

1 PRE/22AC to MRV

2  
3 145-22G BACK TO THE ALTAR: AN INSIDE-OUT REVOLUTION

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5 VOTED, To approve the creation and implementation of the Back to the Altar initiative  
6 to encourage the daily, habitual practice of morning and evening worship in the lives of Seventh-  
7 day Adventist individuals and families for personal revival, reformation, and outreach.  
8 Back to the Altar seeks to safeguard the spiritual lives of members and others from the negative  
9 effects of digital media by promoting good digital hygiene and sharing healthy ways to use  
10 media for fellowship and evangelism.

11  
12 BACK TO THE ALTAR: AN INSIDE-OUT REVOLUTION  
13 A DAILY PLACE FOR GOD IN EVERY HEART AND HOME  
14 2022-2027

15 A GLOBAL INITIATIVE OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

16  
17 BIBLICAL GUIDANCE

18  
19 *“One lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight”*  
20 *(Exod 29:39).*

21  
22 *“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in*  
23 *spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.” (John 4:23)*

24  
25 *“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much*  
26 *fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)*

27  
28 *“Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit*  
29 *of our lips, giving thanks to His name” (Heb 13:15).*

30  
31 *“Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to*  
32 *preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with*  
33 *a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and*  
34 *worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.’” (Rev 14:6-7)*

35  
36 OVERVIEW

37  
38 In the powerful biblical narrative of Elijah’s triumph on Mt. Carmel, a wonderful, hidden  
39 gem is often overlooked in our rush to see the fire fall and the sacrifice consumed. First Kings  
40 18:36 says that it was “at the time of the evening sacrifice” that Elijah prayed for the fire to fall  
41 from heaven, that God might demonstrate He was Israel’s God—the only true and living God. It  
42 is a telling fact that Elijah waited until the time of the evening sacrifice—allowing the prophets  
43 of Baal to wail all day while mutilating themselves—to rebuild Israel’s broken altar and seek  
44 God’s favor again.

1 This was no coincidence. Morning and evening worship experiences were to be the  
2 spiritual bookends of Israelite life. It was God who had instituted this twice daily worship  
3 experience to develop a devotional cadence in the lives of His people, as Exodus 29:39 makes  
4 clear: “One lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight.”  
5 In a very real sense, Elijah was not just calling the nation—individuals and families—back to the  
6 altar of true worship; He was calling the nation back to the altar of regular, daily, systematic  
7 worship of the true God! Israel’s corporate worship altar was broken, but Israel’s personal and  
8 family altars were broken long before.

9  
10 *We Have a Problem*

11  
12 It is the conviction of the Back to the Altar (BTTA) committee that the Seventh-day  
13 Adventist Church is facing a similar crisis in the area of personal and family worship. Too many  
14 of our altars are neglected, broken, or non-existent. A 2018 worldwide survey of Seventh-day  
15 Adventists found that only 34 percent of Adventist homes are engaging in regular morning and  
16 evening worship, and only 52 percent of church members have any personal devotions at all.<sup>1</sup>  
17 Can a church with an end-time message centered in worship—the Three Angels’ Messages of  
18 Revelation 14:6-12—deliver such a solemn message if its members are not faithfully engaged in  
19 personal and family worship? In other words, can we proclaim effectively what many do not  
20 practice daily?

21  
22 On the critical importance of devotional time spent with God, Ellen G White wrote the  
23 following: “There is nothing more needed in the work of God than the practical results of  
24 communion with God.”<sup>2</sup> She writes in another place that “no words can properly set forth the  
25 blessedness of genuine worship.”<sup>3</sup> Authentic worship experiences should neither be fragmentary  
26 nor intermittent, especially in the Adventist family: “Like the patriarchs of old, those who  
27 profess to love God should erect an altar to the Lord wherever they pitch their tent. . . . Fathers  
28 and mothers should often lift up their hearts to God in humble supplication for themselves and  
29 their children. Let the father, as priest of the household, lay upon the altar of God the morning  
30 and evening sacrifice, while the wife and children unite in prayer and praise. In such a household  
31 Jesus will love to tarry.”<sup>4</sup>

