



*The Judgment of the Living
The Cleansing Prayer*

Introduction

It has been a long, arduous journey. We have been wandering in the wilderness of this earth for many years, and it is now time to possess the Promised Land. We are called to vindicate the character of God. He is now giving us the opportunity to be part of the final remnant who will be alive to meet the King of Kings.

Evangelists have proclaimed the three angels' messages, preachers have presented the everlasting gospel, and missionaries have compassed land and sea to reach the lost, yet we are still here. For decades we have heard messages focusing on the necessity of being righteous, holy, and victorious, and still God's people are caught in the web of repeatedly falling into the same patterns of sinning and repenting. Perhaps, it is because we have not fully understood what is entailed in the "cleansing of the sanctuary"—our soul temple. This is the focus of this Study Guide.

When Jesus entered upon His final work of redemption in the most holy place of the Heavenly sanctuary, He anticipated that His work, in cooperation with His people, would produce a cleansed remnant whose lives would reflect the beauty of holiness. They would love Jesus supremely and would desire to live every moment of their lives to please, honor and glorify Him. These will walk with Him in white, for they are worthy (Revelation 3:4). To this privilege, you and I have been called.

The Judgment of the living is a time of special intimacy between God and His people. Jesus draws very near to us as He walks with us through the pages of our lives.



What does Jesus see as He looks at your life's record? He sees the painful experiences you have had—the rejection, abuse and unkindness by others. He sees your tears and sufferings, and even the things you may have forgotten. He sees the wrong choices that you have made. He sees, He knows and He cares. He wants to free you from the hurts and mistakes. He wants to cleanse you from

Introduction (continued)

everything that Satan has done to you. He assures you that He was there for you although you may have not sensed His presence at the time. Throughout your lifetime, He was there guiding and directing every detail of your life. Not even for one moment did He ever lose sight of you and the special blueprint (the plan for your life) He gave you. Will you walk with Him through the pages of your life, let Him wash away all the dross and give you a new, clean heart?

If you cooperate with Him, you will understand and experience the work of Jesus in the most holy place. The judgment of the living is now in progress, and He is calling you to a fully-cleansed life of victory in Christ. Will you open your heart to the light streaming from the open door of the second apartment of the sanctuary and accept His invitation to the wedding of the Lamb?

1

What is the description of the judgment scene as depicted by the prophet Daniel? What is its purpose?

“I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.”

(Daniel 7:9, 10)

“Thus was presented to the prophet’s vision the great and solemn day when the characters and the lives of men should pass in review before the Judge of all the earth, and to every man should be rendered ‘according to his works.’ The Ancient of Days is God the Father. . . . And holy angels as ministers and witnesses, in number ‘ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,’ attend this great tribunal.” (GC 479)

“I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of Heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.” (Daniel 7:13, 14)

“The coming of Christ here described is not His Second Coming to the earth. He comes to the Ancient of Days in Heaven to receive dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, which will be given Him at the close of His work as a mediator. It is this coming, and not His second advent to the earth, that was foretold in prophecy to take place at the termination of the 2300 days in 1844. Attended by Heavenly angels, our great High Priest enters the holy of holies, and there appears in the presence of God . . . to perform the work of investigative judgment, and to make an atonement for all who are shown to be entitled to its benefits.” (Mar 249)

2

What are the two phases of the investigative judgment?

“... It is He [Jesus] who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.” (Acts 10:42)

Note: The judgment begins with those who have fallen asleep in Jesus and have been resting in the grave awaiting the resurrection day. God begins with the generation living from the time of Adam until the present time. When the judgment of the dead has been completed, He moves on to the cases of the living.

“As the books of record are opened in the judgment, the lives of all who have believed on Jesus come in review before God. Beginning with those who first lived upon the earth, our Advocate presents the cases of each successive generation, and closes with the living. Every name is mentioned, every case closely investigated. Names are accepted, names rejected. When any have sins remaining upon the books of record, unrepented of and unforgiven, their names will be blotted out of the book of life, and the record of their good deeds will be erased from the book of God’s remembrance. . . .

