



Adventist Enterprises Newsletter

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As we approach the imminent return of Jesus, we need more than ever the wisdom which comes from heaven. In some circumstances the only solution to a problem is prayer and fasting. There are many examples in the Scriptures of people who sought help from the Lord and were delivered.

When Jehoshaphat faced a huge multitude he and the people fasted and prayed and God delivered them, they did not even need to fight the invading army (2 Chronicles 20:3-4, 15-17), God promised to be with them.

We need to remember that when we call upon God, the battle is not ours but God's. When we depend on Him we cannot fail against the spiritual forces of evil that assail us (Ephesians 6:12).

When Esther and her people faced annihilation they fasted and prayed for three days (Esther 4:16), the events that followed showed that God had wonderfully intervened to help His people after they humbled themselves.

In the case of Daniel, even though God had promised to release the people from captivity after 70 years, Daniel still fasted and prayed for the fulfillment of the prophecy. In answer to his prayer an angel was sent from heaven to give him understanding (Daniel 9:2-22).

In the last days, just before the Day of the Lord, Joel calls the people to assemble and to fast and pray (Joel 1:14-15). We are living in the eschatological time of the Day of Atonement. The Day of Atonement was one that was characterised by confession of sin and was a fast day (Leviticus 23:27). Therefore it is fitting for God's people to deny appetite in a common sense way and to confess their sins as the work of the investigative judgement is going on (Daniel 7:9-10, 22).

Whatever your problem call upon God in faith and He will be sure to answer. In order for our prayers to be answered we must be ready to keep God's commandments (Psalm 66:18), and believe in His promises (Mark 11:24; 1 John 5:14-15). Sometimes we may have to wait (Luke 18:1; Psalm 37:7), and the answer may not be in the way we expected. God is too wise to err by answering all our prayer in the way we ask, only He can see the end from the beginning. The purpose of prayer and fasting is: to understand the Bible, obtain promises, receive special help, for the advancement of God's cause, removal of trials, power to battle the forces of evil, deliverance, and wisdom.

Such prayer and fasting is marked by: confession of sin and unworthiness, acknowledgement of God's greatness, claiming God's promises.

Your brother in Christ

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