32  
33 *Our Most Urgent Need*

34  
35 The restoration of personal and family worship among Seventh-day Adventists is the  
36 most pressing need of our time but doing so will require much prayer and effort. Today we face  
37 the challenge of technologies that, while providing some efficiencies, benefits, and  
38 conveniences, increasingly occupy our time while altering our minds. Widespread addiction to

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<sup>1</sup> The Global Church Member Survey. Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research, (Silver Springs, MD: General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 2018), p. 14.

<sup>2</sup> Ellen G. White. Testimonies for the Church, vol 6, (Mountainview, CA: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1909), p. 47.

<sup>3</sup> Ellen G. White. Testimonies for the Church, vol 9, (Mountainview, CA: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1909), p. 143.

<sup>4</sup> Ellen G. White. Child Guidance, (Washington, DC: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1954), p. 518.

1 devices and media, especially social media, has left too many of us anxious, irritable, lonely,  
2 stressed, depressed, sleepless, and unhappy with our station in life.

3  
4 Ironically, personal and family worship has the opposite effect. It calms our minds,  
5 decreases loneliness, reduces stress, increases peace, fulfills our emotional needs, and teaches us  
6 contentment. The Back to the Altar initiative seeks to educate members and others about the  
7 negative effects of tech/media addiction and its impact on the spiritual life and well-being. The  
8 goal is also to share best practices for safeguarding mental, physical, social, emotional, and  
9 spiritual health in order to empower our walk with God and fuel or evangelistic efforts for Him.

10  
11 Now more than ever, God is calling Seventh-day Adventist individuals and families back  
12 to His heart—back to consistent times of refreshing in His presence. It is for this reason that the  
13 Seventh-day Adventist Church is launching the Back to the Altar initiative, a movement to  
14 encourage daily personal worship in the life of every Seventh-day Adventist for revival,  
15 reformation, and outreach. By 2027, we hope to see at least 70 percent of Adventist members  
16 engaged in daily morning and evening worship. If we rebuild our broken altars, we will fully  
17 reflect God’s image and be empowered to finish His work in preparation for the soon return of  
18 Jesus.

19  
20 RATIONALE

21  
22 During the previous quinquennium, we have witnessed the immense blessing to the  
23 Seventh-day Adventist Church of such initiatives as Total Member Involvement (TMI), The  
24 *Great Controversy* global distribution project, the revitalized Three Angels’ Messages  
25 proclamation, and the current I WILL GO Strategic Plan. All of these wonderful programs would  
26 be much more effective if the devotional lives of members were faithful and consistent. We  
27 cannot take for granted that members are growing spiritually through personal and family  
28 worship experiences, and many departments of our Church have been working tirelessly on this  
29 issue. We thank God for them. We also wish to express sincere gratitude to General Conference  
30 Family Ministries for robust and ongoing efforts to encourage individual and family worship  
31 among Seventh-day Adventist members. We believe this issue to be of such critical importance  
32 that it must become a priority for all entities of the Church through a sustained, coordinated  
33 emphasis.

34  
35 The BTTA initiative seeks to support and fulfill the following fundamental affirmation of  
36 the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for spiritual  
37 growth noted in the I WILL GO Strategic Plan:  
38