“All who have truly repented of sin, and by faith claimed the blood of Christ as their atoning sacrifice, have had pardon entered against their names in the books of Heaven; as they have become partakers of the righteousness of Christ, and their characters are found to be in harmony with the law of God, their sins will be blotted out, and they themselves will be accounted worthy of eternal life.” (FLB 212)

3 Why have Seventh-day Adventists been afraid of facing the judgment?

“Solemn are the scenes connected with the closing work of the atonement. Momentous are the interests involved therein. The judgment is now passing in the sanctuary above. For many years this work has been in progress. Soon—none know how soon—it will pass to the cases of the living. In the awful presence of God our lives are to come up in review.” (GC 490)

1. Believing that we would never know when the judgment of the living would commence

Ellen G. White, by saying that “soon—none know how soon—it [the judgment] will pass to the cases of the living,” did not imply that there would never come a time when we would know that the judgment of the living had begun. Based on this assumption, we have erroneously concluded that we would never know when our name comes up for judgment.

In the time of Ellen White, the judgment of the living was not present truth—it was not their experience. Had God’s people living in her generation been prepared to cooperate with Jesus in the cleansing and blotting out of sin, the judgment of the living could have commenced and Jesus would have already come, as her writings indicated.

There are many Seventh-day Adventists who have shared with us that God is taking them through a very thorough cleansing process by connecting their present failures with wrong choices and sins committed in the past. These must be seen, confessed and covered by the blood of Jesus. By learning to cooperate with God in this work of self-examination, they are no longer afraid of His work in their lives. In this way, they are prepared for the time when Jesus ceases His intercession in the most holy place of the sanctuary and there is no more blood available to cover sin.

2. Not understanding that the judgment of the living is a process which precedes the final pronouncement (Revelation 22:11)

At one time in our denominational history, it was portrayed that when Jesus came to your name He would judge you and declare you to be saved or lost. Not until the plagues fell would it become apparent whether you were saved or lost. This was a most terrible view of the judgment, yet many of us still remember this interpretation being preached in our pulpits. One can readily see how this view of the judgment could cause it to become a rather unpopular doctrine, for it produced several generations who feared God's actions in the judgment. As we see now, it is apparent that none other than our enemy could have been responsible for such a distortion of truth.

3. Believing that the judgment takes away our security of salvation in Christ

This is another deception of the enemy that has caused fear among God's people. During the judgment of the living, the Christian is not robbed of his assurance of salvation nor is the efficacy of the cross thereby diminished. Jesus is still our substitute, our Mediator and Advocate before the Father, and is pleading His blood in our behalf.

As the Holy Spirit reveals wrong thoughts and feelings that need to be cleansed, we are still covered by His grace until we have had all the light we need to understand the issues involved, and are given the opportunity to confess, repent and have these sins blotted out. If a person chooses to be rebellious by refusing to give up his unchristlike ways, thoughts, feelings, inclinations and impulses, this intense struggle can cause some to fall away, as depicted in *Early Writings*, pages 269-271.

When we have fully surrendered our lives to Jesus and are living up to all the light we presently understand, we can be assured of eternal life (see 1 John 5:13). We are always judged according to the light that God has caused to shine upon our pathway.

When we are discussing the doctrine of the judgment of the living, we are not addressing the issue of salvation (justification) which prepares us to be among the resurrected righteous, but rather we are addressing a much deeper experience of purification which is needed, in order to live during the time of trouble without an intercessor. We need to recognize that the power of sin is proportionate to the deceptions and lies we still believe about God, ourselves or others.

The key point to remember is that whatever is stored in our minds from past decisions and experiences or inherited tendencies to sin that still require the cleansing blood of Jesus to cover, these must be seen and put away before He ceases His intercession in the sanctuary above.

“... Everything that is imperfect in us will have been seen and put away.” (3SM 427)

“Those who hold fast their faith unto the end will come forth from the furnace of trial as fine gold seven times purified.” (UL 292)

“If the eye is kept fixed on Christ, the work of the Spirit ceases not until the soul is conformed to His image.” (DA 302)

4

Why will some believers recognize the time when Jesus comes to their name and others will not know?

