call upon Me in the day of trouble.' Ps. 50:15. He invites us to present to Him our perplexities and necessities, and our need of divine help. He bids us be instant in prayer. As soon as difficulties arise, we are to offer to Him our sincere, earnest petitions. By

our importunate prayers we give evidence of our strong confidence in God. The sense of our need leads us to pray earnestly, and our heavenly Father is moved by our supplications. . . . The children of God are not left alone and defenseless. Prayer moves the arm of Omnipotence. Prayer has 'subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire'—we shall know what this means when we hear the reports of the martyrs who died for their faith—'turned to flight the armies of the aliens.' Heb. 11:33, 34."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 172.

> "Every principle in the word of God has its place, every fact its bearing. And the complete structure, in design and execution, bears testimony to its Author. Such a structure no mind but that of the Infinite could conceive or fashion."—*Education,* page 124.

9. On another occasion how was Daniel's earnest prayer answered? Dan. 9:3, 20-23.

10. How persevering was Jacob in pleading for a blessing? Gen. 32: 24-29.

NOTE.—"Jacob's night of anguish, when he wrestled in prayer for deliverance from the hand of Esau (Genesis 32:24-30), represents the experience of God's people in the time of trouble. . . . His only hope was in the mercy of God; his only defense must be prayer. Yet he leaves nothing undone on his own part to atone for the wrong to his brother and to avert the threatened danger. So should the followers of Christ, as they approach the time of trouble, make every exertion to place themselves in a proper light before the people, to disarm prejudice, and to avert the danger which threatens liberty of conscience. . . .

"He confesses his sin and gratefully acknowledges the mercy of God toward him while with deep humiliation he pleads the covenant made with his fathers and the promises to himself in the night vision at Bethel and in the land of his exile. The crisis in his life has come; everything is at stake. In the darkness and solitude he continues praying and humbling himself before God. . . . Long has he endured perplexity, remorse, and trouble for his sin; now he must have the assurance that it is pardoned. The divine visitant seems about to depart; but Jacob clings to Him, pleading for a blessing. The Angel urges, 'Let Me go, for the day breaketh;' but the patriarch exclaims, 'I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me.' What confidence, what firmness and perseverance, are here displayed! Had this been a boastful, presumptuous claim, Jacob would have been instantly destroyed; but his was the assurance of one who confesses his weakness and unworthiness, yet trusts the mercy of a covenant-keeping God."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 616, 617.

11. How did the Syrophoenician woman express to Jesus her sincere desire? Mark 7:24-30.

12. How did Elijah press his petition for the breaking of the long drought? 1 Kings 18:41-45.

NOTE.—"It was because Elijah was a man of large faith that God could use him in this grave crisis in the history of Israel. As he prayed, his faith reached out and grasped the promises of Heaven, and he persevered in prayer until his petitions were answered. He did not wait for the full evidence that God had heard him, but was willing to venture all on the slightest token of divine favor. And yet what he was enabled to do under God, all may do in their sphere of activity in God's service. . . .

"Faith such as this is needed in the world today—faith that will lay hold on the promises of God's word and refuse to let go until Heaven hears."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 156, 157.

13. What lesson did James draw from the prayers of Elijah? James 5:16-18.

NOTE.—"Let your heart break for the longing it has for God, for the living God. The life of Christ has shown what humanity can do by being partaker of the divine nature. All that Christ received from God we too may have. Then ask and receive. With the persevering faith of Jacob, with the unyielding persistence of Elijah, claim for yourself all that God has promised."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 149.

Questions for Meditation

1. Could it be possible that we make the phrase "Thy will be done" an excuse or alibi for our lack of zeal, conviction, and earnestness in prayer?

2. Could it be that our seeming quick submission is only spiritual laziness and absence of real heart purpose? Remember, it is God's will to answer prayers when they are in harmony with His promises.

Lesson 8, for November 24, 1962

Conditions to Answered Prayer—I

MEMORY VERSE: "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." Isa. 55:6, 7.

STUDY HELPS: "Early Writings," pages 72, 73; "Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing," pages 113-116 (1943 ed., pp. 166-169); "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 146-149; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General Survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-9.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 10-12.	☐
Wednesday: Begin reading Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Earnestness and Perseverance

1. Encouragement to seek God. Isa. 55:6, 7.
2. Earnest longing for God. Ps. 42:1, 2.
3. Perseverance rewarded. Luke 11:5-8.
4. God's unchangeableness our confidence. Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8.

II. A Forgiving Spirit

5. The condition for forgiveness. Matt. 6:14, 15; Mark 11:25.
6. The condition accepted in the Lord's Prayer. Matt. 6:12.
7. Forgiveness cultivated. Eph. 4:31, 32.
8. The measure of God's forgiveness. Jer. 31:34; Ps. 103:12; Micah 7:18, 19.
9. Consideration in home relationships. 1 Peter 3:7.

III. Cooperation With God

10. The Law will be kept. Prov. 28:9.
11. Sin will be renounced. Ps. 66:18; Isa. 59:2.
12. Selfishness will be laid aside. James 4:3.

Introduction

"There is necessity for diligence in prayer; let nothing hinder you. Make every effort to keep open the communion between Jesus and your own soul. Seek every opportunity to go where prayer is wont to be made. Those who are really seeking for communion with God will be seen in the prayer meeting, faithful to do their duty and earnest and anxious to reap all the benefits they can gain. They will improve every opportunity of placing themselves where they can receive the rays of light from heaven."—*Steps to Christ,* page 98.

Earnestness and Perseverance

1. While God may be found, what are men encouraged to do? Isa. 55: 6, 7.

NOTE.—"*Seek, . . . call upon.* The prophet stresses God's activity, sometimes wholly apart from and even despite man's effort; but he knows that man must stir up himself to take hold of God ([Isa.] 64:7). Man's part in prayer is subordinate but indispensable: 'Ask, . . . seek, . . . knock' (Luke 11:9)."—*The Interpreter's Bible,* vol. 5, p. 647.

2. How earnestly did the psalmist long for God? Ps. 42: 1, 2.

NOTE.—"Perseverance in prayer has been made a condition of receiving. We must pray always. . . . Unceasing prayer is the unbroken union of the soul with God, so that life from God flows into our life; and from our life, purity and holiness flow back to God."—*Steps to Christ,* pages 97, 98.

3. By meeting what condition did the petitioner in Jesus' parable receive his request? Luke 11:5-8.

NOTE.—Bishop Hall emphasized the need of earnestness in prayer when he wrote, "An arrow, if it be drawn up but a little way, goes not far; but, if it be pulled up to the head, flies swiftly and pierces deep. Thus prayer, if it be only dribbled forth from careless lips, falls at our feet. It is the strength of strong desire which sends it to heaven, and makes it pierce the clouds. It is not the arithmetic of our prayers, how many they are; nor the rhetoric of our prayers, how eloquent they be; nor the geometry of our prayers, how long they be; nor the music of our prayers, how sweet our voice may be; nor the logic of our prayers, how argumentative they may be; nor the method of our prayers, how orderly they may be; nor even the divinity of our prayers, how good the doctrine may be, which God cares for. Fervency of spirit is that which availeth much."

