

# ETHAN TEMPLE MINISTRIES TOOLS FOR LIFE

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## PRAYER AND EVANGELISM

God's Word teaches that prayer is necessary for an individual and a church to experience revival:

“Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?” (Ps. 85:6).

Prayer is necessary for the “strong holds” of Satan to be cast down, and for the saving of the lost:

“(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 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” (2 Cor. 10:4, 5).

Prayer is necessary for a Christian to remain strong in the Lord:

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” (Eph. 6:18).

I find it amazing that prayer, which seems so powerless and insignificant to the natural person, is so necessary and powerful for the spiritual person. Why is prayer so important and necessary in God's work?

Those who we know are outside of Christ and living under Satan's power are in a very dangerous position. Their eternal destiny is in jeopardy if they don't change. Yet of themselves they are powerless to change. Paul describes them as those whose minds have been blinded by Satan:

“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” (2 Cor. 4:3, 4).

The lost are blinded to the gospel because it is “hid” from their view. The word translated *hid* is the Greek word *kalupsis*, which refers to a “veil”.

The key to saving the lost is to remove this veil that blinds them. By

adding the prefix *apo* to the Greek word for *veil* the word becomes “revelation,” or “unveiling.” Hence, the lost need an unveiling, or a revelation of God’s truth. The lost don’t need more information – they need an unveiling of their understanding so they can “see” the truth of the gospel. An important question, then, is How can this unveiling happen in the lives of the lost?

Intercessory prayer will remove from the mind of the unbeliever the veil causing spiritual blindness. Satan has false imaginations, or thoughts and strongholds, well established in the minds of the lost. The good news is that God has given the Christian the authority to pull down Satan’s strongholds and to bring “into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor. 10:4, 5). These two verses are very important when it comes to understanding the place of intercessory prayer for the lost. Ellen White clearly understood the necessity of prayer for those outside of Christ when she wrote:

“Through much prayer you must labor for souls, for this is the only method by which you can reach hearts. It is not your work, but the work of Christ who is by your side, that impresses hearts” (Evangelism, p. 341).

*The Praying Church Sourcebook* gives the following list of what God’s will is for the unsaved. As believers in Christ we have the right to press these requests before the throne of grace on behalf of the lost. Include in your prayer the following:

- That God will draw them to Himself:

“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:44).

- That they seek to know God:

“That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us” (Acts 17:27).

- That they believe the Word of God:

“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually

worketh also in you that believe” (1 Thess. 2:13).

- That Satan is bound from blinding them to the truth and his influences in their life be cast down (2 Cor. 4:4; 10:4, 5, quoted above).

- That the Holy Spirit works in them:

“And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they believe not on me; of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come” (John 16:8-13).

- That they turn from sin:

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19).

- That they believe in Christ as Savior:

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name” (John 1:12).

- That they obey Christ as Lord:

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matt. 7:21).

- That they take root and grow in Christ:

“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving” (Col. 2:6, 7).

## **Personal Reflection and Discussion**

How necessary is prayer in God's work of saving the lost?

What does Ellen White say about prayer for the lost?

What does prayer do for those we are witnessing to?

How do you plan to apply the principles of prayer for those on your prayer list?

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