

1. Prayer – Looking vertically in a horizontal world

AT THE ENDING OF THE DAY – **FORGIVENESS**

O GOD, our Father in heaven, we have come tonight to tell Thee of those things we have done which we ought not to have done. We have come to say we are sorry and to beseech Thy forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord—for the people we have hurt today, for the people we have disappointed today, for the people we have failed today: forgive us, O Lord. For the words we have said which we should have left unsaid, for the places our minds have been to which they should not have visited, for the occasions we have missed for saying that word of thanks or sympathy: forgive us, O Lord.

When we think of the perfection of Thy Son, O Lord, we are sometimes discouraged and yet we know that Thy love and mercy extend towards all those who fear and love Thee. So we draw nigh through him in confidence and for his sake to seek Thy forgiveness. Amen.

“Lord, when we bend before Thy
Throne,
And our confessions pour,
Teach us to feel the sins we own,
And hate what we deplore.
Our broken spirits pitying see,
And penitence impart;
Then let a kindling glance from Thee
Beam hope upon the heart.”
Hymn 152

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 1:7–9

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way ... let us draw near with a true heart seeking for forgiveness from our Father in heaven and for His blessing upon our resolve to live our lives more after the pattern of our Lord Jesus Christ.

AT THE ENDING OF THE DAY - **FOR THE PEACE OF THE WORLD**

THERE are times, our Father, when we hear world news, and our hearts are full of all sorts of thoughts. They are so jumbled together—we see the tragedies of life, the distress of famines, the deceptions of politics, and the items of news which cheer us. We are very grateful to Thee, our Father, that under Thy hand we are permitted to be aware of what is going on in the world, so that we might be aware of the signs that herald the coming of the King of Heaven.

So our hearts and minds this evening turn from this troubled world, filled with strife and violence, to that which is to come. We see so clearly Thy city, Jerusalem. We see people from every nation going up to worship, to bring the honour and glory due unto Thy great and holy Name. We yearn for that time to come, for the return of the King to bring peace and righteousness to this sad and sorry world.

“Pray for the peace of
Jerusalem: they shall
prosper that love thee.
Peace be within thy walls,
and prosperity within thy
palaces.
Hallelujah.”
Hymn 61

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” *Isaiah 2:2–4*

We pray for that peace which the world cannot give: we pray for that peace which the world with all its strivings can never achieve. May the news we hear soon bring us that greatest of all news—that the King is here.

We ask this prayer in his name. Amen.

2. Prayer - Looking vertically in a horizontal world

AT THE ENDING OF THE DAY - FOR THOSE IN TROUBLE

O God, our Father in heaven, we are mindful this evening not of ourselves but of those who are in any kind of trouble. Many we do not know about, but we are thinking first of those we know and love.

We pray our Father, for the sake of Jesus, for Thy loving hand to be upon those who are sad for whatever cause; those who are experiencing the bitterness of disappointment; those who are in pain because of illness; those whose hearts are heavy because of the loss of a loved one. We beseech Thee, O Lord, to help every one of us to see that all things work together for good—yes, Lord, the nice things and the nasty things—they all work together for good if only we will love and trust Thee. There are times when we think we know better than Thee, Lord—forgive us for this.

“What can these anxious cares avail thee,
These never-ceasing moans and sighs?
What can it help, if thou bewail thee
O'er each dark moment as it flies?
Our cross and trials do but press
The heavier for our bitterness.
Only be still, and wait His leisure
In cheerful hope, with heart content
To take whate'er thy Father's pleasure
And all-discerning love hath sent;
No doubt our inmost wants are known
To Him who seeks us for His own.” *Hymn 147*

“Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and he shall bring it to pass . . . Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself for him that prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass . . . but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth.”
Psalm 37:3-9

Help us to think more of those we know and love who are in trouble and to be more aware of the sadness there is in the world. Help us, too, to be much more grateful for all the love and care shown to us. Our Lord Jesus suffered so much and was in great trouble and pain for our sakes, so we look to him who will take away all trouble and distress. This we ask for the sake of him who died for us. Amen.

AT THE ENDING OF THE DAY - DIFFICULT TO LIVE WITH

O God, our Father in heaven, there are times when as the day draws to its close we look back and think about all the people we have met during the day: the girl on the check-out; the colleague at that interminable meeting; the children at breakfast; my dear wife when the alarm went off at five to seven.