4. Which of God's attributes should make us confident of a sympathetic hearing when we pray? Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8.

NOTE.—"Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him."—*Steps to Christ,* page 93.

"He who blessed the nobleman at Capernaum is just as desirous of blessing us. But like the afflicted father, we are often led to seek Jesus by the desire for some earthly good; and upon the granting of our request we rest our confidence in His love. 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."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 200.

A Forgiving Spirit

5. On what condition will prayers for forgiveness of sins be answered? Matt. 6:14, 15; Mark 11:25.

NOTE.—"He who is unforgiving cuts off the very channel through which alone he can receive mercy from God. We should not think that unless those who have injured us confess the wrong we are justified in withholding from them our forgiveness. It is their part, no doubt, to humble their hearts by repentance and confession; but we are to have a spirit of compassion toward those who have trespassed against us, whether or not they confess their faults. However sorely they may have wounded us, we are not to cherish our grievances and sympathize with ourselves over our injuries; but as we hope to be pardoned for our offenses against God we are to pardon all who have done evil to us."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* pages 113, 114.

6. What clause in the Lord's Prayer emphasizes the importance of a forgiving spirit? Matt. 6:12. Compare Matt. 5:23, 24.

NOTE.—"When we come to ask mercy and blessing from God we should have a spirit of love and forgiveness in our own hearts. How can we pray, 'Forgive us our debts, *as* we forgive our debtors,' and yet indulge an unforgiving spirit? Matthew 6:12. If we expect our own prayers to be heard we must forgive others in the same manner and to the same extent as we hope to be forgiven."—*Steps to Christ,* page 97.

7. How may a forgiving spirit be cultivated? Eph. 4:31, 32.

8. What is the measure of God's forgiveness? Jer. 31:34; Ps. 103:12; Micah 7:18, 19.

NOTE.—"Through the merits of the grace of Christ his sins may be perfectly forgiven. If he endures till the end, his sins will never be mentioned against him again. Should he apostatize and be lost, all his sins will face him on the judgment day."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Micah 7:19.

9. What situations in home relationships may hinder the answering of our prayers? 1 Peter 3:7.

NOTE.—"These husbands have been treating their Christian wives as they should. Peter takes it for granted that they will continue to do so and thus names the contemplated result: 'so that your prayers may not be hindered.' How could they engage in prayers or expect God to hear them if they persist in, or fall back into, the old pagan ignorance in the treatment of their wives?"

"The thought includes all manner of hindering. A husband who treats his wife in the wrong way will himself be unfit to pray, will scarcely pray at all. There will be no family altar, no life of prayer. His worship in the congregation will be equally affected."—Lenski, *Interpretation of the Epistles of St. Peter, St. John and St. Jude,* page 141.

> "If we would study the Bible diligently and prayerfully every day, we should every day see some beautiful truth in a new, clear, and forcible light."—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work,* page 23.

Cooperation With God

10. What disastrous results follow the failure to walk in the way of God's commandments? Prov. 28:9.

NOTE.—"Sin puts a barrier between God and the sinner (Isa. 59:1, 2). Those who go contrary to their conscience and those who claim that the keeping of the so-called spirit of the law makes them superior to those who, by the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit, keep both the letter and the spirit of the law, do well to ponder this verse. While God passes over the

lack of conformity to law in those who have had no opportunity to discover the claims of God upon them (Acts 17:30; Rom. 5:13), He cannot accept the service of those who have deliberately turned away from His law. To do so would sanction willful rebellion."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Prov. 28:9.

11. What effect does indulgence in sin have on prayer? Ps. 66:18; Isa. 59:2.

NOTE.—"If we regard iniquity in our hearts, if we cling to any known sin, the Lord will not hear us; but the prayer of the penitent, contrite soul is always accepted. When all known wrongs are righted, we may believe that God will answer our petitions."—*Steps to Christ,* page 95.

12. What is God's response to selfish prayers? James 4:3.

NOTE.—"Answers to prayer depend upon both the nature of the requests and the spirit of the prayer. . . . He who prays without the determination to align himself with the will of God is praying 'amiss.' " —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on James 4:3.

Questions for Meditation

1. Dependent as I am each moment upon God for life, food, shelter, clothing, and other gifts of His love, how many minutes a day do I spend in thanksgiving prayer to the Giver of all things?

2. When I examine myself in trying to learn the reasons for unanswered prayer, where do I find the real trouble lies?

Lesson 9, for December 1, 1962

Conditions to Answered Prayer—II

MEMORY VERSE: "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord." James 1:6, 7.

STUDY HELPS: "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 143-145; "Testimonies," vol. 8, pp. 177-179; "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 430-432; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-6.	☐
Monday: Questions 7-9.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 10-12.	☐
Wednesday: Begin reading Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Faith

1. Doubt a hindrance. James 1:6, 7.
2. Faith essential. Heb. 11:6.
3. Makes all things possible. Matt. 21:22; Mark 9:23.
4. An example of faith. 2 Kings 19: 14-19, 32-35; 2 Chron. 32:21.
5. Unbelief categorized. Rev. 21:8.
6. Faith's potential. Mark 11:22-24.

II. Obedience to and Union With Christ

7. Obedience essential. 1 John 3:22.
8. Obedience illustrated. Luke 6:46-49.
9. Union with Christ essential. John 15:7.

III. Submission to the Divine Will

10. Prayer according to the divine will. 1 John 5:14, 15.
11. Jesus' submission. Luke 22:42.
12. The Spirit's aid. Rom. 8:26, 27.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Our prayers are not to be a selfish asking, merely for our own benefit. We are to ask that we may give. The principle of Christ's life must be the principle of our lives. 'For their sakes,' He said, speaking of His disciples, 'I sanctify Myself, that they also might be sanctified.' John 17:19. The same devotion, the same self-sacrifice, the same subjection to the claims of the word of God, that were manifest in Christ, must be seen in His servants. Our mission to the world is not to serve or please ourselves; we are to glorify God by cooperating with Him to save sinners. We are to ask blessings from God that we may communicate to others. The capacity for receiving is preserved only by imparting. We cannot continue to receive heavenly treasure without communicating to those around us."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 142, 143.

Faith

1. What attitudes of mind stand in the way of answers to prayer? James 1:6, 7.

NOTE.—"There is no danger that the Lord will neglect the prayers of His people. The danger is that in temptation and trial they will become discouraged and fail to persevere in prayer."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 175.

2. How essential is faith declared to be? Heb. 11:6.

NOTE.—This verse is from a chapter that tells what believing prayer has accomplished. Prayer opened a highway through the Red Sea, divided the river Jordan, sent a stream of water from flinty rock, knocked down the mighty walls of Jericho, stopped the sun in its course, muzzled the lions of Babylon, made ineffective the sting of the deadly adder at Malta, shut up the heavens that it should not rain for forty-two months, healed the sick, raised the dead, opened prisons, solved problems, and made the weak strong. "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

3. How much is possible to the one who believes? Matt. 21:22; Mark 9:23.

NOTE.—"Not one sincere prayer is lost. Amid the anthems of the celestial choir, God hears the cries of the weakest human being. We pour out our heart's desire in our closets, we breathe a prayer as we walk by the way, and our words reach the throne of the Monarch of the universe. They may be inaudible to any human ear, but they cannot die away into silence, nor can they be lost through the activities of business that are going on. Nothing can drown the soul's desire. It rises above the din of the street, above the confusion of the multitude, to the heavenly courts. It is God to whom we are speaking, and our prayer is heard."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 174.

