



## Pioneer Prayer Pack 8

### August 11-17, 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 diligently work for souls in this solemn time
2. Pray that our pastors may especially be diligent in their work of leading the flock.
3. Pray that our ministers may be able expositors of God’s Word, adapting their teachings to needs of the people.
4. Pray that all church members would be able to give a reason of their hope with meekness.
5. Pray that our ministers may be so closely connected with heaven, as to be living channels of light.
6. Pray that God grants us ministers who are mouthpieces for Him.

[3-5 min. Open Prayer Time; Song leader sings first verse of Hymn #373 (pg. 4) to end open prayer time]

7. Pray that God would sustain workers who are doing the work of two men.
8. Pray that we may have ministers who faithfully study Scripture and are fortified with Bible truth.
9. Pray that we may have ministers who consecrate themselves wholly to the work of saving souls.
10. Pray that our ministers have staunch moral courage and spiritual muscle to meet hardships and griefs.
11. Pray for the special help of God to convert souls and elevate our own moral natures.
12. Pray that we would possess Christ’s unselfish love and gentle benignity.

[3-5 min. Open Prayer Time; Song leader sings second verse of Hymn #373 (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 #373 (pg. 4); Leader Closes Prayer]



## Testimony Handout 8 for Pioneer Prayer

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 4, pp. 260-264

August 11-17, 2019

We are living in a most solemn time. All have a work to do requiring diligence. Especially is this true of the pastor, who is to care for and feed the flock of God. The one whose special work it is to lead the people into the path of truth, should be an able expositor of the word, capable of adapting his teachings to the wants of the people. He should be so closely connected with heaven as to become a living channel of light, a mouthpiece for God.

A pastor should have a correct understanding of the word and also of the human character. Our faith is unpopular. The people are unwilling to be convinced that they are so deeply in error; a great work is to be done, and at present there are but few to do it. One man usually performs the labor which should be shared by two; for the work of the evangelist is necessarily combined with that of the pastor, bringing a double burden upon the worker in the field.

The minister of Christ should be a Bible student, that his mind may be stored with Bible evidence; for a minister is strong only when he is fortified with Scripture truth. Argument is good in its place, but far more can be reached by simple explanations of the word of God. The lessons of Christ were illustrated so clearly that the lowest and most simple-minded could readily comprehend them. Jesus did not employ long and difficult words in His discourses, but used plain language, adapted to the minds of the common people. He ventured no further into the subject He was expounding than they were able to follow Him.

There are many men of good minds, who are intelligent in regard to the Scriptures, whose usefulness is greatly hindered by their defective method of labor. Some ministers who engage in the work of saving souls fail to secure the best results because they do not carry through with thoroughness the work that they commenced with so much enthusiasm. Others are not acceptable because they cling tenaciously to preconceived notions, making these prominent, and thereby failing to conform their teachings to the actual needs of the people. Many have no idea of the necessity of adapting themselves to circumstances and meeting the people where they are. They do not identify themselves with those whom they wish to help and elevate to the true Bible standard of Christianity.

In order to be a truly successful minister, one must wholly consecrate himself to the work of saving souls. It is highly essential that he should be closely united with Christ, seeking continual counsel from Him and depending upon His aid. Some fail of success because they trust to the strength of argument alone and do not cry earnestly to God for His wisdom to direct them and His grace to sanctify their efforts. Long discourses and tedious prayers are positively injurious to a religious interest and fail to carry conviction to the consciences of the people. This propensity for speechmaking frequently dampens a religious interest that might have produced great results.

The true ambassador of Christ is in perfect union with Him whom he represents, and his engrossing object is the salvation of souls. The wealth of earth dwindles into insignificance when compared with the worth of a single soul for whom our Lord and Master died. He who weigheth the hills in scales and the mountains in a balance regards a human soul as of infinite value.

In the work of the ministry there are battles to fight and victories to gain. "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth," said Christ, "I came not to send peace, but a sword." The opening labors of the Christian church were attended with hardships and bitter griefs, and the successors of the early apostles find that they must meet with trials similar to theirs; privations, calumny, and every species of opposition meet them in their labors. They must be men of stanch moral courage, and of spiritual muscle.

Great moral darkness prevails, and only the power of truth can drive away the shadows from a single mind. We are battling with giant errors and the strongest prejudices, and without the special help of God our efforts will fail either to convert souls or to elevate our own moral natures. Human skill and the very best natural abilities and acquisitions are powerless to quicken the soul to discern the enormity of sin and to banish it from the heart.

