

Day 2—Love 1 John 4:7-21

Suggestions for Intercessory Prayer

Feel free to claim other promises as well. Remember, all of God's biddings are His enablings!

➤ **Praise God for His unconditional love.**

We love Him because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19

➤ **Pray that God will give you love in your heart for the lost.**

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another. Rom. 12:9, 10

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:10, 11

➤ **Pray that God will give you love for your enemies and for those who are persecuting you.**

Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Rom. 12:17-21

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you. Matt. 5:44

➤ **Pray for God's love to be perfected in His church.**

But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. Col. 3:14

And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. Phil. 1:9-11

No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. 1 John 4:12

➤ **Pray that your life and your church will demonstrate God's love to all those around you.**

Let all that you do be done with love. 1 Cor. 16:14

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. 1 Cor. 13:4-8

➤ **Pray that nothing will separate us from the love of Christ. Ask God to show you those things that are separating you from Him, and surrender those things to God.**

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom. 8:38, 39

- **Pray for loving relationships within Adventist families. Pray in a special way for families that struggle or are on the verge of divorce. Do you know such a family? Lift them up in prayer.**

And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”
1 Pet. 4:8

Let all that you do be done with love. 1 Cor. 16:14

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. Rom. 5:5

- **Pray for loving relationships within God’s church.**

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever. 1 Pet. 1:22, 23

- **Pray for personal and church-wide emphasis on daily Bible reading and study through Revived by His Word.**

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Tim. 3:16, 17

Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law. Ps. 119:18

- **Pray for an increased sense of urgency and a realization by church leaders and members that we are living at the end of time and that Jesus is coming soon.**

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Eph. 5:15, 16

- **Pray for any personal needs or anything that is on your heart.**

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:19

- **Mission to the Cities—Pray for the Euro-Asia Division and the cities they are working in: Moscow, Russia; Kiev, Ukraine; Kishinev, Moldova; Donetsk, Ukraine; Kharkov, Ukraine; Minsk, Belarus; St. Petersburg, Russia; Novosibirsk, Russia; Krasnoyarsk, East Russia; Khabarovsk, Russia; Rostov-on-Don, Caucasus; Tbilisi, Georgia; Yerevan, Armenia; and Almaty, Kazakhstan. Pray for the thousands of outreach activities and reaping events currently taking place.**

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men. Col. 3:23

- **Praise God for the things, situations, or people in which you see His love for you.**

The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.” Jer. 31:3

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:10

- **Praise God for His answer to your prayers.**

I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. Job 42:2

At the end of prayer time, you may want to form groups of two or three and pray for the seven people that you have on your list. Pray that they will accept God's love in their hearts and love others with His divine love. Claim 2 Thessalonians 3:5 for them: "Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ." If you have a personal prayer request that you are not comfortable praying about in the large group, feel free to share with your partner and pray about it together.

Suggested Songs

"I Love You Lord"; "Jesus Loves Me" (*SDA Hymnal* #190); "A Child of the King" (*SDA Hymnal* #468); "Rescue the Perishing" (*SDA Hymnal* #367); "Lift High the Cross" (*SDA Hymnal* #362); "Seeking the Lost" (*SDA Hymnal* #373); "I Will Sing of Jesus' Love" (*SDA Hymnal* #183).

Ellen White on Love
But the fruit of the Spirit is love.—Gal. 5:22

Here is held out the very thing for which we are to labor: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love.” If we have the love of Christ in our souls it will be a natural consequence for us to have all the other graces—joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; and “against such there is no law.” The law of God does not condemn and hold in bondage those who have these graces, because they are obeying the requirements of the law of God. They are law keepers, and . . . are not under the bondage of the law. . . .

We are to have love, and connected with this are joy, peace, long-suffering, patience. We see the restlessness of the world, their dissatisfied condition. They want something they have not. They want something to keep up an excitement or something for amusement. But for the Christian there is joy, there is peace, there is long-suffering, gentleness, meekness, forbearance, and patience; and to these things we want to open the door of our heart, cherishing the heavenly graces of the Spirit of God. . . . One cannot do it for another. You may set to work and obtain the graces of the Spirit, but that will not answer for me. . . . Each one individually must do the work, and determine through personal efforts to have the grace of God in the heart. I cannot form a character for you nor can you for me. It is a burden that rests upon every one individually, young or old.

Christ says: “I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir” (Isaiah 13:12). How? By the cultivation of the graces of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness, faith. We want the living faith that will grasp the strong arm of Jehovah. . . . We all need the graces of the Spirit of God in the heart.

When the love of Christ is enshrined in the heart, like sweet fragrance it cannot be hidden. The holy influence it reflects through the character will be manifest to all. Christ will be formed within, “the hope of glory” (*In Heavenly Places*, p. 244).

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, and peace. Discord and strife are the work of Satan and the fruit of sin. If we would as a people enjoy peace and love, we must put away our sins; we must come into harmony with God, and we shall be in harmony with one another. Let each ask himself: Do I possess the grace of love? Have I learned to suffer long and to be kind? Talents, learning, and eloquence, without this heavenly attribute, will be as meaningless as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. Alas that this precious treasure is so lightly valued and so little sought by many who profess the faith! (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 169).

Wherever a soul is united to Christ, there is love. Whatever else the character may possess, it is valueless without love, not love that is soft, weak, sentimental, but such love as dwells in the heart of Christ. Without love, everything else profiteth nothing; for it cannot possibly represent Christ, who is love (*Signs of the Times*, Dec. 28, 1891, par. 18).

Questions for Personal Reflection

1. Is there anything in your life that hinders you from loving God with all your heart? Ask God to show you these things. Then give them all to Him.
2. Are there people in your life that you find hard to love? Spend some time asking God to make you willing to love them, to give you love in your heart for them and opportunities to show them His love.



**Let's
Pray!**