1 *Fundamental Belief 11: Growing in Christ*

2

3 By His death on the cross Jesus triumphed over the forces of evil. He who subjugated the  
4 demonic spirits during His earthly ministry has broken their power and made certain their  
5 ultimate doom. Jesus' victory gives us victory over the evil forces that still seek to control us, as  
6 we walk with Him in peace, joy, and assurance of His love. Now the Holy Spirit dwells within us  
7 and empowers us. Continually committed to Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we are set free from  
8 the burden of our past deeds. No longer do we live in the darkness, fear of evil powers,  
9 ignorance, and meaninglessness of our former way of life. *In this new freedom in Jesus, we are*  
10 *called to grow into the likeness of His character, communing with Him daily in prayer, feeding*  
11 *on His Word, meditating on it and on His providence, singing His praises, gathering together for*  
12 *worship, and participating in the mission of the Church (emphasis added).* We are also called to  
13 follow Christ's example by compassionately ministering to the physical, mental, social,  
14 emotional, and spiritual needs of humanity. As we give ourselves in loving service to those  
15 around us and in witnessing to His salvation, His constant presence with us through the Spirit  
16 transforms every moment and every task into a spiritual experience. (1 Chr 29:11; Ps. 1:1, 2;  
17 23:4; 77:11, 12; Matt 20:25-28; 25:31-46; Luke 10:17-20; John 20:21; Rom 8:38, 39; 2 Cor 3:17,  
18 18; Gal. 5:22-25; Eph 5:19, 20; 6:12-18; Phil 3:7-14; Col 1:13, 14; 2:6, 14, 15; 1 Thess 5:16-18,  
19 23; Heb 10:25; James 1:27; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:18; 1 John 4:4.)

20

21 *I WILL GO Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Spiritual Growth*

22

23 KPI 5.1

24

25 Significant increase in the number of church members *regularly praying, studying the*  
26 *Bible, reading the writings of Ellen G White, and engaging in other personal devotions.*

27

28 Responsible for Implementation: Adult Bible Study Guides; Archives, Statistics, and  
29 Research; Ellen G White Estate; Family Ministries; Ministerial Association; and Sabbath School  
30 and Personal Ministries.

31

32 KPI 6.4

33

34 Significant increase in the number of church *members regularly engaging in family*  
35 *worships.*

36

37 Responsible for Implementation: Family Ministries; Women's Ministries; Youth  
38 Ministries; and Children's Ministries.

39

1 KPI 7.3

2

3 Increased *ethical and responsible use of media platforms* by students and all other  
4 individuals.

5

6 Responsible for Implementation: Children’s Ministries; Communication; Education;  
7 Family Ministries; and Youth Ministries.

8

9 BACK TO THE ALTAR INITIATIVE GOALS

10

11 1. Seventh-day Adventist Members—Individuals and Families

12

13 a. *Initiative Goal: 70 percent of Adventist individuals and families engaging*  
14 *in morning and evening worship daily by 2027.* This is the prayer goal for the initiative. BTTA  
15 efforts will primarily target Adventist singles and families of all types (i.e. nuclear families,  
16 blended families, foster families, single-parent led families, grandparent-led families, etc). The  
17 initiative will also seek to reach people everywhere, calling them to a daily devotional walk with  
18 God and careful stewardship of their mind, “the capital of the body.” We believe this  
19 foundational spiritual orientation is critical for personal transformation and evangelism.

20

21 b. *Educate church members and others on the effects of media and*  
22 *technology on the human brain and share best practices for protecting the mind and*  
23 *safeguarding the spiritual life.* Studies show that today’s media-saturated society is having a  
24 devastating effect on the human brain. Not only does media occupy much of our time, but  
25 uninformed usage is degrading our capacity to know, experience, and worship God. As Ellen  
26 White presciently stated many years ago, “It is the mind that worships God and allies us to  
27 heavenly beings.” It is absolutely essential that the Seventh-day Adventist Church make a  
28 concerted effort to educate members and others on this critical issue, and this will be a central  
29 focus of the BTTA initiative.

30

31 2. Church Leaders (leaders at all levels of the Church and affiliated para-church  
32 entities):

33

34 a. *Encourage leaders serving in all areas and entities of the Seventh-day*  
35 *Adventist Church to engage in personal and family devotions each morning and evening.* We  
36 must care about the spiritual lives of God’s leaders and that of their families and loved ones. We  
37 believe it is nonnegotiable that Church leaders show by example that they are committed to  
38 building and maintaining their personal and family altars.