Those who recognize their time have heeded the admonition of Jesus penned in Mark 13:33, “Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.” “Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you” (Revelation 3:3). “Watch therefore . . . lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!” (Mark 13:35–37)

Note: In the book *The Great Controversy*, these texts are quoted in connection with the judgment of the living and the close of probation. Those who are watching and preparing for the time when probation closes will be enabled to cooperate with Jesus in this work of cleansing. They will be prepared to meet the King of glory because of the efficaciousness of the final atonement.

“When the work of the investigative judgment closes, the destiny of all will have been decided for life or death. Probation is ended a short time before the appearing of the Lord in the clouds of Heaven. . . . Silently, unnoticed as the midnight thief, will come the decisive hour which marks the fixing of every man’s destiny, the final withdrawal of mercy’s offer to guilty men.” (GC 490, 491)

5

What is the condition of the human heart that needs to be cleansed?

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9)

Note: This is the reason why the Holy Spirit has to shine upon our hearts and minds, and reveal to us where we are not like Jesus—where we are not in agreement with the principles and the spirit of the law. David speaks about hidden faults in Psalm 19:12 (NASV), “Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults.” In Hebrews 12:15, we are warned of bitter roots that are the cause of so much trouble in our relationships with others. Jesus wants to reveal these to us and then free us from all our errors and faults.

“The work of restoration can never be thorough unless the roots of evil are reached. Again and again the shoots have been clipped, while the root of bitterness has been left to spring up and defile many; but the very depth of the hidden evil must be reached, the moral senses must be judged, and judged again, in the light of the divine presence. The daily life will testify whether or not the work is genuine.” (5BC 1152)

“The tops have been cut down, but the roots have never been eradicated, and they still bear their unholy fruit to poison the judgment, pervert the perceptions, and blind the understanding of those with whom you connect, in regard to the message and the messengers. When, by thorough confession, you destroy the root of bitterness, you will see light in God’s light. Without this thorough work you will never clear your souls.” (LS 326)

6

Does Jesus draw near to His people who are seeking Him in this cleansing and purifying process?

“...And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple . . . But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like launderers’ soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons

of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness. . . And I will come near you for judgment.” (Malachi 3:1-3, 5)

“In this scripture is portrayed a refining, purifying process, to be carried on in the hearts of men by the Lord of hosts. The process is most trying to the soul, but it is only by this means that the dross can be removed. Of necessity we must endure trials; for through these we are brought close to our Heavenly Father, in obedience to His will, that we may render to Him an offering in righteousness. . . .

“The Master sees wherein we need to be purified for His Heavenly kingdom. He will not leave us in the furnace until we are wholly consumed. As a refiner and purifier of silver, He is beholding His children, watching the process of purification, until He shall discern His image reflected in us. Although we often feel affliction’s flame kindling about us, and at times fear that we shall be utterly consumed, yet the loving-kindness of God is just as great toward us at these times as when we are free in spirit and triumphing in Him. The furnace is to purify and refine, but not to consume and destroy. God in His providence would try us, to purify us as the sons of Levi, that we may offer to Him an offering in righteousness.” (4BC 1181, 1182)

Note: Jesus is not in some distant place far removed from His people when He takes us through this process of the judgment. He does not examine our lives in secret and then make some celestial pronouncement regarding our case, but walks with us step by step on the journey. Let us remember that when the Heavenly records are opened and He comes to our name, He reveals to us what is written there. Then we are given a choice whether or not we will give Him our sins and unchristlikeness, and be cleansed by His blood. Jesus does nothing in His cleansing work in Heaven that does not reflect what He is also doing in purifying our lives here on earth.

7

How do we cooperate with Jesus in this process?