4. How did Hezekiah show his faith in the God of heaven, and what were the results? 2 Kings 19:14-19, 32-35; 2 Chron. 32:21.

5. With what awful category of sins is unbelief classed? Rev. 21:8.

NOTE.—"But as for the cowards and the ignoble and the contemptible and the cravenly lacking in courage and the cowardly submissive; and as for the unbelieving and faithless; and as for the depraved and defiled with abominations; and as for murderers and the lewd and adulterous and the practicers of magic arts and the idolaters [those who give supreme devotion to anyone or anything other than God] and all liars [those who knowingly convey untruth by word or deed, all of these shall have] their part in the lake that blazes with fire and brimstone. This is the second death. [Isa. 30:33.]" Rev. 21:8, *The Amplified New Testament*. (Used by permission of the Lockman Foundation, La Habra, Calif.)

6. How did Jesus emphasize the importance of faith in connection with prayer? Mark 11:22-24.

NOTE.—"Faith is the gift of God, but the power to exercise it is ours. Faith is the hand by which the soul takes hold upon the divine offers of grace and mercy. . . . When we trust God fully, when we rely upon the merits of Jesus as a sin-pardoning Saviour, we shall receive all the help that we can desire."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 431.

Obedience to and Union With Christ

7. How does the apostle John associate prayer with obedience? 1 John 3:22.

NOTE.—"He who prays needs a clear conscience, with consequent freedom in approaching God, before making his requests. John then declares that the believer fulfills two other conditions: (1) keeps God's commandments; (2) does those things that please God. When the Christian has complied with these requirements, he may claim the fulfillment of the apostle's assurance in this verse."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 John 3:22.

> "If you fail ninety-nine times in a hundred, but succeed in saving the one soul from ruin, you have done a noble deed for the Master's cause." —*Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 132.

8. How did Jesus set forth the importance of obedience to His word? Luke 6:46-49.

NOTE.—"There are only two classes in the world today, and only two classes will be recognized in the judgment—those who violate God's law and those who obey it. Christ gives the test by which to prove our loyalty or disloyalty. 'If ye love Me,' He says, 'keep My commandments. . . . He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me. And he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him. . . . He that loveth Me not keepeth not My sayings; and the word which ye hear is not Mine, but the Father's which sent Me.' 'If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.' John 14:15-24; 15:10."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 283.

9. What spiritual condition is essential to prevailing prayer? John 15:7.

NOTE.—"All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation

of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 668.

Submission to the Divine Will

10. With what confidence may the Christian offer up his petition to God? 1 John 5:14, 15.

NOTE.—"When we do not receive the very things we asked for, at the time we ask, we are still to believe that the Lord hears and that He will answer our prayers. We are so erring and shortsighted that we sometimes ask for things that would not be a blessing to us, and our heavenly Father in love answers our prayers by giving us that which will be for our highest good—that which we ourselves would desire if with vision divinely enlightened we could see all things as they really are. When our prayers seem not to be answered, we are to cling to the promise; for the time of answering will surely come, and we shall receive the blessing we need most. But to claim that prayer will always be answered in the very way and for the particular thing that we desire, is presumption. God is too wise to err, and too good to withhold any good thing from them that walk uprightly."—*Steps to Christ,* page 96.

11. What example of submission to the divine will did Jesus set for us? Luke 22:42. Compare John 5:30.

NOTE.—"He is acquainted with the hearts of all men. He reads every secret of the soul. He knows whether those for whom prayer is offered would or would not be able to endure the trials that would come upon them should they live. He knows whether their lives would be a blessing or a curse to themselves and to the world. This is one reason why, while presenting our petitions with earnestness, we should say, 'Nevertheless not my will, but Thine, be done.' Luke 22:42. Jesus added these words of submission to the wisdom and will of God when in the Garden of Gethsemane He pleaded, 'O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me.' Matthew 26:39. And if they were appropriate for Him, the Son of God, how much more are they becoming on the lips of finite, erring mortals!"—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 230.

12. What aid is promised in making our prayers conform to the will of God? Rom. 8:26, 27.

NOTE.—"In order to serve Him aright, we must be born of the divine Spirit. This will purify the heart and renew the mind, giving us a new capacity for knowing and loving God. It will give us a willing obedience to all His requirements. This is true worship. It is the fruit of the working of the Holy Spirit. By the Spirit every sincere prayer is indited, and such prayer is acceptable to God."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 189.

Questions for Meditation

1. Do I exercise sufficient faith when I pray?

2. Are my prayers for His glory or for selfish reasons?

3. Have I had definite answers to my prayers during the past month?

4. Am I as ready to submit to God's answers to my prayers as was my Example, Jesus?

The senior "Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly" is published in the following foreign languages: Czech, German, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Russian, Slovakian, Spanish, Swedish, Ukrainian, and Yugoslav. Write to the Pacific Press Publishing Association, Mountain View, California, for any of these quarterlies for the strangers within your gates.

Meeting Life's Disappointments

MEMORY VERSE: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Rom. 8:28.

STUDY HELPS: "The Ministry of Healing," pages 228-231; "Prophets and Kings," pages 344-348; "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 469-480; "Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing," pages 29-35 (1943 ed., pp. 49-58); "The Desire of Ages," pages 223-225; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-3.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-7.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-11.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 12-14; begin reading Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Divine Discipline

1. Yields righteousness. Heb. 12:11.
2. Purifies. Job 23:10.
3. Moses' reaction. Deut. 3:25-27; 31:6-8, 14, 23.

II. Unanswered Prayer

4. Our inability to know our needs. Rom. 8:26.
5. Paul's infirmity. 2 Cor. 12:7.
6. Paul's prayer for healing. 2 Cor. 12:8.
7. Paul's reaction to a "no" answer. 2 Cor. 12:9, 10.

III. Hezekiah's Experience

8. The message of approaching death. 2 Kings 20:1.
9. The record of his life. 2 Kings 18:3; 20:3.
10. Extension of life granted. 2 Kings 20:6.
11. Failure during added years. 2 Chron. 32:25; Isa. 39:5-7.

IV. God Knows What Is Best

12. Suffering a privilege. Phil. 1:29.
13. God works things out for our good. Rom. 8:28.
14. Praying according to His will. Matt. 26:39, 42, 44.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Prayer is not so much a matter of persuading God to accept our will concerning a matter as of our discovering His will with respect to it. He knows our needs before we ask; more than that, He knows what is best for us. In contrast, we are often but dimly conscious of our own need. We frequently think we need things that we do not need and that may even be harmful to us; conversely, we may not even be aware of our greatest needs. . . . Prayer will bring our wills, and thus our lives, into harmony with the will of God. . . . It is the divinely appointed means of educating our desires. It is not the true purpose of prayer to work a change in God, but to work a change in us so that we desire 'both to will and to do of His good pleasure' (Phil. 2:13).