39

40 b. *Encourage Church leaders to share openly about their personal*  
41 *devotional walk with God—where they are in their altar experience with God and how God is*  
42 *leading, developing, and transforming them.* We believe such sharing will have a galvanizing  
43 impact on members and others. The BTTA initiative will seek to create opportunities for this

1 kind of sharing so that leaders are seen as people in relationship with God and not simply  
2 persons doing ministry for God.

3

4 3. Back to the Altar for the World

5

6 a. *Present what the Seventh-day Adventist Church is doing through the BTTA*  
7 *initiative to religious and secular media around the world to invite others to join the movement.*

8 The Revival and Reformation Committee has requested that the BTTA initiative look for  
9 opportunities to share what it develops with the world at large. We want people everywhere to  
10 benefit from this initiative and be drawn closer to Jesus Christ through a consistent, vibrant  
11 devotional experience.

12

13 b. *Share BTTA resources and content through social media to encourage*  
14 *daily worship and healthy uses of all forms of media and technology.* It will be important that a  
15 specific suite of resources be developed specifically for those we hope to reach through social  
16 media with this essential message.

17

18 4. Music

19

20 a. *Share the role of music and praise in personal worship.* One of the  
21 important goals of BTTA is to encourage musical praise and expression in personal devotions  
22 and family worship.

23

24 b. *Highlight the importance of gratitude in worship, expressed through music*  
25 *and other means of worship.* Thankfulness is essential to worship. The heart that worships God  
26 acknowledges His love and goodness in good times and in trial. BTTA wishes to encourage this  
27 spirit of gratitude through music and more in personal and family worship.

28

29 5. Resource Creation (All resources will be Adventist Possibility Ministries-  
30 compatible). These are some of the resources that BTTA hopes to create and promote to  
31 encourage the practice of regular, daily devotions with God.

32

33 a. *Adventist Home, Child Guidance Video Series:* The objective of this  
34 resource project is to capture principles from these excellent volumes and show how they may be  
35 applied in today’s 21st Century family. Special emphasis will be given to Ellen White’s counsel  
36 regarding the home circle and worship altar.

37

38 b. *Individual/Family Worship Spots:* These multi-media spots will be  
39 designed to give individuals and families worship ideas to develop and strengthen devotional life  
40 in the home. These spots will show the many ways in which worship can be simple and  
41 meaningful, participatory, and enjoyable. We hope that these worship “teasers” will capture the  
42 rich diversity of personal worship experiences for individuals and families. These ideas will be  
43 captured in a Worship Ideas Database, an online clearinghouse of devotional tips for individuals

1 and families. Many entities of the Church have developed resources for this purpose. We hope to  
2 aggregate them in an easily searchable database for online visitors and seekers.

3  
4 c. *Global Family Worship Night*: Each year General Conference Family  
5 Ministries conducts the Family Togetherness Week of Prayer. We hope to partner with Family  
6 Ministries to hold a global family worship experience on one night during this life-changing  
7 week. We wish to invite all Adventist individuals and families to the altar on that night. The  
8 Olivers, our current Family Ministries directors, have expressed support for this idea, and we  
9 thank them for their ongoing support of the BTTA initiative.

10  
11 d. *Back to the Altar Book*: This resource will set forth the call to rebuild our  
12 altars and outline the steps by which an individual or family can go about doing so.

13  
14 e. *Back to the Altar Weekly Podcast*: This weekly podcast will feature stories  
15 of people of all backgrounds and ethnicities living in devotion with God. The objective of this  
16 resource is to share stories of people’s personal walk with God to encourage the devotional life  
17 of others. Additionally, true revival and reformation always seeks ministry opportunities to share  
18 how God is working in one’s life. The weekly podcast will show how personal worship can  
19 become the fuel for evangelism in new and dynamic ways.

