

## Prayers on the Way

A selection of prayers for many different occasions

*New prayers are added regularly to this file.*

*The prayers are kept in alphabetical order of subject/title*



*Bonding  
Joy and Tears  
Love for God  
Real Church  
Truth and Love on the way*

*Debt I owe  
Life is like a woodland walk  
Me and You  
Sacrifice*

*Hospitality  
Living Thanks  
Obedience  
Today's Journey*

## **Bonding**

**God,** my Father

let my love for you be  
a bonding far stronger than any super-glue;  
a welding of my spirit into yours;  
until your loving thoughts, words, actions  
are all part of my everyday life  
and for your praise alone.

## **Debt I owe**

Generous God

I'm overwhelmed by debt.  
I am beginning to see how much I owe  
– to you – to others – to myself:

To you I owe my life – eternal life;  
And the payment? – all my love.  
I will pay it day by day.

To others – family, friends, teachers .....

I owe integrity and trust;  
to millions world-wide who challenge my discipleship,  
I owe - all my love.  
I will give it day by day.

To myself – the hardest debt to pay  
– to let myself be loved into the likeness of your Son:  
To him, who cancels all my sinner debts,  
I owe - all my love.  
I will give it day by day.

## Hospitality

Giver and gift  
Self giving Lord  
Generous host and humble guest  
You come, welcome and unwelcome into your world  
***Show us how to make you welcome  
and to welcome others in your name***

You come; a welcome gift of Peace  
to nations, communities, families, and us  
in all our everyday conflicts  
***Show us how to make you welcome  
and to welcome others in your name***

You come with forgiveness;  
a welcome gift to sinners at the feast of life:  
***Show us how to make you welcome  
and to welcome others in your name***

You come; a welcome gift of reconciliation  
for a world crippled by injustices and inequalities  
***Show us how to make you welcome  
and to welcome others in your name***

You come; a welcome gift of hope  
for a world prone to despair of selfishness and lust for power:  
***Show us how to make you welcome  
and to welcome others in your name***

You come:  
the perfect, eternal host;  
the happy guest of every weary open heart  
***Show us how to make you welcome  
and to welcome others in your name***

Come, Lord Jesus.

## **Joy and Tears**

The closer I come to you, Lord  
the more clearly I learn the joy and the tears  
which are eternally yours.

I hear the happy, childlike laughter  
- pure pleasure - all over the world

I know it disguises and mingles with the tears of hurt humanity;  
ignorance crying out for knowledge and enlightenment;  
broken hearts aching for healing comfort;  
temptation reaching out for rescue;  
empty lives waiting to be filled with love and faith.

In the Cross you share it all - the joy and the tears:  
Through your Spirit  
you are wiping tears with love;  
you are enriching life with joy of wholeness.

I believe it and I make that my prayer.

## **Life is like a woodland walk**

*[A Prayer Meditation]*

Living in the world of daily life and work may be likened to a woodland walk.

In places the wood is dense and dark;  
But there are clearings where sunlight breaks through  
with spectacular beauty; touching dreary, heavy moments with colour;  
dustings of gold and silver glitter, sparkling dead things into life.

Along the way I meet with people,  
strangers as well as those I know,  
engaging with them in conversation,  
offering and receiving thoughtful kindness,  
words to comfort, encourage - or reprove.

Around me are the hidden uncertain sounds,  
Voices of the wind;  
Cries I cannot interpret;  
constant moving - restlessness.  
There is life all about me touching mine, unseen, unknown to me  
*but not to my prayers.*

The easy road becomes a pathway,  
A fallen tree - obstructions, fearful darkness.  
The path winds, now for a while a grassy furrow,  
requiring calculated trust for me to keep moving forward.

All the way there are few places where I cannot look up and see the sky;  
catch rays of rippling light and know the sun is there -  
the life-source of everything which lives and grows and toils here.  
And looking up I find guidance - light in the darkened place;  
warmth, pleasure and refreshment  
A moment of prayer  
Linking with the wider, immense, powerful, loving, healing dimension  
which is God, creator, father, redeemer.

When your light shines on my path, Lord,  
I know you walk with me.  
I place my hand - as all my life - in your hand,  
which became real for me in Jesus Christ, your Son, my Lord.