"To the sincere suppliant God will send

an answer to every petition uttered in humility and faith. He may say 'Yes,' He may say 'No,' or He may say simply 'Wait.' Sometimes answer to prayer may be delayed because a change must come about in our own hearts before God can answer it. . . . There are definite conditions to answered prayer, and if there seems to be delay, we should inquire whether the difficulty may be with us. It is an insult to God to be impatient with Him when we have not complied with the conditions under which it is possible for Him to answer prayer."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Luke 11:9.

> "The creative energy that called the worlds into existence is in the word of God. This word imparts power; it begets life."—*Education,* page 126.

Divine Discipline

1. What will be the fruitage of discipline that is accepted in the right spirit? Heb. 12:11.

2. Though Job doubtless prayed many times for relief from his heavy trials, what value did he see in them? Job 23:10.

3. What was Moses' reaction to the disappointment of his long-cherished hope of leading Israel into the Promised Land? Deut. 3:25-27; 31:6-8, 14, 23.

NOTE.—Moses had been told he must die. How he wanted to live and lead Israel into the Land of Promise! He had previously by his intercessory prayer saved Israel from complete destruction at the base of Mount Sinai. Now he asked God to mercifully permit him to go into the goodly land before death. The Lord said, "No," "you must die," and "speak no more about the matter," and Moses goes about preparing and encouraging his successor. He entreats the people to faithfulness and trust in God. Not a murmur of complaint escapes his lips. Though he cannot understand why, still he can trust that his God doeth all things well. And what glorious, unspeakable advantages he personally received, and what an example and inspiration to all generations! He did not have his way, but God's way held much more of blessing.

Read *Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 469-480.

Unanswered Prayer

4. Because of his finite understanding, what is man often incapable of knowing? Rom. 8:26.

NOTE.—" 'We know not what we should pray for as we ought.' Romans 8:26. We do not know whether the blessing we desire will be best or not. Therefore our prayers should include this thought: 'Lord, Thou knowest every secret of the soul. Thou art acquainted with these persons. Jesus, their Advocate, gave His life for them. His love for them is greater than ours can possibly be. If, therefore, it is for Thy glory and the good of the afflicted ones, we ask, in the name of Jesus, that they may be restored to health. If it be not Thy will that they may be restored, we ask that Thy grace may comfort and Thy presence sustain them in their sufferings.'

"God knows the end from the beginning. He is acquainted with the hearts of all men. He reads every secret of the soul. He knows whether those for whom prayer is offered would or would not be able to endure the trials that would come upon them should they live. He knows whether their lives would be a blessing or a curse to themselves and to the world. This is one reason why, while presenting our petitions with earnestness, we should say, 'Nevertheless not my will, but Thine, be done.' Luke 22:42. . . . To press our petitions without a submissive spirit is not right; our prayers must take the form, not of command, but of intercession."—*The Ministry of Healing,* pages 229, 230.

5. What trial was Paul called upon to endure, and why? 2 Cor. 12:7.

6. How many times did Paul make the problem a subject of special prayer? 2 Cor. 12:8.

7. When he knew the will of God in the matter, what was his reaction? 2 Cor. 12: 9, 10.

NOTE.—"While the Lord has not promised His people exemption from trials, He has promised that which is far better. He has said, 'As thy days, so shall thy strength be.' . . . If you are called to go through the fiery furnace for His sake, Jesus will be by your side even as He was with the faithful three in Babylon. Those who love their Redeemer will rejoice at every opportunity of sharing with Him humiliation and reproach. The love they bear their Lord makes suffering for His sake sweet." —*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* page 30.

For some of us it may take some handicap, some thorn in the flesh, or some infirmity to keep us humble, to teach us dependence on God, to develop and maintain the sweet graces of the Spirit. If so, the child of God will glory in adversity, if only he can become like his Lord and be ready for the glories beyond his preparatory school of life.

Hezekiah's Experience

8. What message was given to Hezekiah when he was seriously ill? 2 Kings 20:1.

9. What was the record of Hezekiah's life? 2 Kings 18:3; 20:3.

NOTE.—"Since the days of David there had reigned no king who had wrought so mightily for the upbuilding of the kingdom of God in a time of apostasy and discouragement as had Hezekiah. The dying ruler had served his God faithfully, and had strengthened the confidence of the people in Jehovah as their Supreme Ruler."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 340, 341.

10. What was God's response to Hezekiah's prayer and tears? 2 Kings 20:6.

11. What tragic blunders during those added years marred Hezekiah's once marvelous record? 2 Chron. 32:25; Isa. 39:5-7.

NOTE.—During the fifteen added years his son Manasseh was born. Though Hezekiah had proved a good and wise king, as a father he seems to have been a complete failure. His boy who took the throne debauched and ruined the nation. "And I will cause them to be removed into all kingdoms of the earth, because of Manasseh the son of Hezekiah king of Judah, for that which he did in Jerusalem." Jer. 15:4. What colossal tragedies can follow in the wake of praying contrary to the will of God! How much of heartache Hezekiah would have saved himself and his people had he but bowed to the will of God! This experience was written for our admonition.

God Knows What Is Best

12. What is our privilege as Christians? Phil. 1:29.

NOTE.—"God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning, and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him. Not Enoch, who was translated to heaven, not Elijah, who ascended in a chariot of fire, was greater or more honored than John the Baptist, who perished alone in the dungeon. 'Unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake.' Phil. 1:29. And of all the gifts that Heaven

can bestow upon men, fellowship with Christ in His sufferings is the most weighty trust and the highest honor."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 224, 225.

13. What will God do for those who love Him? Rom. 8:28. See R.S.V.

NOTE.—"Nothing can touch the Christian except by our Lord's permission, . . . and all things that are permitted work together for good to those who love God. If God permits suffering and perplexity to come upon us, it is not to destroy us but to refine and sanctify us. . . . The troubles and disappointments of this life take our affections from the world and lead us to look to heaven for our home."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Rom. 8:28.

If we love God, then all things—good things, bad things, yes, all things—will work together for our good.

14. How did Jesus express in His prayers in Gethsemane His submission to the Father? Matt. 26:39, 42, 44.

Questions for Meditation

1. Am I willing to bear the thorn in the flesh if thereby my Lord is glorified and the cause of God advanced?

2. Why did Paul pray, "That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His suffering"?

Lesson 11, for December 15, 1962

Notable Prayers of the Bible

MEMORY VERSE: "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." Rom. 15:4.

STUDY HELPS: "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 150-163; "Education," pages 159-168; "Testimonies," vol. 8, pp. 239-243; "The Desire of Ages," pages 749-751; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1, 2; begin reading Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 3, 4; read further from Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 5-9.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 10-13.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Prayers of Confession

1. David's. Psalm 51.
2. Daniel's. Dan. 9:3-19.

II. Prayers for Salvation

3. The publican's. Luke 18:13.
4. The thief's, from the cross. Luke 23:42, 43.

III. Prayers for Deliverance

5. Jehoshaphat's. 2 Chron. 20:5-12, 20-23.

6. Jonah's. Jonah 2:1, 10.
7. Ezra's. Ezra 9:5-15.
8. Esther's. Esther 4:14-17.
9. The church's, for Peter. Acts 12:5-12.