20  
21 f. *Together Family Worship Curriculum*: This resource aims to give families  
22 a tool that will help them worship together for the period of a year. The content will be  
23 developed so that families with toddlers, teens, young adults, or a mix of all, can travel through  
24 Scripture together and grow closer as a family. Specific content will be developed for each age-  
25 group so that learning is age-appropriate for shared discussion and spiritual discovery.

26  
27 g. *“Worship Now” App for Individuals*: We want to explore a collaboration  
28 with the forthcoming young adult devotional app from the Ellen G White Estate to see how we  
29 might use this resource to encourage personal daily worship. The White Estate App has received  
30 excellent reviews from youth and young adults who have had occasion to see it.

31  
32 h. *Individual/Family “Digital Hygiene” Media Guide*: This resource will  
33 share best practices for the use of smart devices, social media, and personal technology in  
34 general. The objective is to help families protect their hearts and minds so that they can remain  
35 healthy, open channels with whom the Holy Spirit can dwell and empower.

36  
37 i. *Back to the Altar—Family Revival Conference*: We can educate and  
38 provide resources indefinitely, but there’s nothing that can replace an actual personal and  
39 corporate experience in the Word and in prayer. Thus, the goal of Back to the Altar—Family  
40 Revival Conference is to put actual feet on the messages that we have been sharing through all  
41 our resource channels. We will launch a 3-4 day Revival Conference for leaders, laity, and their  
42 families to experience personal revival through increased emphasis on private and corporate  
43 prayer; vibrant time in the Word with practical study and application; engaging family worship

1 activities; and a revitalized focus on the “I Will Go” mission and witness. This conference would  
2 be created so that it can be used as a model/template that can be duplicated worldwide.

3  
4 j. *Back to the Altar—Leadership Training:* We would provide sermons,  
5 tools, Power Points, and training materials for leaders to implement BTTA across their divisions,  
6 unions, conferences, churches, and territories.

7  
8 Note: These are some of the core resources that we believe will be needed for the BTTA  
9 initiative to be effective. Other resources will no doubt be needed as the initiative develops and  
10 unfolds.

### 11 12 BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR BACK TO THE ALTAR

13  
14 *A God who Seeks Relationship with Us:*

15  
16 “And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day,  
17 and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the  
18 garden. Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, ‘Where are you?’” (Gen 3:8-9)

19  
20 *Living in Relationship With Me Is Worship:*

21  
22 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God  
23 with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I  
24 command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and  
25 shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down,  
26 and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets  
27 between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”  
28 (Deut 6:4-9)

29  
30 *Make a Place for Me:*

31  
32 “And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them” (Exod 25:8).

33  
34 *Meet Me in Morning and Evening:*

35  
36 “One lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight.”  
37 (Exod 29:39)

38  
39 *Praise Me Every Morning and Evening:*

40  
41 The Levites were to “to stand every morning to thank and praise the Lord, and likewise at  
42 evening.” (1 Chr 23:30)



1 *Follow the Example of My Son:*

2

3 “Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and  
4 departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.” (Mark 1:35)

5

6 “However, the report went around concerning Him all the more; and great multitudes  
7 came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. So He Himself often  
8 withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.” (Luke 5:15-16)

9

10 *Jesus Worshipped First—Being Precedes Doing:*

11

12 “Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and  
13 continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself;  
14 and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles.” (Luke 6:12-13)

15

16 *God is Looking for Worshipers:*

17

18 “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in  
19 spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.” (John 4:23)

20

21 *The Indispensable Gift Given in Worship:*

22

23 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much  
24 fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

25

26 *Worship Continually:*

27

28 “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit  
29 of our lips, giving thanks to His name.” (Heb 13:15)

30

31 *Preach the Gospel “and Worship Him”:*

32

33 “Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to  
34 preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with  
35 a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; *and*  
36 *worship Him* who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.” (Rev 14:6-7)

37

38 *A Renewed Mind is Essential:*

39

40 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a  
41 living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be  
42 conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove  
43 what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Rom 12:1-2)

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REVOLUTION - 10

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*Let it Be:*

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus” (Phil 2:5).

