



# October

## Prayer & Fasting

PrayFastNow.com

## Leader Guide (October 1-7)

### What We Are Praying For

During the month of October we will be praying for the following seven prayer topics on a rotating, cyclic basis:

1. That God will lead His people into true repentance for sin.
2. That our children may be prepared to stand alone for truth.
3. That our local churches may experience Biblical unity.
4. That God will lead truth seekers to our local churches.
5. That God will guide church leaders with discernment and wisdom.
6. That God will direct the decisions and actions of political leaders.
7. That God will prepare His people to receive the latter rain and the seal of God.

### This Week's Prayers and Scripture Readings

Date	Scripture Reading	Prayer Focus
October 1	Acts 17:30	Prayer to recognize our need of repentance.
October 2	Daniel 1:8	Prayer that our children will have the faith of Daniel.
October 3	John 13:35	Prayer that our love may be evident.
October 4	Psalms 85:6	Prayer that God will revive our churches.
October 5	Proverbs 3:5-6	Prayer for local church leaders and pastors.
October 6	Isaiah 9:6-7	Prayer for local and municipal leaders.
October 7	Zechariah 4:6	Prayer that we recognize our need of the Holy Spirit.

Complete schedules by date and by topic are available to view and download at [www.PrayFastNow.com](http://www.PrayFastNow.com).

## October 1

<b>Prayer Topic</b>	That God will lead His people into true repentance for sin.
<b>Prayer Focus</b>	Prayer to recognize our need of repentance.
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent” (Acts 17:30).
<b>Devotional Thought</b>	At the Messiah’s first advent, the world was unprepared to meet Him. John wrote, “He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not” (John 1:9-10). Blinded by sin, the world and many of those within the nation of Israel were unprepared to recognize or welcome the Redeemer. John the Baptist and Jesus Christ both began their ministries with a call to repentance. “Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,” cried John (Mark 1:3). When Jesus began preaching, His message was similar. “The time is fulfilled,” He said, “and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel” (Mark 1:15). Repentance is the first step in preparation for Jesus Christ’s second coming. It is a gift from God, Who “give[s] repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins” (Acts 5:31). Pray today that God will give you the gift of true repentance for sin.
<b>Prayer Promise</b>	“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” ( <i>Steps to Christ</i> , p. 93).

## October 2

<b>Prayer Topic</b>	That our children may be prepared to stand alone for truth.
<b>Prayer Focus</b>	Prayer that our children will have the faith of Daniel.
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself” (Daniel 1:8).
<b>Devotional Thought</b>	Many of the Bible’s great heroes of faith were young people who made the decision to trust and serve God. Joseph, Moses, the young maid serving in Namaan’s house, Daniel and his friends, and Queen Esther are among the outstanding examples of children that chose to obey God after being separated from their families. Our children today may very well face similar circumstances, and a similar choice, before Jesus Christ returns. Pray today that our children may grow “in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man” (Luke 2:52). Pray today that our children and their parents will have the faith of Daniel, who “purposed in his heart” to trust in God.
<b>Prayer Promise</b>	“Prayer is the breath of the soul. It is the secret of spiritual power. No other means of grace can be substituted, and the health of the soul be preserved. Prayer brings the heart into immediate contact with the Wellspring of life, and strengthens the sinew and muscle of the religious experience. Neglect the exercise of prayer, or engage in prayer spasmodically, now and then, as seems convenient, and you lose your hold on God” ( <i>Gospel Workers</i> , p. 254-255).

## October 3

Prayer Topic	That our local churches may experience Biblical unity.
Prayer Focus	Prayer that our love may be evident.
Scripture Reading	“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:35).
Devotional Thought	The local church is the visible manifestation of the body of Christ in its community. It serves as the conduit through which God’s love, compassion, and truth are expressed to the world. How important, then, that the relations among church members represent the principle’s of God’s kingdom. We may look at the bickering, posturing for position, and jealousy that so often plagued Christ’s disciples, yet how often do we suffer from similar attitudes and controversies? Jesus was clear that the effectiveness of the church’s witness to the world was directly dependent to the love shown between Christian brothers and sisters. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23). Pray today that God will work within our local churches, and in our own lives, so that the fruit of the Spirit will be evident, at all times, in all we do and say.
Prayer Promise	“Those who will put on the whole armor of God and devote some time every day to meditation and prayer and to the study of the Scriptures will be connected with heaven and will have a saving, transforming influence up those around them” ( <i>Testimonies for the Church</i> , vol. 5 p. 112).

