



October
Prayer & Fasting
PrayFastNow.com

Leader Guide (October 8-14)

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 8	Psalms 19:12-13	Prayer for forgiveness of hidden and presumptuous sins.
October 9	Hebrews 11:24-27	Prayer that our children will have the conviction of Moses.
October 10	John 17:16-19	Prayer for unity based on truth.
October 11	Acts 8:35-39	Prayer for Bible study interests and friends.
October 12	Isaiah 41:10	Prayer for conference and union leaders.
October 13	John 19:11	Prayer for state and provincial leaders.
October 14	Acts 2:1-4	Prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit's former rain.

Complete schedules by date and by topic are available to view and download at www.PrayFastNow.com.

October 8

- Prayer Topic** That God will lead His people into true repentance for sin.
- Prayer Focus** Prayer for forgiveness of hidden and presumptuous sins.
- Scripture Reading** “Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression” (Psalm 19:12-13).
- Devotional Thought** Sin is deceptive. It blinds us to our true spiritual condition. When we assume or pretend that we have no need of repentance, our spiritual blindness remains. Jesus said to the Pharisees, “If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, we see; therefore your sin remaineth” (John 9:41). When God gives us the gift of true repentance for sin, we will recognize both our “secret faults,” the sins that only we know about, and our “presumptuous sins.” Presumptuous sins can be either private or public in nature, but they always presume on God’s grace to overlook something that we know to be wrong. Ellen White explains, “[P]resumption 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” (*Desire of Ages*, p. 126). Pray today that God will keep you from both secret and presumptuous sins.
- Prayer Promise** “Our prayers are to be as earnest and persistent as was the petition of the needy friend who asked for the loaves at midnight. The more earnestly and steadfastly we ask, the closer will be our spiritual union with Christ” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 146).

October 9

- Prayer Topic** That our children may be prepared to stand alone for truth.
- Prayer Focus** Prayer that our children will have the conviction of Moses.
- Scripture Reading** “By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; Choosing rather affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible” (Hebrews 11:24-27).
- Devotional Thought** Raised as a small child by a God-fearing mother, Moses was taken from his parents at about the age of twelve (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 244) and placed in a secular and pagan Egyptian court. For the next 28 years Moses was confronted with an educational system designed to indoctrinate him into the culture, wisdom, and worship of Egypt. However, his childhood convictions of truth stayed with him, and at the age of 40 Moses chose to suffer “affliction with the people of God, [rather] than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.” Pray today that your children, or the children in your church, will choose like Moses to serve God no matter what circumstances they find themselves in.
- Prayer Promise** “They [the angels] hear the offering of praise and the prayer of faith, and they bear the petitions to Him who ministers in the sanctuary for His people and offers His merits in their behalf” (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 110).

October 10

- Prayer Topic** That our local churches may experience Biblical unity.
- Prayer Focus** Prayer for unity based on truth.
- Scripture Reading** “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth” (John 17:16-19).
- Devotional Thought** Hours before His death, Jesus prayed for the unity of the disciples, and of the Christian church that would grow from them. “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word,” Jesus prayed, “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me” (John 17:20-21). Christian unity is incredibly important. However, before Jesus prayed for unity, He prayed that His disciples would be separated and divided from the world based on the truth of God’s Word. True unity can only be achieved when Christian have first submitted themselves to the authority of God’s Word, and to the will of God. Pray today that God will lead every church member, and every church, into true Biblical unity that is based on the truths of God’s Word.
- Prayer Promise** “By your fervent prayers of faith you can move the arm that moves the world” (*The Adventist Home*, p. 264).

October 11

- Prayer Topic** That God will lead truth seekers to our local churches.
- Prayer Focus** Prayer for Bible study interests and friends.
- Scripture Reading** “Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing” (Acts 8:35-39).
- Devotional Thought** Philip’s meeting with the Ethiopian in the chariot occurred through direct providence from God. The Holy Spirit led Philip to a brief yet pointed conversation with someone who was seeking truth, and who was ready to accept it. Pray today that God will lead you to similar conversations with those who are seeking truth.
- Prayer Promise** “Prayer is heaven’s ordained means of success in the conflict with sin and the development of Christian character. The divine influences that come in answer to the prayer of faith will accomplish in the soul of the suppliant all for which he pleads. 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 promised, we may ask; and the promise is, ‘Ye shall receive’” (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 564).