IV. Varied Prayer Requests Answered

10. Moses' prayer for Miriam's healing. Num. 12:13-15.
11. Hannah's prayer for a son. 1 Sam. 1:9-13, 18-20, 27.
12. Solomon's prayer for wisdom. 1 Kings 3:5-15.
13. Elijah's prayer for the life of the widow's son. 1 Kings 17:17-22.

THE LESSON

Introduction

In this lessen we note what God graciously did for and through others. These experiences should challenge us, for God is no respector of persons. The servant of the Lord stirs us with these words:

"Many can tell what the great and good men of generations past have done, and dared, and suffered, and enjoyed. They become eloquent in setting forth the power of the gospel, which has enabled others to rejoice in trying conflicts, and to stand firm against fierce temptations. But while so earnest in bringing forward other Christians as witnesses for Jesus, they seem to have no fresh, timely experience of their own to relate. . . .

"We need constantly a fresh revelation of Christ, a daily experience that harmonizes with His teachings. High and holy attainments are within our reach. Continual progress in knowledge and virtue is God's purpose for us. His law is the echo of His own voice, giving to all the invitation, 'Come up higher; be holy, holier still.' Every day we may advance in perfection of Christian character."—*Gospel Workers,* pages 273, 274.

Prayers of Confession

1. In his deep repentance, for what did David pray? Psalm 51.

NOTE.—"No man can empty himself of self. We can only consent for Christ to accomplish the work. Then the language of the soul will be, Save me in spite of myself, my weak, un-Christlike self. Lord, take my heart; for I cannot give it. It is Thy property. Keep it pure, for I cannot keep it for Thee. Mold me, fashion me, raise me into a pure and holy atmosphere, where the rich current of Thy love can flow through my soul.

"It is not only at the beginning of the Christian life that this renunciation of self is to be made. At every advance step heavenward it is to be renewed."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 159.

2. What was the great burden of Daniel's prayer? Dan. 9:13-19.

Prayers for Salvation

3. What is one of the shortest prayers, yet most certain to receive an answer? Luke 18:13.

NOTE.—"Whom Christ pardons, He first makes penitent."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* page 7.

"If you see your sinfulness, do not wait to make yourself better. How many there are who think they are not good enough to come to Christ. Do you expect to become better through your own efforts? 'Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.' Jeremiah 13:23. There is help for us only in God. We must not wait for stronger persuasions, for better opportunities, or for holier tempers. We can do nothing of ourselves. We must come to Christ just as we are."—*Steps to Christ,* page 31.

"The sense of need, the recognition of our poverty and sin, is the very first condition of acceptance with God. 'Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.' "—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 152.

"There is nothing so offensive to God or so dangerous to the human soul as pride and self-sufficiency. Of all sins it is the most hopeless, the most incurable."—*Ibid.,* p. 154.

> "If Christians were to act in concert, moving forward as one, under the direction of one Power, for the accomplishment of one purpose, they would move the world." —*Testimonies,* vol. 9, p. 221.

4. What notable prayer brought sure salvation to a dying man? Luke 23:42, 43.

NOTE.—What a wonderful example of faith! To see in Jesus a Saviour and a King, when kingship and kingdom seemed so utterly beyond belief as to be merely a matter of ridicule and scorn, is to reveal a faith that is indeed extraordinary.

Prayers for Deliverance

5. Whose prayers saved a nation from military disaster? 2 Chron. 20: 5-12, 20-23.

NOTE.—"With confidence Jehoshaphat could say to the Lord, 'Our eyes are upon Thee.' For years he had taught the people to trust in the One who in past ages had so often interposed to save His chosen ones from utter destruction; and now, when the kingdom was in peril, Jehoshaphat did not stand alone; 'all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.' . . . Unitedly they fasted and prayed; unitedly they besought the Lord to put their enemies to confusion, that the name of Jehovah might be glorified."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 200.

"It was a singular way of going to battle against the enemy's army—praising the Lord with singing, and exalting the God of Israel. This was their battle song. They possessed the beauty of holiness. If more praising of God were engaged in now, hope and courage and faith would steadily increase."—*Ibid.,* p. 202.

6. From what strange place did Jonah send forth his prayer that brought deliverance? Jonah 2:1, 10.

NOTE.—Jonah was God's man, but for a short time he was out of tune with heaven. There was fear and frustration. He disobeyed. He tried to get away from God. He went to sleep in a time of real crisis for the ship's crew and passengers. Through the harrowing experience that followed he finally renewed his consecration and did valiant service which averted the destruction of Nineveh. God is eagerly waiting to hear us pray in sincerity as did Jonah, "I will pay that that I have vowed." Jonah 2:9. This poor perishing world needs an awakened, willing, and consecrated people, for: "We are standing on the threshold of the crisis of the ages. In quick succession the judgments of God will follow one another—fire, and flood, and earthquake, with war and bloodshed. We are not to be surprised at this time by events both great and decisive; for the angel of mercy cannot remain much longer to shelter the impenitent."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 278.

7. How did Ezra manifest his earnestness, and what was the burden of his prayer? Ezra 9:5-15.

NOTE.—"Ezra views the sin in which he found his people to have fallen as having 'grown up unto the heavens' (v. 6). Their sin was tanamount to a complete forsaking of God's commandments, and in this con-

dition they 'cannot stand' before God (v. 15). Ezra's public confession on behalf of his people (see Dan. 9:5-16) is based partly on the nature of the sin itself, and partly on the fact that they had revealed base ingratitude in turning from God so soon after He had forgiven their sins that sent them into captivity and had showered favor after favor upon them as they returned to Palestine. To fall again into the same transgression was, in Ezra's estimation, unpardonable, and the punishment must certainly be nothing less than irretrievable destruction of the nation."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Ezra 9:14.

8. What preparation did Esther make before she undertook to save the Jewish people from impending destruction? Esther 4:14-17.

NOTE.—"The crisis that Esther faced demanded quick, earnest action; but both she and Mordecai realized that unless God should work mightily in their behalf, their own efforts would be unavailing. So Esther took time for communion with God, the source of her strength. 'Go,' she directed Mordecai, 'gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.' "—*Prophets and Kings,* page 601.

9. How was the prayer of the church for Peter's deliverance answered? Acts 12:5-12.

Varied Prayer Requests Answered

10. How did God respond to Moses' prayer for Miriam's healing? Num. 12:13-15.

11. What request did Hannah make, and how was it answered? 1 Sam. 1:9-13, 18-20, 27.

12. For what did the young man Solomon pray, and what did God give him? 1 Kings 3:5-15. Compare James 1:5.

NOTE.—"The language used by Solomon while praying to God before the ancient altar at Gibeon reveals his humility and his strong desire to honor God. He realized that without divine aid he was as helpless as a little child to fulfill the responsibilities resting on him. He knew that he lacked discernment, and it was a sense of his great need that led him to seek God for wisdom. In his heart there was no selfish aspiration for a knowledge that would exalt him above others. He desired to discharge faithfully the duties devolving upon him, and he chose the gift that would be the means of causing his reign to bring glory to God. Solomon was never so rich or so wise or so truly great as when he confessed, 'I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.' "—*Prophets and Kings,* page 30.

