

PRAYERS THROUGH THE AGES

A Prayer of Commitment

Teach us, good Lord,
To serve you as you deserve:
To give, and not to count the cost;
to fight, and not to heed the wounds;
to toil, and not to seek for rest;
to labour, and not to ask for any reward,
except that of knowing that we do your holy will; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ignatius Loyola, 1491-1556

An Instrument of God's Peace

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith ;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;
for your mercy and truth's sake.

O divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

A 19th century prayer in the spirit of St Francis of Assisi

Loving God Above All Things

O God, who hast prepared for them that love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer; 1662

God's Strength and Protection

O God, who knowest us to be set in the midst
of so many and great dangers,
that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright:
grant to us such strength and protection, as may support us in all dangers,
and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer; 1662

This Bundle of Life

O God,
who hast bound us together in this bundle of life,
give us grace to understand
how our lives depend upon the courage, the industry, the honesty and the integrity of our fellow-.men;
that we may be mindful of their needs,
grateful for their faithfulness,
and faithful to our responsibilities to them;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reinhold Niebuhr; 1892-1971



Jesus, Redeemer and Brother

Praise be to you, my Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits
you have won for me,
for all the pains and insults
you have borne for me.
O most merciful Redeemer,
friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day. Amen.

St Richard of Chichester; 1197-1253

For Enlightenment of the Mind

Enlighten us, O good Jesus,
with the brightness of internal light, and cast out all darkness
from the dwelling of our hearts.
Grant us, O Lord,
to know that which is worth knowing, to love what is worth loving,
to praise that which can bear with praise, to hate what in your sight is unworthy,
to prize what to you is precious,
and above all,
to search out and do your holy will. Amen

Thomas a Kempis, 1380-1471

The Way, the Truth, and the Life

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have said that you are the Way,
the Truth and the Life:
do not let us at any time stray from you, for you are our Way;
or ever distrust your promises,
for you are our Truth ;
or ever rest in anything other than you, for you are our Life.
Lord Jesus,
you have taught us
what to believe,
what to do,
what to hope for,
and in whom to take our rest. Amen .

Erasmus, 1466-1536

John Wesley's Rule

Lord, please help me to
Do all the good I can,
By all the means I can,
In all the places I can,
At all times I can,
For all people I can,
As long as ever I can.

For Protection through the Night

Be present, O merciful God,
and protect us through the silent hours of this night;
so that we, who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world,
may repose upon thy eternal changelessness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leonine Sacramentary, 6th century