October 12

- Prayer Topic** That God will guide church leaders with discernment and wisdom.
- Prayer Focus** Prayer for conference and union leaders.
- Scripture Reading** “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness” (Isaiah 41:10).
- Devotional Thought** Throughout history, the leaders of God’s people have faced tremendous challenges. However, in times of crisis, God has always answered the prayers and met the needs of those that place their trust and confidence in Him. “Fear thou not,” God says, “for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God.” Today the challenge for church leaders is no different. Pray today that God will give our conference and union leaders Biblical discernment, Spirit-led wisdom, and courage to lead God’s people in these trying times.
- Prayer Promise** “At all times and in all places, in all sorrows and in all afflictions, when the outlook seems dark and the future perplexing, and we feel helpless and alone, the Comforter will be sent in answer to the prayer of faith. Circumstances may separate us from every earthly friend; but no circumstance, no distance, can separate us from the heavenly Comforter. Wherever we are, wherever we may go, He is always at our right hand to support, sustain, uphold, and cheer” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 669-670).

October 13

- Prayer Topic** That God will direct the decisions and actions of political leaders.
- Prayer Focus** Prayer for state and provincial leaders.
- Scripture Reading** “Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin” (John 19:11).
- Devotional Thought** The challenges facing state and provincial leaders in today’s world are enormous, and not easily solved. Ellen White wrote, “There are not many, even among educators and statesmen, who comprehend the causes that underlie the present state of society. Those who hold the reins of government are not able to solve the problem of moral corruption, poverty, pauperism, and increasing crime. They are struggling in vain to place business operations on a more secure basis. If men would give more heed to the teaching of God’s word, they would find a solution of the problems that perplex them” (*Testimonies to the Church*, vol. 9, p. 13). Pray today that men and women in positions of political power and responsibility will be led to look in the Bible for answers to the challenges they face. Pray today that God will grant them wisdom to understand the true issues and causes that underlie the present state of society.
- Prayer Promise** “Through much prayer you must labor for souls, for this 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. 342).

October 14

- Prayer Topic** That God will prepare His people to receive the latter rain and the seal of God.
- Prayer Focus** Prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit's former rain.
- Scripture Reading** "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:1-4).
- Devotional Thought** The Bible uses the symbol of rain to represent the work of the Holy Spirit. For example, the prophet Joel spoke of the "former rain" and the "latter rain" (Joel 2:23) as pointing to the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out upon God's people. "And it shall come to pass afterward," Joel continued, "that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh" (Joel 2:28). The "former rain" points to the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost, which has empowered the church for nearly 2,000 years and is still available to us today. The latter rain, in contrast, points to an even greater outpouring of the Spirit's power at the very end of time. However, we must be experiencing the former rain to be blessed with the latter. Ellen White wrote, "The latter rain, ripening earth's harvest, represents the spiritual grace that prepares the church for the coming of the Son of man. But unless the former rain has fallen, there will be no life; the green blade will not spring up. Unless the early showers have done their work, the latter rain can bring no seed to perfection" (*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 506). Pray today that God will give you the gift of the Holy Spirit, today, so that can be prepared to receive the latter rain when it comes.
- Prayer Promise** "Affections cannot be lasting, even in the home circle, unless there is a conformity of the will and disposition to the will of God. All the faculties and passions are to be brought into harmony with the attributes of Jesus Christ. If the father and mother in the love and fear of God unite their interest to have authority in the home, they will see the necessity of much prayer, much sober reflection. And as they seek God, their eyes will be opened to see heavenly messengers present to protect them in answer to the prayer of faith. They will overcome the weaknesses of their character and go on unto perfection" (*The Adventist Home*, p. 315-316).