## Living Thanks

Lord,  
I like to spend time as often as I can,  
listing the good things about my life  
- *it's too easy to remember the 'not so good'* -  
and to be reminded that they all stem from your parental goodness.  
I list the successes - plucking them out from among the failures;  
I remember some of the many opportunities for doing good  
- and the blessings of taking some of them;  
those love-impulses to do the right thing  
- and sometimes doing it;  
victories over myself and putting other people first.

I recall the frequent recollections of your presence -  
like flashing lights, more obvious in the darkened places.

And all this and more,  
inspires in me the desire  
to give you thanks in the best way;  
by living faithfully  
joyfully;  
obediently.

## Love for God

**Lord**, my God, you have asked one thing  
that I should love you totally - with all my heart, mind, spirit and body.

Should it be so hard to love?  
to give you back just a little of what you have given me?

Today, let me take more of your gift  
until my love begins to be like yours:  
unchanging  
even when I am hurt, rejected, misunderstood, forgotten:  
total  
not compromised by other loves, desires, ambitions:  
self-giving  
until self is lost in you; personal desires are one with your will

and I share the privilege of loving as I am loved.

## **Me and You**

Lord, run with me today,  
walk with me today,  
sit with me today

**NO!**

Let me run, walk, sit **with you** today.

## **Obedience**

God, my Father,  
Obedience can be a high price to pay for blessing;  
Obedience can be a real test of faith:  
When the world depended on an Ark, did Noah ask *'Will it float?'*  
When a nation waited to be blessed, did Abram still say, *'but Sara's barren?'*  
When Jesus called, did Matthew say, *'Who will run the office?'*

Lord,  
Give me the child-like trust that your promised blessings are greater than my sacrifices;  
Give me the love for you from which obedience flows naturally;  
as it did for Jesus, who never asked, *'Why a Cross?'*

## **Real Church**

Lord, let your Church be real;  
The universal fellowship of faith and love  
through which Jesus is known;  
the living, contemporary Christ;  
the everyday Saviour,  
Helper,  
Friend,  
- and God!

Open our eyes to see  
beyond buildings to fellowship and community;  
beyond rituals to presence and power;  
beyond dead superstition to living faith;  
beyond words to practical service  
- reaching urgent needs around us;  
beyond division to the unity of life together in you;  
One God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

## **Sacrifice**

I see sacrifice woven into the fabric of life:  
Twelve year old Jack, between home and school,  
caring for his invalid father;  
Joanne, a city business woman,  
unemployed after making a personal stand for justice;  
Richard, a builder who has given freely of his time and skill  
to help builders in Africa;  
.....Countless numbers of Christian disciples,  
relinquishing wealth, time, home ...  
for the work of the Gospel.

I see the Cross woven into the fabric of life:  
God, aching for justice;  
Jesus, nail-scarred, promising resurrection;  
The Holy Spirit, enfolding a world of pain in her divine embrace.



One holy God, give me courageous faith to trust love's victory.

### **Today's Journey**

Lord, keep me right today.  
I want today to be spent doing,  
thinking,  
speaking  
right things.

I want to be living simply - following - in your will.  
sharing the profound simplicity basic to all your creative work.

Then I shall not be lost in a maze of busyness;  
tied up with ropes of anxiety;  
running in all directions of personal desire and ambition.  
I shall not rush ahead or dawdle,  
but travel at the pace you set.  
My gifts, my thoughts, my work will be available for your purposes;  
I shall find joy, even in the hardships of the way,  
and learn to look for 'by-product blessings' everywhere.

Best of all there will be peace to own and to share  
at every meeting place,  
and rest when the day's journey is over.

## **Truth and Love on the Way**

### **My Lord,**

there are times:

when I cannot see clearly my way in life;  
when I cannot understand what is happening to my world;  
when I feel you are not treating us fairly  
- we who are trying to live your way.

I am told - and I do believe -  
that you are Truth and Love.

Truth and Wisdom.

You know the end from the beginning  
and all the detail in between.

Eternal, unchanging love:

All that begins with your love will end in love.  
You have shown me this in Jesus  
- his life, death, resurrection and glory.

Give me a firm grasp on what I have believed;  
Give me courage to go on trusting  
and proving you to be all truth and love.

