

The Three Angels' Call To Prayer

DAY 3 — GOD'S MISSION AND PRAYER, PART 1

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" – Acts 1:8

The Promise for an Impossible Mission

The three angels' messages are an urgent appeal to mission. The seemingly impossible task of reaching the world with the gospel is only possible through the power of the Holy Spirit. The challenge of mission at the end time is similar to the challenge faced by the New Testament church in the book of Acts. The promise of the Spirit is given to us just as it was given to them by Jesus in Acts 1:8: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the New Testament Church impacted the world. Tens of thousands accepted Christ as Messiah and were baptized.

The book of Acts reveals the intimate relationship between a praying church and a Spirit-filled witnessing church. Acts 1:14 states, "these all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication." In Acts 2:42 they "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." Acts 4:31 adds, "and when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness." Notice three things in this last passage. The believers prayed, they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and the result was they spoke the Word of God with boldness or—better translated—with confidence. Prayer, the Holy Spirit, and mission are a united whole.

We Must Have It

Commenting on the disciples' experience, Ellen White observes, "We should pray as earnestly for the descent of the Holy Spirit as the disciples prayed on the Day of Pentecost. If they needed it at that time, we need it more today" (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 158). What divine insight! If the disciples needed the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to reach their world with the gospel, we are in much *more* need of the Holy Spirit's power. The world is larger, more complex, and more godless today.

This is the time to seek God in prayer for the limitless power of the Spirit to accomplish the otherwise impossible. Ellen White writes, "The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the church is looked forward to as in the future, but it is the privilege of the church to have it now. Seek for it, pray for it, believe for it. We must have it, and Heaven is waiting to bestow it" (*Evangelism*, p. 701).

May we all seek the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish the proclamation of the three angels' messages in this generation. Let's seek God together in prayer for this mighty outpouring of His Spirit.

Prayer Time (30-45 Minutes)

Testimony from 2021 Ten Days of Prayer

"I spent a great deal of my adult life trying to find joy in the things of this world. I kept telling myself that if I could get the right man, right job, lose weight, I'd finally find my happiness. Little did I realize that the more I offered myself to the altars of this world, was the more I felt depleted and empty. I have always received the Ten Days of Prayer materials via email, but honestly never went through the whole ten days. I was too busy hewing out my own broken cisterns while the Fountain of Living Water was nearby! This time I resolved to try Jesus and to take Him at His word. What an incredible ten days this has been! Like Mary at Joseph of Arimathea's sepulchre, I saw Jesus and I tell you He is alive! Christ has given me a new perspective on prayer, obedience, and faith. I gave my heart to the Lord again after confessing my sins and have asked Him to abide with me. I now have so much to live for!" (Thuto)

Praying God's Word – Acts 1:8

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

"You Shall Receive Power"

God, I know that I am incapable and powerless when it comes to fulfilling the three angels' mission You have given us. It is too big and humanly impossible. I thank You for the promise of Holy Spirit power. I recognize my great need for a daily baptism of the Spirit and trust in Your promise to empower those who put their trust in You.

"You Shall Be My Witnesses"

Jesus, I thank You for making me a witness of Your love, truth, and transformational power. Please give me the courage to share what You have done for me with those around me in these last days of Earth's history. Give me ever more opportunities to witness for You and tell others how magnificent You are.

"To the End of the Earth"

Father, I recognize that my mission field begins at home and expands to my neighborhood, my community, my village and city, and to the whole world. Show me how I can join Your mission where I am today and how I can support the gospel work across the world.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.

Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.

Guidance: Ask God to grant wisdom for current challenges and decisions.

Our Church: Pray for regional and world church needs (see separate sheet with requests).

Local Requests: Pray for current needs of church members, family, and neighbors.

Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: As We Come to You in Prayer (#671); Showers of Blessing (#195); Be Thou My Vision (#547); He Leadeth Me (#537); When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (#154); Take My Life and Let It Be (#330); Work for the Night Is Coming (#375)