“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves . . .” (2 Corinthians 13:5)

“We are now living in the great day of atonement. In the typical service, while the High Priest was making the atonement for Israel, all were required to afflict their souls by repentance of sin and humiliation before the Lord, lest they be cut off from among the people. In like manner, all who would have their names retained in the book of life should now, in the few remaining days of their probation, afflict their souls before God by sorrow for sin and true repentance. There must be deep, faithful searching of heart. . . There is earnest warfare before all who would subdue the evil tendencies that strive for the mastery. The work of preparation is an individual work. . . . Everyone must be tested and found without spot or wrinkle or any such thing.” (GC 489)

“The Lord does nothing without our cooperation” (2 SM 236). Our main emphasis is on the cooperative, participatory work of God’s people with Jesus as High Priest.

“Every follower of Christ should daily examine himself, that he may become perfectly acquainted with his own conduct. There is with nearly all a neglect of self-examination. . . . If [Christians] would make the actions of each day a subject of careful thought and deliberate review, with the object to become acquainted with their own habits of life, they would better know themselves. By a close scrutiny of their daily life under all circumstances they would know their own motives, the principles which actuate them. This daily review of our acts, to see whether conscience approves or condemns, is necessary for all who wish to arrive at the perfection of Christian character.” (GW 109, 110)

“Now, while our great High Priest is making the atonement for us, we should seek to become perfect in Christ. Not even by a thought could our Saviour be brought to yield to the power of temptation. . . . Satan

could find nothing in the Son of God that would enable him to gain the victory. He had kept His Father's commandments, and there was no sin in Him that Satan could use to his advantage. This is the condition in which those must be found who shall stand in the time of trouble." (GC 623)

"While the investigative judgment is going forward in Heaven, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is to be a special work of purification, of putting away of sin, among God's people upon earth. This work is more clearly presented in the messages of Revelation 14." (GC 425)

Note: In the final atonement, Jesus is applying His blood to every area of our lives—wrong behavior, thoughts, feelings, motives, inclinations and impulses. When we are in complete agreement with God on every issue which has caused a separation from Him, then His mediatorial work for us is completed. "Holiness is agreement with God" (5T 743); our sins are blotted out and we are sealed, and prepared for the close of probation. In this way, we will truly vindicate the character of God before the universe and forever silence the false accusations of the adversary.

8

Since the judgment of the living is an experience with Jesus when He opens our books in Heaven, what are some possible signs that would indicate that our personal judgment has begun?

1. The Holy Spirit brings up past memories (flashbacks), things that we still need to make right with others and sins we have not confessed.

2. Coping mechanisms that we have heretofore relied upon to manage our lives are no longer effective.
3. God reveals to us that our present failings may be directly connected to wrong decisions that we made in childhood and faulty thought patterns of the past.
4. We begin to experience unexplainable periods of depression, anger, anxiety, fear, etc. and may be tempted to bury our emotions by connecting with the media, relationships, or addictions of various kinds in an effort to cope or escape the pain.
5. We may be facing major crises in the family for which there are no answers or solutions without divine intervention. Our lives may seem turned upside down.
6. God may allow severe trials to afflict us through which He chooses to reveal some uncleansed areas in our lives.
7. We may be going through the process of sinning, confessing and repenting the same sins over and over again, and seeking God for answers to our continued failures. This prepares our hearts and minds to be open for God to reveal to us why we keep failing.
8. If we do not deal with our personal issues in our private time with God, God may allow our sins to become public. This is certainly not God's first option but it may take this humiliation for us to be among the remnant. This may be God's only option whereby He may save us.
9. Deep distress of spirit which may manifest itself in physical symptoms.
10. Areas that we have previously had the victory now become points of failure again.