13. On one occasion, for what did Elijah pray, and with what result? 1 Kings 17:17-22.

NOTE.—"Wonderful was the hospitality shown to God's prophet by this Phoenician woman, and wonderfully were her faith and generosity rewarded. 'She, and he, and her house, did eat many days. . . .

"The widow of Zarephath shared her morsel with Elijah, and in return her life and that of her son were preserved. And to all who, in time of trial and want, give sympathy and assistance to others more needy, God has promised great blessing. He has not changed. His power is no less now than in the days of Elijah."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 131, 132.

Questions for Meditation

1. Have you found it easier to give up without the answer to prayer, than to yield yourself to the Spirit until you have learned to pray the prayer of faith?
2. Is my Christian experience one of mere profession, or a certain possession of the indwelling Saviour?

Lesson 12, for December 22, 1962

The Divine Exemplar in Prayer

MEMORY VERSE: "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." Luke 6:12.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 111-113, 291, 292, 419-425; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

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Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-5.	☐
Monday: Questions 6-9.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 10-12.	☐
Wednesday: Begin reading Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Prayer at Great Epochs in Jesus' Life

1. Baptism. Luke 3:21.
2. Ordination of the Twelve. Luke 6:12.
3. People's attempt to make Jesus king. Matt. 14:23; John 6:15.
4. Transfiguration. Luke 9:28, 29.
5. Gethsemane. Matt. 26:39-45.

II. Public and Private Prayer

6. Intense earnestness. Heb. 5:7.
7. Prayers in solitude. Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16; 9:18.
8. Christ's influence. Luke 11:1.
9. Recorded prayers. Matt. 11:25; John 11:41, 42; 12:27, 28; Matt. 27:46; Luke 23:46.

III. Jesus' Intercessory Prayer

10. Prayer for His disciples. John 17:9, 11, 15, 17.
11. Believers today included. John 17:20.
12. Focuses on ultimate reunion. John 17:24.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"When Jesus was upon the earth, He taught His disciples how to pray. He directed them to present their daily needs before God, and to cast all their care upon Him. And the assurance He gave them that their petitions should be heard, is assurance also to us.

"Jesus Himself, while He dwelt among men, was often in prayer. Our Saviour identified Himself with our needs and weakness, in that He became a suppliant, a petitioner, seeking from His Father fresh supplies of strength, that He might come forth braced for duty and trial."—*Steps to Christ,* page 93.

Prayer at Great Epochs in Jesus' Life

1. In connection with His baptism, marking the beginning of His public ministry, what did Jesus do? Luke 3:21.

NOTE.—"Upon coming up out of the water, Jesus bowed in prayer on the riverbank. A new and important era was opening before Him. He was now, upon a wider stage, entering on the conflict of His life. . . .

"The Saviour's glance seems to penetrate heaven as He pours out His soul in prayer. Well He knows how sin has hardened the hearts of men, and how difficult it will be for them to discern His mission, and accept the gift of salvation. He pleads with the Father for power to overcome their unbelief, to break the fetters with which Satan has enthralled them, and in their behalf to conquer the destroyer. He asks for the witness that God accepts humanity in the person of His Son."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 111, 112.

2. How did Jesus spend the night preceding His ordination of the twelve disciples? Luke 6:12.

NOTE.—"The Saviour knew the character of the men whom He had chosen; all their weaknesses and errors were open before Him; He knew the perils through which they must pass, the responsibility that would rest upon them; and His heart yearned over these chosen ones. Alone upon a mountain near the Sea of Galilee He spent the entire night in prayer for them, while they were sleeping at the foot of the mountain. With the first light of dawn He summoned them to meet Him; for He had something of importance to communicate to them."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 291, 292.

3. When, following the feeding of the 5,000, the people were about to make Jesus king, what did He do? Matt. 14:23; John 6:15.

NOTE.—"When left alone, Jesus 'went up into a mountain apart to pray.' For hours He continued pleading with God. Not for Himself but for men were those prayers. He prayed for power to reveal to men the divine character of His mission, that Satan might not blind their understanding and pervert their judgment."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 379.

4. When Jesus went into the mountain with His disciples to pray, what remarkable occurrence took place? Luke 9:28, 29.

NOTE.—"Stepping a little aside from them, the Man of Sorrows pours out His supplications with strong crying and tears. He prays for strength to endure the test in behalf of humanity. He must Himself gain a fresh hold on Omnipotence, for only thus can He contemplate the future. And He pours out His heart longings for His disciples, that in the hour of the power of darkness their faith may not fail. . . .

"Suddenly the heavens open, the golden gates of the City of God are thrown wide, and holy radiance descends upon the mount, enshrouding the Saviour's form. Divinity from within flashes through humanity, and meets the glory coming from above. Arising from His prostrate position, Christ stands in godlike majesty."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 419-421.

> "The springs of heavenly peace and joy unsealed in the soul by the words of Inspiration will become a mighty river of influence to bless all who come within its reach." —*Education,* page 192.

5. Facing His greatest crisis, what did Jesus do? Matt. 26:39-45.

NOTE.—"Behold Him contemplating the price to be paid for the human soul. In His agony He clings to the cold ground, as if to prevent Himself from being drawn farther from God. The chilling dew of night falls upon His prostrate form, but He heeds it not. From His pale lips comes the bitter cry, 'O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me.' Yet even now He adds, 'Nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* page 687.

Public and Private Prayer

6. How did the author of Hebrews describe Jesus' prayers to His Father? Heb. 5:7.

7. What environment did Jesus often choose in which to commune with His Father? Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16; 9:18.

NOTE.—"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."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 362, 363.

8. On one occasion what request did Jesus' praying elicit? Luke 11:1.

NOTE.—"The disciples thought that if only they could pray as Jesus prayed, their own effectiveness as disciples would be greatly increased. In view of the fact that Jesus had taught them by precept (Matt. 6:7-15) and example (Luke 9:29) how to pray, it seems likely that upon this occasion the request came from some disciples who had not been with Jesus upon similar occasions in the past. The term 'disciples' need not be confined to the Twelve."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Luke 11:1.

9. What were the contents of some of the shorter recorded prayers of Jesus? Matt. 11:25; John 11:41, 42; 12: 27, 28; Matt. 27:46; Luke 23:46.

Jesus' Intercessory Prayer

10. For whom did Jesus pray in His intercessory prayer? John 17:9, 11, 15, 17.

NOTE.—"Bengel says with regard to ch. 17 that of all chapters in Scripture it is the easiest in regard to words; the most profound in regard to ideas. The prayer naturally divides itself into three parts: (1) prayer for Himself (vs. 1-5); (2) prayer for the disciples (vs. 6-19); (3) prayer for all believers (vs. 20-26)."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on John 17:1.