It's true, isn't it, Lord?—we behave worst at home. Do I ever see just what I am like first thing in the morning? Are we as courteous at home as we are when we want to impress someone we are meeting for the first time? How well do we choose our words at home—or do we blurt out the first thing that comes into our heads?—Thou knowest, Lord! There are times when we are short on understanding and consideration. Somehow we almost expect things to be different at home. I know I am difficult to live with when “things” have not gone “right” during the day.

I pray, Father, that Thou wilt show much more understanding and consideration for me in my weaknesses that somehow always show themselves at home.

“For peaceful homes, and healthful days,
For all the blessings earth displays,
We owe Thee thankfulness and praise,
Who givest all.” *Hymn 111*

“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.” (*1 Peter 3:7*)

May our hearts and minds be directed by thy Word; may we feed on it daily so that our thoughts and words may be fitting to the occasion, especially at home. Help us Father to be firm at the right time, conciliatory when “things” have gone “wrong” and always conscious of the needs of those at home.

We ask all this for the sake of our Lord Jesus who, when at home, increased in favour with Thee and with man. Amen.

The Christadelphian : (Vol. 125, Page 178).

3. Prayer - Looking vertically in a horizontal world

AT THE ENDING OF THE DAY - RESPECT AND REVERENCE

O LORD GOD in heaven, Thou whom we are privileged to call our Father, help us not to take Thee for granted or only to come in prayer when we want something. Give us that peace of mind which comes from complete trust in Thee but always with a proper sense of Thy greatness and majesty. There are times, Father, when we rush into Thy presence without stopping to think or to prepare our minds beforehand. Help us to put from our minds all things that offend Thee. Give us the power to think of Thy love and Thy mercy towards us when we are in Thy presence.

These things we ask, Holy Father, for the sake of him who died that we might approach Thee in prayer—Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

“Lord, when we meet to worship Thee,
Before us let Thy glory pass:
Proclaim Thy mercy rich and free;
In Jesus may we see Thy face.
Help us bow with reverent awe,
And yet to praise with grateful love;
To fear, with all our hearts, Thy law,
And yet Thy tender mercy prove.”
Hymn 153

“Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” *Isaiah 40:28–31*

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the ecclesia by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen

AT THE ENDING OF THE DAY - THE PRICE OF THE PRECIOUS . . .

O LORD, our God, whom we can address as our Father, we come this evening to thank Thee for the greatest of Thy gifts. We cannot understand how Thou didst give Jesus for our sins to die. There isn't one of us who deserves what Thou hast done for us. Thy love for each one of us is so great that Thou didst give Thine only begotten Son.

We marvel at Thy love and his willing obedience. There is not one of us, Lord, who has striven unto blood—his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. How can we show our love to Thee for so great a gift?

“Jesus, priceless treasure,
Source of purest pleasure,
Truest friend to me;
Long my heart hath panted
Till it well nigh fainted,
Thirsting after thee.
Thine I am, O spotless Lamb,
I will suffer nought to hide thee,
Ask for nought beside thee.”
Hymn 205

“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot . . . Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently . . .”
1 Peter 1:18, 19, 22

Help us, O Lord, to think more often of Thy great love, to dwell upon it in our hearts as we close our eyes in rest and to resolve that in the days that remain to us we may show forth that love in our own lives. This, Father, we ask for the sake of him who died for us. Amen.

4. Prayer - Looking vertically in a horizontal world

AT THE ENDING OF THE DAY - THANKSGIVING FOR LIFE ITSELF

O LOVING FATHER, we come to thank Thee for the gift of life itself. All the many opportunities it presents to us are gifts from Thee—opportunities to say thank you, to show courtesy and thoughtfulness for others. Help us never to speak angrily or with impatience. Help us to be kind in word and in the smile upon our faces and in our eyes. Help us always to think of the feelings of others, especially those who are helping us. These things we ask for the sake of him who was ever grateful and not given to complaining—Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

“Fill Thou my life, O Lord my God,
In every part with praise,
That my whole being may proclaim
Thy being and Thy ways
Fill every part of me with praise,
Let all my being speak
Of Thee, and of Thy love, O Lord,
Poor though I be, and weak.
So shall no part of day or night
From sacredness be free;
But all my life in every step
Be fellowship with Thee.” Hymn 82

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”
Psalm 1:1–3

May the God of all comfort keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

AT THE ENDING OF THE DAY - FOR THE COMING OF THE KING . . .

O Thou the great eternal God who knowest the end from the beginning, we come in this evening hour seeking Thy gracious presence for Jesus' sake. In a short while our eyes will close on sleep and the hours will pass unbeknown to us. We cannot help but think, our Father, of that day when our eyes will close on the sleep of death and the time will pass unbeknown to us. Then it will be the great clarion call and the voice of the Lord Jesus calling us forth. If we have been laid to rest amongst other brethren and sisters, we will be called away together. Yet, Father, we are frightened of just what shall be, because we know that then we shall be seen for what we are before the judgment seat of Christ.

