

Pioneer Prayer Pack 7 August 4-10, 2019

Directions: One day this week, in the sanctuary, outside under some trees, in a comfortable room that offers privacy and no distractions, or on a conference call, the leader will distribute prayer packets, welcome participants, and open with a short prayer. Group members take turns reading the "Testimony Handout" (pg. 2). After reading, the group leader will assign prayer topics below to participants in a clockwise fashion. Each should pray silently for a minute about their prayer request. The group leader may open the prayer by thanking God for every person in the room and asking that each heart will be blessed. Before someone prays for their assigned topic, they should try and agree with the previous prayer. The prayer topics below are taken from the "Testimony Handout." Please keep individual prayers short, or less than two minutes each.

- 1. Pray that we would endure unto the end.
- 2. Pray that Christ will be our refuge from the devil's deceptions.
- 3. Pray that Christ's followers would bear the cross and not be drawn away by Satan to self-indulgence and wickedness.
- 4. Pray that the headquarters of our church would be managed well to bless the entire church.
- 5. Pray that men in responsible positions at the headquarters of our faith would be uncorrupted and that they would be faithful to their trusts.
- 6. Pray that God's church will be purified and prospered.

[3-5 min. Open Prayer Time; Song leader sings first verse of Hymn #509 (pg. 4) to end open prayer time]

- 7. Pray that God's people will accept the voice of warning and reproof in the *Testimonies*.
- 8. Pray that we continue to believe the vital points of Scripture.
- 9. Pray that the men we trust to keep the fort will not betray it into the hands of the enemy.
- 10. Pray that our leaders would seek wisdom and guidance from God.
- 11. Pray that we will do God's work intelligently, with faith and exact precision.
- 12. Pray that we put on the armor and successfully resist all the attacks of Satan.

[3-5 min. Open Prayer Time; Song leader sings second verse of Hymn #509 (pg. 4) to end open prayer time]

- 13. Pray that the *Testimonies for the Church* may be introduced to every member of our church.
- 14. Pray for God's Spirit to bless all churches, conferences, unions, divisions, and General Conference officers.
- 15. Pray for the Holy Spirit to bless the planning of Annual Council 2019
- 16. Pray for the Holy Spirit to bless the planning of General Conference Session 2020.
- 17. Pray for the Holy Spirit to bless the delegates of General Conference Session 2020.
- 18. Pray for God's Spirit to bless GC Session 2020 visitors, logistics, worship sessions, and business sessions.

[3-5 min. Open Prayer Time – Thanksgiving and Praise; Finish Hymn #509 (pg. 4); Leader Closes Prayer]

Testimony Handout 7 for Pioneer Prayer

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 4, pp. 210-212 August 4-10, 2019

We are living in the last days. John exclaims: "Woe to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." Christ is the only refuge in these perilous times. Satan is at work in secrecy and darkness. Cunningly he draws away the followers of Christ from the cross and brings them into self-indulgence and wickedness.

Vital interests are located at _____, and Satan is opposed to everything that will strengthen the cause of Christ and weaken his own power. He is diligently laying plans to undermine the work of God. He never rests for a moment when he sees that the right is gaining the ascendancy. He has legions of evil angels that he sends to every point where light from heaven is shining upon the people. Here he stations his pickets to seize every unguarded man, woman, or child and press them into his service.

The great heart of the work is at _____; and, as the human heart throws its living current of blood into all parts of the body, so does the management at this place, the headquarters of our church, affect the whole body of believers. If the physical heart is healthy, the blood that is sent from it through the system is also healthy; but if this fountain is impure, the whole organism becomes diseased by the poison of the vital fluid. So it is with us. If the heart of the work becomes corrupt, the whole church, in its various branches and interests, scattered abroad over the face of the earth, suffers in consequence.

Satan's chief work is at the headquarters of our faith. He spares no pains to corrupt men in responsible positions and to persuade them to be unfaithful to their several trusts. He insinuates his suspicions and jealousies into the minds of those whose business it is to do God's work faithfully. While God is testing and proving these helpers, and fitting them for their posts, Satan is doing his utmost to deceive and allure them, that they may not only be destroyed themselves, but may influence others to do wrong and to injure the great work. He seeks by all the means in his power to shake the confidence of God's people in the voice of warning and reproof through which God designs to purify the church and prosper His cause.

It is Satan's plan to weaken the faith of God's people in the *Testimonies*. Next follows skepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the pillars of our position, then doubt as to the Holy Scriptures, and then the downward march to perdition. When the *Testimonies*, which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable and ends in destruction.

Satan has gained marked advantage in _____ because the people of God have not guarded the outposts. The very men whose labors God has signified that He would accept if they were fully consecrated have been the ones to be deceived, to fail in their duties, and to prove a

terrible burden and discouragement, instead of the help and blessing that they should have been. These men who have been trusted to keep the fort have well-nigh betrayed it into the hands of the enemy. They have opened the gates to a wily foe, who has sought to destroy them.

Men of experience have seen stealthy hands slipping the bolts that Satan might enter; yet they have held their peace with apparent indifference as to the results. Some have been glad to see this, as it seemed an extenuation of their past neglect, which made it a necessity to call for others to fill the posts of responsibility that they had abused or neglected. This lack of watchfulness on the part of these newer incumbents seemed to excuse the former for their own want of faithfulness, as it showed that others were fully as derelict in duty. These persons do not realize that God holds them responsible for every advantage gained by the foe who is admitted to the fort. The desolation and ruin following lie at the door of the unfaithful sentinels, who, by their neglect, become agents in the hands of the adversary to win souls to destruction. Men in responsible positions should seek wisdom and guidance of God, and not trust to their own judgment and knowledge. Like Solomon they should earnestly pray for faith and light, and God will give them freely of His abundant supply.

God would have His work done intelligently, not in a haphazard manner. He would have it done with faith and careful exactness, that He may place the sign of His approval upon it. Those who love Him, and walk with fear and humility before Him, He will bless and guide and connect with heaven. If the workers rely upon Him, He will give them wisdom and correct their infirmities, so that they will be able to do the work of the Lord with perfection.

We must put on the armor and be prepared to successfully resist all the attacks of Satan. His malignity and cruel power are not sufficiently estimated. When he finds himself foiled upon one point he takes new ground and fresh tactics, and tries again, working wonders in order to deceive and destroy the children of men. The youth should be carefully warned against his power and patiently and prayerfully directed how to endure the trials sure to come upon them in this life. They should be led to cling to the word of God and give attention to counsel and advice.

Living faith in the merits of a crucified Redeemer will carry them through the fiery furnace of affliction and trial. The form of the Fourth will be with them in the fierce heat of the furnace, which will not leave even the smell of fire upon their garments. Children should be encouraged to become Bible students and to have firm religious principles that will stand the test of the perils sure to be experienced by all who live upon the earth during the last days in the closing history of the world.

How Firm a Foundation – Hymn #509

1

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent word! What more can he say than to you he hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God and will still give thee aid; I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

3

When through deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow; for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

4

When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie, my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply; the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

5

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose, I will not, I will not depart to His foes; That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never, no never forsake!