Ministers should be careful not to expect too much from persons who are still groping in the darkness of error. They should do their work well, relying upon God to impart to inquiring souls the mysterious, quickening influence of His Holy Spirit knowing that without this their labors will be unsuccessful. They



should be patient and wise in dealing with minds, remembering how manifold are the circumstances that have developed such different traits in individuals. They should strictly guard themselves also lest self should get the supremacy and Jesus should be left out of the question.

Some ministers fail of success because they do not give their undivided interest to the work when very much depends upon persistent and well-directed labor. Many are not laborers; they do not pursue their business outside of the pulpit. They shirk the duty of going from house to house and laboring wisely in the home circle. They need to cultivate that rare Christian courtesy which would render them kind and considerate toward the souls under their care, working for them with true earnestness and faith, teaching them the way of life.

Ministers can do much toward molding the characters of those with whom they are associated. If they are sharp, critical, and exacting, they will be sure to meet these unhappy elements in the people upon whom their influence is strongest; though the result is not, perhaps, of the nature which they desire, yet it is nonetheless the effect of their own example.

It cannot be expected that the people will enjoy peace and harmony unless their religious teachers, whose footsteps they follow, have these principles largely developed and manifest them in their lives. The minister of Christ has great responsibilities to bear if he would become an example for his people and a correct exponent of his Master's doctrine. Men were awed by the purity and moral dignity of our Saviour, while His unselfish love and gentle benignity won their hearts. He was the embodiment of perfection. If His representatives would see fruits attending their labors similar to those that crowned the ministry of Christ, they should earnestly strive to imitate His virtues and cultivate those traits of character which would make them like Him.

It requires much forethought and wisdom from God to labor successfully for the salvation of sinners. If the soul of the laborer is filled with the grace of God, his teaching will not irritate his hearers, but melt its way to their hearts and open them for the reception of the truth.

The workers in the field should not allow themselves to be discouraged; but whatever their surroundings, they should exercise hope and faith. The minister's work is but just begun when he has presented the truth from the pulpit. He is then to become acquainted with his hearers. Many greatly fail in not coming in close sympathy with those who most need their help. With the Bible in their hand they should seek in a courteous manner to learn the objections which exist in the minds of those who are beginning to inquire: "What is truth?"

They should be carefully and tenderly led and educated as pupils in school. Many have to unlearn theories which have been engrafted into their lives. As they become convinced that they have been in error concerning Bible subjects, they are thrown into perplexity and doubt. They need the tenderest sympathy and the most judicious help; they should be carefully instructed; they should be prayed for and prayed with, watched and guarded with the kindest solicitude. Those who have fallen under temptation and have backslidden from God need help. This class is represented in the lessons of Christ by the lost sheep. The shepherd left the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and hunted for the one lost sheep until he found it; he then returned with rejoicing, bearing it on his shoulder. Also by the illustration of the woman who searched for the lost piece of silver until she found it, and called together her neighbors to rejoice with her that the lost was found. The connection of heavenly angels with the Christian's work is here brought clearly to light. There is more joy in the presence of the angels in heaven over one sinner that repents than over ninety and nine just persons who need no repentance. There is joy with the Father and with Christ. All heaven is interested in the salvation of man. He who is instrumental in saving a soul is at liberty to rejoice; for angels of God have witnessed his efforts with the most intense interest, and rejoice with him in his success.

How thorough, then, should be the labor, and how deep the sympathy, of man for his fellow man. It is a great privilege to be a co-worker with Jesus Christ in the salvation of souls. He with patient, unselfish efforts sought to reach man in his fallen condition and to rescue him from the consequences of sin; therefore His disciples, who are the teachers of His word, should closely imitate their great Exemplar.



## Seeking the Lost – Hymn #373

1

Seeking the lost, yes, kindly entreating  
Wanderers on the mountain astray;  
“Come unto Me,” His message repeating,  
Words of the Master speaking today.

Refrain

Going afar (going afar)  
Upon the mountain (upon the mountain)  
Bringing the wanderer back again, back again,  
Into the fold (into the fold)  
Of my Redeemer (of my Redeemer)  
Jesus the Lamb for sinners slain, for sinners slain.

2

Seeking the lost and pointing to Jesus  
Souls that are weak and hearts that are sore,  
Leading them forth in ways of salvation,  
Showing the path to life evermore.

3

Thus would I go on missions of mercy,  
Following Christ from day unto day,  
Cheering the faint and raising the fallen,  
Pointing the lost to Jesus, the Way.