Help us to remember as we pray for the coming of the King that it is Thy great love towards us which has made it possible for us to know of the gracious offer of salvation that there is in Christ Jesus our Lord. We think of the words, “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit”. May our lives, Father, be such that they are led by Thy spirit; may we put away the mind of the flesh and affectionately encourage within us the spiritual mind—which brings life and peace.

So in our prayers tonight we say, “Thy kingdom come”: that the time of blessedness of which the prophets, apostles and Thy Son did speak might come to this sad and sorry world. We seek Thy mercy and forgiveness, Father, that as we sleep this night we might look forward to that great day of resurrection, not with fear but with anticipation; not in our own confidence but trusting in Thy grace and mercy, so that we might hear the words: “Come ye blessed of my Father . . .”

The days are quickly flying,
And Christ will come again
With all His saints attending
Triumphant in his train:
When every eye shall see Him,
And every tongue confess
The glory of the Father,
In Christ our righteousness. Hymn 284

“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”
Matthew 24:30, 31

O! What joy in that day, Father! This is all our hope and all our desire, and we pray that Thou wilt make them grow in our hearts for the sake of what Jesus' has done for us. Amen.

5. Prayer - Looking vertically in a horizontal world

AT THE ENDING OF THE DAY - TRUE WISDOM

SOMETIMES, our Father, we feel foolish and unable to cope. We forget all the things in Thy Word which would instruct us and we rely on our own wisdom such as it is. It's then, Father, that we make mistakes. Help us always to turn to Thy Word alone for help and comfort and consolation; help us to listen to the words of those who speak Thy Word in sincerity and in Truth; help us to feed on that Word daily, so that we might by Thy mercy grow in grace, for in Christ our Lord are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

"E'en the hour that darkest seemeth
Will His changeless goodness prove;
From the mist His brightness streameth—
God is wisdom, God is love.
He with earthly cares entwineth
Hope and comfort from above;
Everywhere His glory shineth—
God is wisdom, God is love." Hymn 141

"Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom . . . the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace." James 3:13, 17, 18

We bring our prayers to Thee in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ who is made unto us wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption. Amen.

AT THE ENDING OF THE DAY - DELIVERANCE FROM EVIL . . .

O FATHER in heaven, we find it so hard to pray, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil". We get all muddled in our minds. We know in our hearts how weak we are, and our faith can so easily fail when faced with excessive pressures in everyday life, or distress because of sudden changes in material circumstances, or with tragedy in family life. These are times of testing, Father, and we don't like them! Times of testing can make us doubt: when things are specially hard and distressing, we may crack and want to give way to our own will. Thou knowest, O Lord, that all we really want to do is to shrug off the discipline of Thy Word—we would like life to revolve around us. Yes, Lord, we are just like rebellious children. O Father of mercies, help us to avoid that frame of mind. There are so many things that can pollute our thinking: the corrupting influences of men's minds, the competitiveness of human pride, and the short-lived attractiveness of the things of this life. All these things would draw us away from Thee. We know that all things work together for good to them that love Thee, but at Thy gracious throne we seek deliverance from those evils as well as those which are part of today's violent world. May we, by the strength we gain from Thee, be able to stand the tests so that our faith might be stronger; may we leave things more in Thy hands to order and direct our lives.

If thou but suffer God to guide thee,
And hope in Him through all thy ways,
He'll give thee strength whate'er betide thee,
And bear thee through the evil days;
Who trust in God's unchanging love
Build on the Rock that naught can move.
Only be still, and wait His leisure
In cheerful hope, with heart content.
To take whate'er thy Father's pleasure
And all-discerning love hath sent;
No doubt our inmost wants are known
To Him who seeks us for His own.
Hymn 147

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing . . . Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: but every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.
James 1:2-4, 13-15

Dear Father, we beseech Thee, keep us away from circumstances which would make it easier for our faith to fail, and keep us safe from all the evils which are about us. It is for the sake of the Lord Jesus that we seek Thy gracious throne. Amen. The Christadelphian : Vol. 125, Page 404

6. Prayer - Looking vertically in a horizontal world

AT THE ENDING OF THE DAY - RESCUE FROM OUR FAULTS . . .