“God leads His people on, step by step. He brings them up to different points calculated to manifest what is in the heart. Some endure at one point, but fall off at the next. At every advanced point the heart is tested and tried a little closer. If the professed people of God find their hearts opposed to this straight work, it should convince them that they have a work to do to overcome. . . . Some are willing to receive one point; but when God brings them to another testing point, they shrink from it and stand back, because they find that it strikes directly at some cherished idol. Here they have opportunity to see what is in their hearts that shuts out Jesus. They prize something higher than the truth, and their hearts are not prepared to receive Jesus. Individuals are tested and proved a length of time to see if they will sacrifice their idols. . . . Those who come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the True Witness, and they will receive the latter rain, and thus be fitted for translation.” (Mar 43)

Note: He is able to cleanse our depravity and sin to the uttermost. There is nothing that Jesus is unable to cleanse and purify if we allow Him to do so. “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.” (Hebrews 7:25)

9

Why is it necessary to go through these major life-changing experiences as noted in question 8?

“For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.” (Ecclesiastes 12:14)

Note: This process occurs because God no longer covers for the unconfessed and uncleansed areas of our lives that He sees—the character defects that have been hidden from our view. In the past, His grace has covered these imperfections for us. Now, during the time of the judgment of the living, He takes His hand off those areas and gives us the opportunity to see what He sees as recorded in the books of Heaven. Yet He is very gentle as He reveals our sins and defects of character to us. We must remember that this work is the work of the Holy Spirit and He is responsible for bringing up areas of our lives that we still need to address. This work has not been delegated to any human being, for God alone is our Judge.

The books in Heaven contain an accurate record of all our behaviors, thoughts, feelings and decisions as chronicled faithfully by the angels. These same experiences are registered in our brain. He now allows us to experience the consequences of our faulty thinking, erroneous feelings, impure motives and wrong behavior that we may understand the cause and effect of our choices of the past and how these impact our present experiences. We are then given the opportunity to confess our sins, be cleansed from these defects and faults and have them blotted out of our character. This work is necessary in order for us to be sealed, in preparation for the close of probation when Jesus ceases His mediation in the Heavenly sanctuary.

“As the artist takes on the polished glass a true picture of the human face, so the angels of God daily place upon the books of Heaven an exact representation of the character of every human being.” (7BC 987)

“. . . The thoughts and feelings combined make up the moral character.” (5T 310)

10 What is the condition of God's people after the judgment of the living has been accomplished?

“When this work shall have been accomplished, the followers of Christ will be ready for His appearing. ‘Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years.’ Malachi 3:4. Then the church which our Lord at His coming is to receive to Himself will be a ‘glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.’” (Ephesians 5:27, GC 425)

11 How can we be kept pure and undefiled until the coming of our Lord?

“Now unto Him [who] is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever.” (Jude 24, 25 KJV)

“His presence will cleanse and sanctify the soul, so that it may be a holy temple unto the Lord, and ‘an habitation of God through the Spirit.’” (Ephesians 2:21, 22; DA 162)

“If you will only watch, continually watch unto prayer, if you will do everything as if you were in the immediate presence of God, you will be saved from yielding to temptation, and may hope to be kept pure, spotless, and undefiled till the last.” (5T 148)

In summary: The judgment of the living is the finishing, culminating work of Jesus Christ in the Heavenly sanctuary. It is the Good News of salvation—the finishing of the gospel. It is Christ's final work on behalf of and in cooperation with mankind to prepare His people to see Him face to face in all of His glory, and enable them to stand in His presence when He returns at His Second Coming.

The Cleansing Prayer

All Heaven has been diligently working for six thousand years to bring us to this point in earth's history. The emptiness left in Heaven by the defection of one-third of the angels brought much sadness to Heaven, but this is about to change. Soon, the redeemed of all ages will take their places and we will be one united, happy family (see Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 7, p. 949). At great cost to the Father and the Son has this been made possible, yet Jesus saw the travail of His soul and was satisfied.

As we look at the state of society around us, as we become aware of God's people diligently seeking Him as never before, and as we listen to Heaven's messages of love coming to us from the throne room above, we sense that the eternal world is only a breath away. The people of God are coming into line and are cooperating with Heaven. God's remnant people are disconnecting from the world and its corrupt systems, and are beginning to partake more and more of the Spirit of Jesus. There is great rejoicing in Heaven!

