

POEMS AND PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us:
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
Amen

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside still waters. He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

PRAYER FOR SERENITY

GOD,
grant me the
SERENITY
to accept the things
I cannot change
COURAGE
to change the things I can
and WISDOM
to know the difference.

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Lord make me an instrument of
Thy peace, where there is hatred,
let me sow love; where there is injury,
pardon, where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.
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 and it is in dying
that we are born to eternal life.
St Francis of Assisi

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Psalm 121

I raise my eyes toward the mountains.
From where will my help come?
My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.
God will not allow your foot to slip;
your guardian does not sleep.
Truly, the guardian of Israel
never slumbers nor sleeps.
The LORD is your guardian;
the LORD is your shade
at your right hand.
By day the sun cannot harm you,
nor the moon by night.
The LORD will guard you from all evil,
will always guard your life.
The LORD will guard your coming and going
both now and forever.

*“To everything there is a season,
and a time to every purpose
under the heaven:
a time to be born,
and a time to die:
a time to weep,
and a time to mourn,
and a time to dance.”*
Ecclesiastes III

TO THOSE I LOVE

When I am gone, release me, let me go. I have so many things to see and do. You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears; be happy that we had so many years. I gave you my love, you can only guess how much you gave me in happiness. I thank you for the love you each have shown, But now it's time I traveled on alone. So grieve awhile for me, if grieve you must; then let your grief be comforted by trust. It's only for a while that we must part, so bless the memories within your heart. I won't be far away, for life goes on; so, if you need me, call and I will come. Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near and if you listen with your heart, you'll hear, all of my love around you soft and clear. And then, when you must come this way alone, I'll greet you with a smile and say “welcome home.”

I Am Always With You

*When I am gone, release me, let me go.
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears.
Be happy that we had so many beautiful years.
I gave you my love, you can only guess
how much you gave to me in happiness.
I thank you for the love you each have shown,
but now it's time I traveled alone.
So grieve for me if grieve you must,
then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It's only for a while that we must part,
So bless the memories within your heart.*

POEMS AND PRAYERS

A Family

*A family is a blessing--
It means so many things
Words could never really tell
the joy a family brings...
A family is mutual love.
The love of a dad and mother-
Showing children how to love
And care for one another...
A family is heartfelt pride,
The feeling deep and strong,
That makes us glad to play a part
And know that we belong...
A family is always home,
A place where we can share
Our joys and sorrows, hopes and dreams,
For happiness lives there...
A family is a bond of faith
That even time can't sever,
A gift to last throughout our lives-
A family is forever.!*

*Do not stand at my grave and weep.
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.*

*When you awaken in the morning's
hush, I am the swift up-lifting rush
of quiet birds in circling flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry.
I am not there. I did not die.*

AFTERGLOW

*I'd like the memory of me
to be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an afterglow of
smiles when day is done.
I'd like to leave an echo
whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing
times and bright and sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who
grieve, to dry before the sun
Of happy memories that I
leave behind when day is done.*

Footprints

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along a beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonged to him and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."

The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."
Author Unknown

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*God looked around His Garden,
and He found an empty place,
He then looked down upon His earth,
and saw your tired face.
He put His arms around you
and lifted you to rest.
God's Garden must be beautiful
He only takes the best. He knew
that you were suffering,
He knew that you were in pain,
He knew that you would never,
get well on earth again.
He saw the road was getting tough,
and the hills were hard to climb.
So He closed your weary eyes
and whispered "Peace be thine."
It broke our hearts to lose you,
but you didn't go alone.
For part of us went with you,
the day God called you home.*

*God saw you getting tired
and a cure was not to be,
so he put his arms around you,
and whispered "Come to me."
With tearful eyes we watched you
and saw you pass away.
Although we loved you dearly
we could not make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating,
hard working hands at rest,
God broke our hearts
to prove to us
He only takes the best.*

An Irish Blessing

*May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be always
at your back.
May the sunshine warm your face,
the rain fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
may God hold you
in the palm of His hand.
Amen*

LIFE'S SUCCESS

*To laugh often and much;
to win the respect of intelligent people and
the affection of children;
to earn the appreciation of honest critics and
endure the betrayal of false friends;
to appreciate beauty;
to find the best in others;
to leave the world a bit better
whether by a healthy child,
a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition;
to know even one life has breathed easier
because you lived.
This is to have succeeded.
Ralph Waldo Emerson*