*Guard the Heart and Mind:*

“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life” (Prov 4:23).

*No Evil Thing:*

“I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not cling to me.” (Ps 103:3)

*Further Biblical Support:*

1 Chr 29:11; Ps 1:1, 2; 23:4; 77:11, 12; Matt 20:25-28; 25:31-46; Luke 10:17-20; John 20:21; Rom 8:38, 39; 2 Cor 3:17, 18; Gal 5:22-25; Eph 5:19, 20; 6:12-18; Phil 3:7-14; Col 1:13, 14; 2:6, 14, 15; 1 Thess 5:16-18, 23; Heb 10:25; James 1:27; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:18; 1 John 4:4.

SPIRIT OF PROPHECY SUPPORT FOR BACK TO THE ALTAR

*Live at the Altar:*

“Give yourselves to prayer. *Live at the altar.* Strengthen your purposes by the promises of God.”—1T 169

*The Importance of the Devotional Life*

“God should be the highest object of our thoughts. Meditating upon him, and pleading with him, elevates the soul and quickens the affections. A neglect of meditation and prayer will surely result in a declension in religious interests. Then will be seen carelessness and slothfulness. Religion is not merely an emotion, a feeling. It is a principle that is interwoven with all the daily duties and transactions of life. Nothing will be entertained, no business engaged in, that will prevent the accompaniment of this principle. To retain pure and undefiled religion it is necessary to be workers, persevering in effort. We must do something ourselves. No one else can do our work. None but ourselves can work out our salvation with fear and trembling. This is the very work which the Lord has left for us to do....

“Decided perseverance in a course of righteousness, disciplining the mind by religious exercises to love, devotion, and heavenly things, will bring the greatest amount of happiness.

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1 If we make God our trust, we have it in our power to control the mind in these things. Through  
2 continued exercise, it will become strong to battle with internal foes, and to subdue self, until  
3 there is a complete transformation, and the passions, appetites, and will are brought into perfect  
4 subjection. Then there will be daily piety at home and abroad, and when we engage in labor for  
5 souls, a power will attend our efforts. The humble Christian will have seasons of devotion which  
6 are not spasmodic, fitful, or superstitious, but calm and tranquil, deep, constant, and earnest. The  
7 love of God, the practice of holiness, will be pleasant when there is a perfect surrender to  
8 God....”—GW 106

9  
10 *Picture of A Life Lived at the Altar:*

11  
12 “The Majesty of heaven, while engaged in his earthly ministry, prayed much to his  
13 Father. He was frequently bowed all night in prayer. His spirit was often sorrowful as he felt the  
14 powers of the darkness of this world, and he left the busy city and the noisy throng, to seek a  
15 retired place to make his intercessions. The Mount of Olives was the favorite resort of the Son of  
16 God for his devotions. Frequently after the multitude had left him for the retirement of the night,  
17 he rested not, though weary with the labors of the day. In the Gospel of John we read, ‘And  
18 every man went unto his own house. Jesus went unto the Mount of Olives.’ [John 7:53; 8:1.]  
19 While the city was hushed in silence, and the disciples had returned to their homes to obtain  
20 refreshment in sleep, Jesus slept not. His divine pleadings were ascending to his Father from the  
21 Mount of Olives that his disciples might be kept from the evil influences which they would daily  
22 encounter in the world, and that his own soul might be strengthened and braced for the duties and  
23 trials of the coming day. All night, while his followers were sleeping, was their divine Teacher  
24 praying. The dew and frost of night fell upon his head bowed in prayer. His example is left for  
25 his followers.”—GW 106