This is where the cleansing and blotting out of all our sins comes in. The goal of cleansing is restoration to the original sinless condition of mind, spirit, soul and body. We realize, of course, that our mortal bodies will not be changed into the likeness of His glorious body until His Second Coming, but our minds and hearts must reflect the image of Jesus perfectly before He can claim us as His own.

The cleansing prayer which we share with you in this booklet is the pathway to cooperate with Jesus in the cleansing of our soul temples from all defilement. It may be adapted to your needs as God directs you in your personal worship time with Him each day. It is our desire and prayer that you too may experience freedom from sin, and liberty from painful memories and hurtful emotions. May this joyful freedom be yours as you let Jesus heal all your pain and cleanse you from those things that separate you from Him.

Jesus is Now Making the Final Atonement

“I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins.” (Isaiah 43:25)

During the process of sanctification, Jesus is still ministering His grace for us in the Heavenly sanctuary. Sins that are hidden from us, buried in the secret memories of our brain (in the subconscious), are covered by the perfect righteousness of Christ. These are sins of ignorance which Jesus must bring to our awareness before He ceases His intercessory work. When Jesus makes the final atonement for sin, He removes all confessed sins and places them on the head of the scapegoat, which is Satan.

The blotting out of sins from the records of Heaven takes place during the judgment of the living. We must come to the place where we are in complete agreement with God on every issue that the Holy Spirit brings to our attention. Through this cleansing prayer process, our sins will be removed from the books of record in Heaven as well as from our minds and hearts.

Holiness is Agreement with God

All sin is disagreement with God's principles, for “holiness is agreement with God” (5T 743). Wrong impulses come from our thoughts and feelings which began at our conception. We also inherit sinful tendencies through our family line as far back as the 3rd and 4th generation (see Exodus 20:5).

Sinful impulses, tendencies and a bent to evil are passed on through demons that have been transmitted through our lineage. These can become demonic strongholds in our lives. The demons have access to us through wrong thoughts and feelings, and influence and tempt us through the uncleansed areas of our hearts. These will be revealed to all who are seeking holiness through communion with God.

The Secret of Cleansing

Do you want to know the secret of cleansing? It is coming into perfect agreement with God in every area of our lives. When you think about your personal, sinful experiences, you keenly remember your pain, suffering and brokenness. Jesus wants to help you “reach the condition of sinlessness in which Adam lived before his transgression” (HP 146). He desires to heal your broken heart, but He will never force you or take away your freedom to choose.

Jesus walks with us as He brings to our remembrance the times we listened to the temptations of the evil one, and got off the path of obedience and purity. If we then repent, Jesus will wash away our guilt, give us His perfect character in place of our failures, and He will blot our sins out of His book. He will also deliver us from the painful memories and the demons who have influenced us. Jesus will restore us completely from the damage that Satan has done and prepare us to live in His presence forever.

Looking to Anything but Jesus

Whenever, in our lives, we have violated the principles of God’s law, these must be confessed and forsaken. Our former infidelity—when we looked to people or any other thing in place of looking to Jesus—must be recognized and renounced. Examples include looking to people for love, safety, security and approval; looking to food to satisfy soul hunger; looking to worldly things and worldly entertainment instead of God; looking to worldly achievements to feel successful and important, and so forth.

We must not forget as we pray to ask that the demons, who have had control in our lives and led us astray by their temptations, lies and empty promises, be cast to the Abyss until their final judgment. Thus, our sins and the effects of them will be cleansed away forever, never more to come to our minds.

The following pages contain a detailed outline and explanation, providing God's people with a guide for the cleansing and blotting out of all sins and emotional traumas.