"*I pray for them.* The disciples have already been introduced (vs. 6-8); now the prayer for them begins.

"*Not for the world.* That is, at the present time. For the moment Jesus is concentrating upon His disciples. Jesus is not representing the world as outside the pale of His or His Father's solicitude. God loves the world and freely offers salvation to all (John 3:16; Rev. 22:17). Later Jesus includes in His prayer 'them also which shall believe on Me through their word' (John 17:20)."—*Ibid.,* on John 17:9.

11. In what way are believers today included in this prayer? John 17:20.

12. What earnest desire did Jesus express? John 17:24.

NOTE.—"*Be with me.* That is, in heaven. Jesus prays for the culmination of the plan of redemption in the glorification of the church of God at the time of the second coming of Christ. The human family has long been in a foreign land (Heb. 11:13, 14) away from the Father's house (Rev. 14:2, 3). 'The whole creation groaneth and travaileth . . . waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of' the body (Rom. 8:22, 23). The redemption comes when the Lord descends from heaven at the end of the age and gathers His children from the four corners of the earth (Matt. 24:31; 1 Thess. 4:16)."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on John 17:24.

Questions for Meditation

1. As I meditate on the prayer life of Jesus, my Example, do I have cause to believe that I am following in His footsteps relative to my personal prayer life?

2. What outstanding lesson can I learn from my Lord's intercessory prayer?

Complete Victory in Christ

MEMORY VERSE: "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savor of His knowledge by us in every place." 2 Cor. 2:14.

STUDY HELPS: "Education," pages 13-19; "Testimonies," vol. 5, pp. 212-216; "The Desire of Ages," pages 309-314; "Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing," pages 141-144 (1943 ed., pp. 203-207); "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-3.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-6; begin reading Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 7-9.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 10-13.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The High Standard of Victorious Christian Living

1. Like God in holiness. 1 Peter 1:15, 16; Heb. 12:14; James 1:4.
2. Like Christ in character. 1 John 3:1-3.
3. Without blemish. Eph. 5:25-27.

II. Victory Impossible to the Natural Man

4. Carnal mind cannot keep God's law. Rom. 8:7.
5. Sinners do the will of the devil. 1 John 3:8; John 8:44.
6. Flesh works evil. Gal. 5:19-21.

III. Christ Brought Victory

7. He saves from sin. Matt. 1:21; Luke 19:10; Isa. 53:5, 6.
8. He provides enabling power. Rom. 8:3, 4.
9. He gives victory. 1 Cor. 15:57; 2 Cor. 2:14.

IV. Victory—How Achieved

10. Through faith. 1 John 5:4, 5.
11. Through the new birth. 1 John 3:9.
12. Under grace. Rom. 6:14.
13. Through God. Jude 24.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can *choose* to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. . . . Desires for goodness and holiness are right as far as they go; but if you stop here, they will avail nothing. Many will be lost while hoping and desiring to be Christians. They do not come to the point of yielding the will to God. They do not now *choose* to be Christians."—*Steps to Christ,* pages 47, 48.

Maintaining this continuous surrender of the will to God constitutes the key to a life of victory. Shall we not learn to use that key successfully?

The High Standard of Victorious Christian Living

1. What is the standard God has set for the Christian? 1 Peter 1:15, 16; Heb. 12:14; James 1:4.

NOTE.—"Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children. Godliness—godlikeness—is the goal to be reached. Before the student there is opened a path of continual progress. He has an object to achieve, a standard to attain, that includes everything good, and pure, and noble."—*Education,* page 18.

2. By what life are we to pattern our lives? 1 John 3:1-3. Compare 1 John 2:6.

NOTE.—"He humbled Himself and took our nature that we might be able to learn of Him and, imitating His life of benevolence and self-denial, follow Him step by step to heaven. You cannot equal the copy; but you can resemble it and, according to your ability, do likewise."—*Testimonies,* vol. 2, p. 170.

3. What is Christ's ideal for the church? Eph. 5:25-27.

Victory Impossible to the Natural Man

4. Of what is the carnal mind incapable? Rom. 8:7.

NOTE.—"To set the mind on the things of the flesh and thus to live a life of self-assertion and self-indulgence means inevitably a life that is hostile to God and out of harmony with His will. . . . Such a course leads to estrangement from God and separation from the source of life—a separation that means death. This hostility against God is the opposite of the peace that comes to those who live in the Spirit."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Rom. 8:7.

5. Whose will does the sinner perform? 1 John 3:8; John 8:44.

6. While one is serving the flesh, what works are wrought in the life? Gal. 5:19-21.

NOTE.—"For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift He has promised, we may ask; then we are to believe that we receive, and return thanks to God that we have received.

"We need look for no outward evidence of the blessing. The gift is in the promise, and we may go about our work assured that what God has promised He is able to perform, and that the gift, which we already possess, will be realized when we need it most."—*Education,* page 258.

> "God calls upon us to burst the bands of our precise, indoor service. The message of the gospel is to be borne in the cities and outside of the cities."—*Selected Messages,* b. 1, p. 84.

Christ Brought Victory

7. For what purpose did Christ come into the world? Matt. 1:21; Luke 19:10; Isa. 53:5, 6.

NOTE.—"Christ always separates the contrite soul from sin. He came to destroy the works of the devil, and He has made provision that the Holy Spirit shall be imparted to every repentant soul, to keep him from sinning.

"The tempter's agency is not to be accounted an excuse for one wrong act. Satan is jubilant when he hears the professed fol-

lowers of Christ making excuses for their deformity of character. It is these excuses that lead to sin. There is no excuse for sinning. A holy temper, a Christlike life, is accessible to every repenting, believing child of God."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 311.

8. What did God do to enable man to keep the righteous requirements of the law? Rom. 8:3, 4.

NOTE.—There can be no deep appreciation of the atonement of Christ unless there is a clear understanding of the awful nature of the evil that made the atonement necessary. There is today a startling absence of real conviction of sin that makes men loathe and abhor it. Too many are endeavoring to live with Christ without dying with Him. Daily dying to sin and living for God is the victorious life.

9. Through whom does God give us the victory? 1 Cor. 15:57; 2 Cor. 2:14.

NOTE.—"The Christian life is a battle and a march. But the victory to be gained is not won by human power. The field of conflict is the domain of the heart. The battle which we have to fight—the greatest battle that was ever fought by man—is the surrender of self to the will of God, the yielding of the heart to the sovereignty of love."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* page 141.

Victory—How Achieved

10. What is the victory that overcomes the world? 1 John 5:4, 5.

NOTE.—"Through faith in Christ, every deficiency of character may be supplied, every defilement cleansed, every fault corrected, every excellence developed. 'Ye are complete in Him.' Colossians 2:10."—*Education,* page 257.