26  
27 *The Fruit of Communion with God:*

28  
29 “Communion with God will ennoble the character and the life. Men will take knowledge  
30 of us, as of the first disciples, that we have been with Jesus. This will impart to the worker a  
31 power that nothing else can give. Of this power he must not allow himself to be deprived. We  
32 must live a twofold life—a life of thought and action, of silent prayer and earnest work.”—MH  
33 512

34  
35 *The Joy of Personal Worship*

36  
37 “It should be a pleasure to worship the Lord . . . He desires that those who come to  
38 worship Him shall carry away with them precious thoughts of His care and love, that they may  
39 be cheered in all the employments of daily life, that they may have grace to deal honestly and  
40 faithfully in all things.”—SC 103

41  
42 *Vital Connection to God Our Only Defense*

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REVOLUTION - 12

1  
2 “The only defense against evil is the indwelling of Christ in the heart through faith in His  
3 righteousness. Unless we become vitally connected with God, we can never resist the  
4 unhallowed effects of self-love, self-indulgence, and temptation to sin. We may leave off many  
5 bad habits, for the time we may part company with Satan; but without a vital connection with  
6 God, through the surrender of ourselves to Him moment by moment, we shall be overcome.  
7 Without a personal acquaintance with Christ, and a continual communion, we are at the mercy of  
8 the enemy, and shall do his bidding in the end.”—DA 324

9  
10 *In the School of the Holy Spirit*

11  
12 “There is not an impulse of our nature, not a faculty of the mind or an inclination of the  
13 heart, but needs to be, moment by moment, under the control of the Spirit of God.”—PP 421

14  
15 “The Spirit illumines our darkness, informs our ignorance, and helps us in our manifold  
16 necessities. But the mind must be constantly going out after God. If worldliness is allowed to  
17 come in, if we have no desire to pray, no desire to commune with Him who is the source of  
18 strength and wisdom, the Spirit will not abide with us.”—OHC 154

19  
20 *Prayer and Effort, Effort and Prayer:*

21  
22 “Prayer and effort, effort and prayer, will be the business of your life. You must pray as  
23 though the efficiency and praise were all due to God, and labour as though duty were all your  
24 own.”—4T 538

25  
26 *Not Safe Without Prayer*

27  
28 “No man is safe for a day or an hour without prayer” (GC 530), but “He who does  
29 nothing but pray will soon cease to pray.”—SC 101

30  
31 *Nothing More Needed*

32  
33 “There is nothing more needed in the work than the practical results of communion with  
34 God.”—6T 47

35  
36 *Deep Blessedness of Worship*

37  
38 “The evil of formal worship cannot be too strongly depicted, but no words can properly  
39 set forth the deep blessedness of genuine worship.”—9T 143

40  
41 *God Notices Families that Worship:*

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1           “The Lord has a special interest in the families of His children here below. Angels offer  
2 the smoke of the fragrant incense for the praying saints. Then in every family let prayer ascend to  
3 heaven both at morning and at the cool sunset hour, in our behalf presenting before God the  
4 Saviour’s merits. Morning and evening the heavenly universe takes notice of every praying  
5 household.”—Ms 19, 1900

6  
7 *Parents Lead in Worship:*

8  
9           “Like the patriarchs of old, those who profess to love God should erect an altar to the  
10 Lord wherever they pitch their tent.... Fathers and mothers should often lift up their hearts to God  
11 in humble supplication for themselves and their children. Let the father, as priest of the  
12 household, lay upon the altar of God the morning and evening sacrifice, while the wife and  
13 children unite in prayer and praise. In such a household Jesus will love to tarry.”—CG 518

14  
15 *Danger of the Neglected Family Altar:*

16  
17           “If ever there was a time when every house should be a house of prayer, it is now.  
18 Infidelity and skepticism prevail. Iniquity abounds. Corruption flows in the vital currents of the  
19 soul, and rebellion against God breaks out in the life. Enslaved by sin, the moral powers are  
20 under the tyranny of Satan. The soul is made the sport of his temptations; and unless some  
21 mighty arm is stretched out to rescue him, man goes where the archrebel leads the way”—CG  
22 517