Cleansing Prayer Outline

Part I: Cleansing

1. Begin your prayer by praising God, offering thanksgiving to Him by naming specific blessings you have received, especially during the last 24 hours
2. Ask God to reveal anything that has separated you from Him. This may include wrong behavior, negative thoughts, sinful feelings, wrong desires, criticism, resentment and bitterness, or painful memories
3. Once He has revealed your sin or painful emotions, confess these by claiming His blood to cover the sin and heal your painful emotions
4. Ask Jesus to cleanse your memories of the sin or painful emotions
5. Ask Jesus to cleanse you to the 3rd and 4th generation where the tendency to this sin may have been passed on through your lineage
6. Ask Jesus to cleanse you from sin and remove the painful emotions from your amygdala*
7. Ask Jesus to cleanse your books in Heaven where the sin is recorded
8. Ask Jesus to cover you with His robe of righteousness
9. Ask Jesus to blot out the sin and put it upon the head of the scapegoat (Satan)
10. Conclude by asking Jesus to cast out all demons associated with the sin, sending them to the abyss and binding them there for the day of judgment, never to return

Part II: Re-creation and Restoration

1. Ask Jesus to re-create you according to the original plan that He has written in His books for you
2. Ask Jesus to seal you into His truth and write His law upon your heart, claiming specific promises that address your sin or painful emotions
3. Ask Jesus to give you the fullness of the Holy Spirit, the “Latter Rain”
4. Ask Jesus to remind you of His promises when tempted

Explanation of the Cleansing Prayer Outline

Introduction

Our Savior, Jesus Christ, loves us with “an everlasting love” (Jeremiah 31:3). He longs to heal our hearts and minds from deep hurts and disappointments that we have experienced. In this healing and cleansing process, Jesus walks with us as we pray for the removal of the roots of sins and hurts from our lives, enabling us more and more to fully reflect the loveliness of His character.

We are living in the Day of Atonement when Jesus is not only cleansing the Heavenly sanctuary from our sins but also our hearts and minds from all the damage the enemy has done to us. All our sins recorded in our books in Heaven are also registered in our minds. This process of cleansing, which we have described, is necessary in order to have our sins blotted out. Thus, we will be prepared for the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit (the Latter Rain), in order to give the Loud Cry. We then will be ready for the close of probation and the coming of Jesus.

Part I: Cleansing

1. It is important to always begin your prayer by praising God for who He is and the blessings that He has showered upon you in the last 24 hours or throughout your life. Be specific to name even the smallest blessing He has bestowed upon you and your family. This will connect you with His love for you. When you feel depressed and discouraged, keep thanking and praising Him, focusing on His love until you come into the light. Coming into the light means that you sense His love and acceptance of you personally. Only then are you prepared to go to the next step.
2. Ask our Heavenly Father to reveal any sin, hurtful memories, negative sinful behavior, thoughts, feelings, motives or resentment that you may be harboring in your heart. Ask Him to reveal the root of sins (where this sin first took hold of you). Seek the Lord, asking Him to reveal the lies and deceptions of the enemy that you believed, causing you to go down the wrong pathway in the first place. Wait quietly before Him, allowing Him to speak to your heart.

You may claim such texts as:

“He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him.” (Daniel 2:22)

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” (Psalm 139:23, 24)

“For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem’s sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication [righteousness] shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch.” (Isaiah 62:1, NIV)

3. Confess your sin to Jesus, asking Him to cover you with His blood.
4. You have most likely fallen into a particular sin or wrong pattern of thinking and feeling repeatedly, and your brain has stored these memories. These must be blotted out by Jesus.
5. Tendencies to sin are passed on to you from the generations that have gone before you. Demons take advantage of these sinful tendencies to gain access to your mind. If you give in to the demons, they then gain rights to continue to have access to tempt you in those areas. Jesus will bring you to the point where there is nothing in you that responds to the overtures of the enemy.
6. Ask Jesus to cleanse and remove the sinful and painful emotions from your amygdala.*

*The amygdala is the area of your brain where every emotion that you have ever experienced from the moment of conception is stored.

7. Ask Jesus to cleanse your record from this sin and the memory of it.
8. Ask to be covered by the perfection of Christ's life. You may find Scriptures that reveal the way He acted and felt in a similar situation.
9. Ask Jesus to blot out the sin and put it upon the head of the scapegoat (Satan).
10. At this point in your prayer, it is important for you to ask Jesus to cast out every demon that is responsible for leading you into the sin you have confessed and renounced. Ask Christ to put a God-given enmity between you and Satan (see Genesis 3:15).