## October 4

Prayer Topic	That God will lead truth seekers to our local churches.
Prayer Focus	Prayer that God will revive our churches.
Scripture Reading	“Wilt thou not revive us again, that thy people may rejoice in thee?” (Psalm 85:6).
Devotional Thought	Before we can expect God to do this, however, there is a work that we must allow Him to accomplish within our churches. Ellen White wrote, “The Lord does not now work to bring many souls into the truth, because of the church members who have never been converted and those who were once converted but who have backslidden. What influence would these unconsecrated members have on new converts? Would they not make of no effect the God-given message which His people are to bear?” ( <i>Testimonies to the Church</i> , vol. 6, p. 701). We must pray that God will revive and, if necessary, convert every member of the church once again. You may ask, <i>How do I know if I have truly been converted, or if I have been revived?</i> Psalm 85:6 provides an answer—we will rejoice in God when we have been revived. Do you rejoice in God? Do you rejoice to worship Him with others, and to do His will in your life? Pray today that God will revive His people once again, and that we may rejoice in Him. Pray today that God will bring you, and each member of your local church, into a life-changing relationship with Him. Pray today that He may have a church prepared to welcome a harvest of souls.
Prayer Promise	“Religion must begin with emptying and purifying the heart, and must be nurtured by daily prayer” ( <i>Testimonies for the Church</i> , vol.4, p. 535).

## October 5

- Prayer Topic** That God will guide church leaders with discernment and wisdom.
- Prayer Focus** Prayer for local church leaders and pastors.
- Scripture Reading** “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6).
- Devotional Thought** Throughout the Old and New Testaments, God directed in the selection of those that served as leaders of His people. Today it is our privilege to recognize God’s providence in the selection of our local church leaders and pastors. When King Solomon asked God to give him wisdom as Israel’s leader, God was so pleased that He promised Solomon wisdom and much more: “Wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like” (2 Chronicles 1:12). Pray today that God will give our local church leaders and pastors discernment and wisdom to serve Him in the position that He has assigned them.
- Prayer Promise** “We are to look upon every duty, however humble, as sacred because it is a part of God’s service. Our daily prayer should be, ‘Lord, help me to do my best. Teach me how to do better work. Give me energy and cheerfulness. Help me to bring into my service the loving ministry of the Saviour’” (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 474).

## October 6

- Prayer Topic** That God will direct the decisions and actions of political leaders.
- Prayer Focus** Prayer for local and municipal leaders.
- Scripture Reading** “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this” (Isaiah 9:6-7).
- Devotional Thought** The Bible makes it clear that God directs in the political affairs of nations. “And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding” (Daniel 2:21). Political leaders today, from the global and national levels to the local level, face tremendous challenges. As Christians, it is our duty to pray for our political leaders and ask for God’s guidance and intervention in their decisions and in the laws that are passed. Pray today that God will guide your local and municipal leaders to make decisions that will enable the gospel work to go forward in your area.
- Prayer Promise** “Every morning take time to begin your work with prayer. Do not think this wasted time: it is time that will live through eternal ages. By this means success and spiritual victory will be brought in. The machinery will respond to the touch of the Master’s hand. God’s blessing is certainly worth asking for, and the work cannot be done aright unless the beginning is right” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 194).

## **October 7**

<b>Prayer Topic</b>	That God will prepare His people to receive the latter rain and the seal of God.
<b>Prayer Focus</b>	Prayer that we recognize our need of the Holy Spirit.
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	“Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 4:6).
<b>Devotional Thought</b>	In Christ’s final words to His disciples before His death, He repeatedly tried to impress them with their need of the Holy Spirit. “And I will pray the Father,” Jesus said, “he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever” (John 14:16). Before His ascension, Jesus repeated the promise of the Holy Spirit. “But ye shall receive power,” He explained, “after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth” (Acts 1:8). The disciples were promised success in their mission only after they had been filled with the Holy Spirit. The same conditions apply to God’s people today. We can only succeed in sharing the everlasting gospel and the Three Angels’ Messages with a dying world if we have been filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray today that every member of God’s church would recognize their need of the Holy Spirit.
<b>Prayer Promise</b>	“When you rise in the morning, do you feel your helplessness and your need of strength from God? And do you humbly, heartily make known you wants to your heavenly Father? If so, angels mark your prayers, and if these prayers have not gone forth out of feigned lips, when you are in danger of unconsciously doing wrong and exerting an influence which will lead others to do wrong, your guardian angel will be by your side, prompting you to a better course, choosing your words for you, and influencing your actions” ( <i>Testimonies for the Church</i> , vol. 3, p. 363).