O GOD, our Father in heaven, we have come tonight to seek Thy mercy and Thy forgiveness. We have tried today, Father, to put off the old man of the flesh but sometimes it is not easy. Sometimes things seem just to happen, Father, and before we know where we are, the very thing we had determined not to do has overtaken us again. It is for the sake of Jesus that we implore Thy mercy, Father. If only we could be more protected from that which stalks us like a roaring lion: if only . . . yet, our Father, we are exhorted to let the word of Christ dwell in us richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing . . .

Is there a thing beneath the sun
That strives with Thee my heart to share?

Ah, tear it thence, and reign alone,
The Lord of every motion there!

Then shall my heart from pain be free,
When it hath found repose in Thee.

O Lord! Thy sovereign aid impart
To save me from low thoughted care;

Chase this self-will through all my heart,
Through all its latent mazes there;

Make me Thy dutious child, that I

Ceaseless may "Abba, Father", cry! Hymn 170

"For the good which I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 7:19, 25, 26

Cleanse me then, O Father, from all my sins this day, that in this evening hour I may be at peace with Thee. May my heart be true in seeking Thy forgiveness and on the morrow be more set in Thy ways and thoughts. This I ask for the sake of Him who was the perfect sacrifice, even Jesus our Lord. Amen.

AT THE ENDING OF THE DAY - FOR THOSE IN DISTRESS . . .

We have all been feeling sad and unhappy of late. Father, we cry to Thee for Thy salvation whenever we hear of tragedy and distress. Our hearts have gone out to our brethren and sisters in Jamaica, to the homeless in Armenia, those who lost loved ones at or, and we cry, "Lord, how long?" Our hearts are torn between Thy judgments and the depths of human misery. It's never easy, Lord! We think of Jesus' disciples and we ask the question ourselves and receive the same answer. To the world outside, Father, there are those who are guilty and those who are innocent, yet we know from Thy Word that there isn't one of us who is guiltless. All of us need to repent! So often, Father, people ask me, Why? Why doesn't the God you believe in do something to prevent this distress caused by tragedy? Sadly, Father, so many turn away when we say just how much has already been accomplished in Jesus. So many turn their backs on Thy great gift to mankind. Thou hast stretched out Thy hands but no-one turns to see.

Lord, Thy judgments now are waking,
Let not Thy compassion sleep;

But while earthly thrones are shaking,
Sure and firm Thy purpose keep;

O Lord, hear us, be Thou near us

When the storm shall o'er us sweep. Hymn 402

" . . . Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Luke 13:4, 5

Each one of us, Father, turns to Thee seeking for Thy consolation in Christ the Redeemer. He, in loving obedience, gave His life for me—and I deserved no such love! May each one of us use the time that remains to us to tell others of Thy salvation. May I be found watching, waiting and praying for the release of creation from the grip of sin and death. It is for His sake that, together, we plead for the consummation of Thy purpose. Amen.

7. Prayer - Looking vertically in a horizontal world

AT THE ENDING OF THE DAY - **FOR HELP AND GUIDANCE** . . .

OUR Father, there are things we say to Thee in prayer which somehow we haven't the courage to say to our brethren and sisters—be they ever so close. "I couldn't speak about that to him: I would feel so ashamed!" we say. Yet we also say we seek Thy help and guidance to come to us—but how? In some special way that puts me in the centre of the stage?

When that help and guidance, Father, come through the timely words of a brother or a sister, and our consciences are pricked, somehow we resent it. Yes, Father, the cap fits only too well, and we resent it. Pride, the competitive sin which wants to be 'one up' on our peers, can prevent us receiving precisely what we have prayed for. What fools we are, Father! The proud mind of the flesh prompts us to say in our hearts that we know better than that brother or that sister. How can they give me guidance?

Show my Thy ways, O Lord;
Thy paths, O teach Thou me:
And do Thou lead me in Thy truth,
Therein my teacher be.
My sins and faults of youth
Do Thou, O Lord, forget;
After thy mercy think on me,
And for Thy goodness great. *Hymn 13*

"In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness. Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for an house of defence to save me. For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me"
Psalm 31:1-3

For the sake of Jesus, Father, help me to put away the sin of pride: help me to listen with a more willing heart to the advice of my brethren and sisters. I expect them to listen to me whenever I have something to say! O Father, forgive my foolishness and my pride, and give me ears attentive to Thy Word - especially when I am reminded of it through the voices of my brethren and sisters. Amen.

AT THE ENDING OF THE DAY - **THANKSGIVING FOR PEOPLE** . . .