Part II: Re-creation and Restoration

1. Ask Jesus to restore the perfect plan that He had ordained for you to follow when His mind conceived you, and heal the damage that sin has made in your mind and emotions.

You may claim these promises regarding God's plan for you and your life:

"Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written. The days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them." (Psalm 139:16)

"For I know the thoughts [plans] that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)

2. Ask Jesus to fulfill His covenant promise by recreating His character in you, as He writes His law of love, the Ten Commandments, on your heart. You may claim Hebrews 8:10, 11. It is very important to have God guide you to specific Scripture texts which address the area of your life you have just confessed. The cleansed area now needs to be filled with God's word.
3. We are dependent upon the Holy Spirit for every aspect of our life.

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." (John 14:26)

We are now living in the time of the Latter Rain, which God is ready to pour out upon His people who are emptied of sin.

4. Ask the Lord to help you hear and follow His still, small voice, gently reminding you not to think wrong thoughts or harbor wrong feelings.

“Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it,’ whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left.” (Isaiah 30:21)

“The thoughts and feelings combined make up the moral character.” (5T 310)

Our character is “the only treasure that we can take from this world to the next.” (COL 332)

Now we are prepared to be the bride of Christ. “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” (Revelation 19:6, 7)

The Journey is Almost Over!

It has been a long, arduous journey for all of Heaven. In order for perfect agreement and perfect holiness to be restored once more, the plan of salvation had to include Christ’s life as a human being on earth, His sacrificial death on Calvary, His resurrection and His mediatorial work in the Heavenly sanctuary.

Now the long journey is almost over! Can you imagine the excitement and joy of the angels as they see us striving with all our hearts to grow in holiness? They rejoice as we respond to their efforts to point our eyes upward to the straight and narrow way that Ellen White saw in vision.

High above the earth, she saw the little band of His chosen ones traveling to the Holy City (See *Early Writings*, p. 14). God's true people have not let the bright light of truth that was given to the pioneers in 1844 go out, but have kept it burning brightly to cheer them on the rugged path upward. They are the reward of Christ's sacrifice and the centuries of service that have been tirelessly given by the loyal angels.

The Invitation of the Almighty

“Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past. For behold, the LORD comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain.” (Isaiah 26:20, 21)

The hour is late and time is short until Christ returns. He is longing to take us home with Him. Yet every soul must have a chance to hear and decide upon truth. Then probation will close forever upon the world. The time of trouble will be the final display of wickedness when the power of the Holy Spirit is fully removed from those who have chosen the evil over Christ. During that time God will shelter and protect us in the covert of His hiding place, under the shadow of the Almighty. Then His waiting, faithful ones will be caught up to meet Him in the air, nevermore to be apart. Our prayer is that we all will be among this purified group.

Key to Abbreviations of E. G. White Book Titles

COL Christ's Object Lessons

DA.....The Desire of Ages

FLB.....The Faith I Live By

GC.....The Great Controversy

GW.....Gospel Workers 1892

HP Heavenly Places

LS.....Life Sketches

Mar.....Maranatha

UL.....Upward Look

4BC.....Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Volume 4

5BC.....Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Volume 5

7BC.....Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Volume 7

3SM.....Selected Messages, Volume 3

5T.....Testimonies to the Church, Volume 5

*“So if the Son makes you free,
you will be free indeed!”*

In creating the human race, it was God's purpose that each individual would be a temple for the indwelling of the Creator. It is sin that has defiled our soul temple and caused the enemy to gain a foothold in our lives. In cleansing the temple at Jerusalem almost 2,000 years ago, Jesus announced His mission to cleanse our soul temples from all defilement and sin, and bring us back into harmony with His divine law. Then, we will come to the place where Satan will find nothing in us that will respond to his sophistries. “His [God's] presence will cleanse and sanctify the soul, so that it may be a holy temple unto the Lord, and ‘an habitation of God through the Spirit’” once again. (Ephesians 2:21, 22; DA 162)