

Prayer Across the Ages



Sharing his compassion

God
You are compassion, forgiveness and peace

Fill us with your Spirit
Until we possess all the graces of love:
Joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness,
faithfulness, humility and self control

Teach us
to love those who do not love us;
to pray for those who oppose us, misunderstand us, and reject us;
to desire spiritual treasures above material ones.

Father
Make us confident that we are your children.

In difficult and unpleasant circumstances
Give us patience.
When we are successful and our needs are met
Keep us humble
When we speak out
Make us careful

We pray with Jesus who is our greatest treasure.

Based on a prayer of Anselm (1033 – 1109)



God!
You are almighty!
Powerful beyond the strongest forces we know.
You are eternal!
Past, present and future – beyond the confines of time.
You are just and holy!
Moral truths beyond contradiction.
You are mercy, compassion, forgiveness!
Always one step ahead of our immediate needs.

We could not even dream of coming close to you
Except that you have made us in your likeness;
You have come to us in Jesus;
You have placed your Spirit in us.

We ask this one thing:
To constantly live in your will,
Doing, and being what you ask of us;
Always open to your Spirit's love-kindling;
And following close behind in the footprints of your Son, our Lord Jesus
Christ.

Based on a prayer of Francis of Assisi



Lord, my God,
There are moments in my life when I feel the warmth of goodness,
Yet it is not mine.
Any goodness I show is only that which you have given me.

You, whose love is the greatest power in the universe,
became weak,
to make us people of your love-power.

You, all truth and wisdom,
accepted the humility of a human life,
to unite us in your life.

Give us the humility of the truly great:
Empower us with the strength of self-denying love;
Enabling us to share your goodness
And evidence it in lives of love and joy, wisdom and peace.

Based on a prayer of Thomas Cranmer 1489 -1556



A Token of your glory

Lord, my God,
there are tokens of your glory everywhere.
the sun's radiance speak of your light;
the food on our table reminds me of your provision for our needs;
a new day is an assurance of new life and of resurrection
the books I read direct my thoughts to your truth
and to Jesus, the living word.

Lord Jesus Christ
Live your life in me
that in some small way
I may be a token of your glory.

I hand over to you my body, mind and spirit
for you to use to this end
- your Glory!

*Based on a prayer by John Cosin 1594 -
1672*