11. To whom only is the victorious life possible? 1 John 3:9.

NOTE.—"*Doth not commit sin.* That is, he does not continue to sin, or he does not habitually sin. . . . The apostle thus characterizes those who have been born of God. They have experienced the new birth, their natures are changed, and they resemble their heavenly Father. . . . They hate the sin they used to love, and love the virtue they used to despise. . . . Such people do not continue slaves to their old sins, they do not habitually commit their old mistakes. Divine power has given them the victory over those weaknesses, and is ready to aid them in overcoming other faults of which they may not previously have been aware."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 John 3:9.

12. What victory over sin is possible under grace? Rom. 6:14.

13. What is God able to do for us? Jude 24.

NOTE.—"All who profess godliness are under the most sacred obligation to guard the spirit, and to exercise self-control under the greatest provocation. The burdens placed upon Moses were very great; few men will ever be so severely tried as he was; yet this was not allowed to excuse his sin. God has made ample provision for His people; and if they rely upon His strength, they will never become the sport of circumstances. The strongest temptation cannot excuse sin. However great the pressure brought to bear upon the soul, transgression is our own act. It is not in the power of earth or hell to compel anyone to do evil. Satan attacks us at our weak points, but we need not be overcome. However severe or unexpected the assault, God has provided help for us, and in His strength we may conquer."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 421.

Questions for Meditation

1. The key to victorious living is found in these words: "In Christ" or "Christ in you." Do you invite Him now and every hour to take His rightful place in your heart?

2. Jesus will not dwell with an idol. He must be Lord of all or not at all. Can we say, "Have Thy way, Lord"?

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

December 29, 1962, Southern European Division

The Southern European Division has chosen three projects to benefit from the overflow of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter. They are:

(1) A new mission station in the southern part of Angola, West Africa, one of the mission fields of the Southern European Division; (2) a new church and evangelistic center in Paris, France; (3) enlargement of the Phoenix School on the island of Mauritius, Indian Ocean, another mission field of this division.

Angola is at present one of our most promising mission fields in Africa. Our work is well established in all parts of this field except the southern section, and we are in need of a mission station there from which to work for the people of that vast area.

Paris is usually called "The City of Light." An evangelistic center will be a lighthouse, sending the light of the gospel to the nine million inhabitants of Greater Paris.

For a number of years we have been operating a school on the beautiful island of Mauritius, but it is no longer adequate to accommodate the 400 students who wish to attend. We must improve the present buildings and construct another.

Make your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering a real Christmas gift in the name of Jesus. Whether the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering is taken in your Sabbath school on December 22 or December 29, be sure to label your offering "Thirteenth Sabbath Offering," so that the Southern European Division will benefit from the overflow.

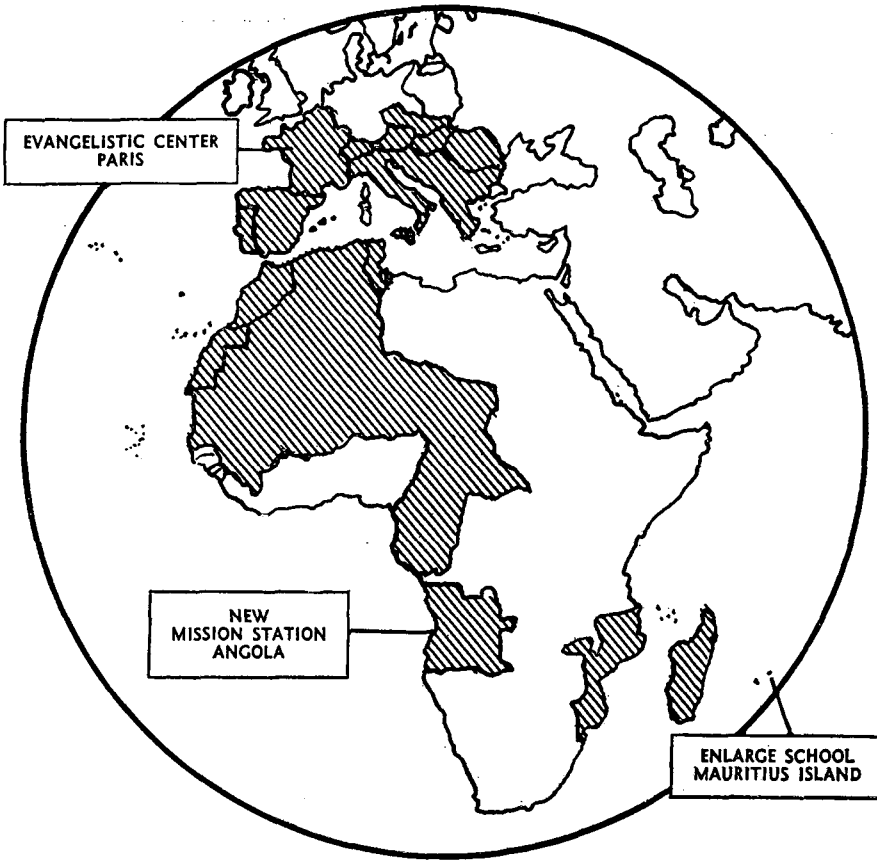
LESSONS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1963

Sabbath school members who have failed to receive a senior *Lesson Quarterly* for the first quarter of 1963 will be helped by the following outline in studying the first lesson. The title of the lessons for the quarter is, "Dynamics of Christian Witnessing." The title of the first lesson is, "All Christians to Be Witnesses." The memory verse is Acts 1:8. The texts to be studied are:

Ques. 1. Acts 11:26.
Ques. 2. Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:41.
Ques. 3. 2 Cor. 5:17.
Ques. 4. 2 Cor. 5:18, 19.
Ques. 5. 2 Cor. 5:20.
Ques. 6. Acts 1:8.
Ques. 7. Mark 13:34.
Ques. 8. 1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 6:1.
Ques. 9. Isa. 60:1.
Ques. 10. Isa. 60:2-5.
Ques. 11. John 8:12.
Ques. 12. Matt. 5:14-16; 1 Peter 4:10, 11.
Ques. 13. John 12:35, 36.

SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION

(Shaded Areas Represent Southern European Division)



Union	Population	No. of Churches	Church Members	Sab. School Members
ANGOLA U. M.	4,205,266	59	15,714	32,174
AUSTRIAN U. C.	7,067,432	41	2,708	3,017
CZECHOSLOVAKIAN CHURCH	14,000,000	50	7,505	6,000
EQUATORIAL AFRICAN U. M.	7,600,000	36	7,453	14,839
FRANCO-BELGIAN U. C.	54,833,700	85	4,851	4,354
HUNGARIAN CHURCH	9,825,580	163	6,225	7,000
INDIAN OCEAN U. M.	7,245,000	103	4,555	6,974
ITALIAN U. M.	49,555,787	58	2,865	3,049
NO. AFRICAN U. M.	25,380,000	20	868	850
PORTUGUESE U. M.	10,710,000	30	2,524	3,047
RUMANIAN U. C.	18,403,000	646	35,629	53,200
SWISS U. C.	5,270,000	58	3,537	3,277
YUGOSLAVIAN U. C.	19,500,000	230	8,588	9,100
DETACHED MISSIONS	7,000,000	112	7,720	10,904
Division Totals	240,595,765	1,691	110,742	157,785