23  
24 *Let Not Circumstances Interrupt:*

25  
26           “Family worship should not be governed by circumstances. You are not to pray  
27 occasionally, and when you have a large day’s work, neglect it. In thus doing you lead your  
28 children to look upon prayer as of no special consequence. Prayer means very much to the  
29 children of God, and thank offerings should come up before God morning and evening. Says the  
30 Psalmist, ‘O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our  
31 salvation.’”—Ms 12, 1898

32  
33 *No Empty Formal Worship:*

34  
35           “Formal Prayer Is Not Acceptable—In many cases the morning and evening worship is  
36 little more than a mere form, a dull, monotonous repetition of set phrases in which the spirit of  
37 gratitude or the sense of need finds no expression. The Lord accepts not such service. But the  
38 petitions of a humble heart and contrite spirit He will not despise. The opening of our hearts to  
39 our heavenly Father, the acknowledgment of our entire dependence, the expression of our wants,  
40 the homage of grateful love—this is true prayer.”—CG 518

41  
42 *Worship Should be an Engaging Experience:*

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1  
2           “The father, who is the priest of his household, should conduct the morning and evening  
3 worship. There is no reason why this should not be the most interesting and enjoyable exercise of  
4 the home life, and God is dishonored when it is made dry and irksome. Let the seasons of family  
5 worship be short and spirited. Do not let your children or any member of your family dread them  
6 because of their tediousness or lack of interest. When a long chapter is read and explained and a  
7 long prayer offered, this precious service becomes wearisome, and it is a relief when it is  
8 over.”—CG 521

9  
10 *Citadel of the Mind:*

11  
12           “Every organ of the body was made to be servant to the mind. The mind is the capital of  
13 the body.”—1MCP 72

14  
15           “The mind controls the whole man. All our actions, good or bad, have their source in the  
16 mind. It is the mind that worships God and allies us to heavenly beings. Yet many spend all their  
17 lives without becoming intelligent in regard to the casket [jewel case] that contains this  
18 treasure.”—1MCP 72

19  
20 *The Mind—God’s Garden:*

21  
22           “The mind is the Lord’s garden, and man must cultivate it earnestly in order to form a  
23 character after the divine similitude.”—2MCP 800

24  
25 *Giving Account for Time:*

26  
27           “Our time belongs to God. Every moment is His, and we are under the most solemn  
28 obligation to improve it to His glory. Of no talent He has given will He require a more strict  
29 account than of our time.”—COL 342

30  
31 *Daily Preparation for Trials to Come:*

32  
33           “The servants of Christ are to prepare no set speech to present when brought to trial for  
34 their faith. Their preparation is to be made day by day, in treasuring up in their hearts the  
35 precious truths of God’s Word, in feeding upon the teaching of Christ, and through prayer  
36 strengthening their faith; then, when brought into trial, the Holy Spirit will bring to their  
37 remembrance the very truths that will reach the hearts of those who shall come to hear. God will  
38 flash the knowledge obtained by diligent searching of the Scriptures into their memory at the  
39 very time when it is needed.”—CSW 40, 41

40  
41 *Perfect Conformity to the Will of God*

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1           “But if we find no pleasure now in the contemplation of heavenly things; if we have no  
2 interest in seeking the knowledge of God, no delight in beholding the character of Christ; if  
3 holiness has no attractions for us—then we may be sure that our hope of heaven is vain. Perfect  
4 conformity to the will of God is the high aim to be constantly before the Christian. He will love  
5 to talk of God, of Jesus, of the home of bliss and purity which Christ has prepared for them that  
6 love Him. The contemplation of these themes, when the soul feasts upon the blessed assurances  
7 of God, the apostle represents as tasting ‘the powers of the world to come.’”—5T 745

8  
9           “If you are right with God today, you are ready if Christ should come today.”—HP 227

10  
11 \*Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version of the  
12 Bible.