AS I come towards the end of this particular day, Father, I come to Thee through our Lord Jesus to thank Thee for the wonder of the example of some brethren and sisters I know. I am thinking of one individual sister, Father. Her zeal and her courage, despite her very advanced age, are there for all with eyes to see. Not that she consciously displays these remarkable traits just for us to see, but her love to all shines from her face. Father, I come in prayer to thank Thee for her, and for all like her: for brethren who cheer me in exhortation and who rouse me in preaching; for sisters who bring comfort and who listen to the same story time after time as if it is being told for the first time; for mothers who care for their young children and guide them in Thy way; for fathers who provide under Thy hand for those who depend on them. Our Father in Heaven, we thank Thee for the loveliness of some of Thy children. We know in our hearts that Thy love has touched their hearts and their response is to show forth Thy love in their lives.

Then let each esteem his brother
Better than himself to be;
And let each prefer another,
Full of love, from envy free;
Happy are we, happy are we
When in this we all agree..
Hymn 341

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart. *Philippians 1:3-7*

With a great sense of thankfulness then, Our Father, we lay ourselves down to sleep. Yet as we do so, we see the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. O, our Father, we say—Thanks be to Thee for Thine unspeakable gift, even Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

8. Prayer - Looking vertically in a horizontal world

AT THE ENDING OF THE DAY - THE REALISATION OF OUR HOPES

THERE are times, Father, when life seems so difficult, even the ordinary things seem to bear in upon us: the children (bless them); the shopping and cleaning; doing jobs about the house; the endless visiting of those who are poorly or lonely; ecclesial duties and responsibilities. I know, Father, that Thou hast told us not to weary in well-doing, but sometimes, just sometimes, I would like five minutes to myself!

I am sorry, Lord, to sound so complaining but who else can I tell? I always feel like one of the ten virgins, but some days I am not sure whether I am wise or foolish! When I've been privileged to be at a stirring Fraternal, I hope that Jesus the Christ will come just then, while I am riding on the high places of the earth.

Help me, Father, to look forward beyond the present. Help me happily to anticipate the good that shall be. Help me not merely to look to that rest that shall be, but to realise that whatever happens in this life is but for a moment—even when that moment is for more than twenty years! This our hope buoys me up and helps me to keep going—even to the coming of the Lord.

Come, Lord, and tarry not And bring the looked for day; Drive past these years of waiting here, These ages of delay. Come, for creation groans, Impatient of thy stay, Worn out with these long years of ill, These ages of delay. Come and begin thy reign, Of everlasting peace; Come, take the kingdom to thyself, Great King of righteousness. <i>Hymn 263</i>	“It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.” <i>Lamentations 3:22–26</i>
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Forgive my complaining, Father, and help me to see beyond the present to the time of peace and everlasting joy. May the King in his beauty welcome me with all those of like precious faith into that wonderful age. We beseech Thy blessing, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

AT THE ENDING OF THE DAY - “O GOD IN HIGHEST HEAVEN . . .”

SOMETIMES, as we come to pray, so many thoughts tumble through our minds. We cannot find the words we need, so we use the words of others whose prayers are recorded for us in Thy Word.

But specially, Father, this evening, we come to worship and adore Thy Holy Name through our Lord Jesus. Words do fail us and so we think of those who inspire us. Of Moses, hid in the cleft of the rock as he beheld the after-glow of Thy glory, and learned of the greatness of Thy Name; of Solomon, as he stood before Thee at the dedication of the Temple; and of the Lord Jesus himself on the mount with Peter, James and John, who were eyewitnesses of Thy majesty. Such thoughts, Father, lift up our hearts. Help us to understand Thy greatness, Thy majesty and Thy loving kindness, so that we shall not feel overwhelmed as we come into Thy presence through the Lord. Help us to remember at all times that this privilege is ours because Jesus, Thy Son and our Saviour, has made the way open into the holiest of all.

How wonderful, how beautiful, The sight of Thee must be, Thine endless wisdom, boundless power, And awful purity! O, how I fear Thee, living God, With deepest, tenderest fears, And worship Thee with trembling hope, And penitential tears! Yet I may love Thee too, O Lord, Almighty as Thou art, For Thou hast stooped to ask of me The love of my poor heart. My God, how wonderful Thou art, Thy majesty how bright! How beautiful Thy Mercy-Seat That shines with healing light! <i>Hymn 102</i>	“And let these my words, wherewith I have made supplication before the Lord, be nigh unto the Lord our God day and night, that he maintain the cause of his servant, and the cause of his people Israel at all times, as the matter shall require: that all the people of the earth may know that the Lord is God, and that there is none else.” <i>1 Kings 8:59, 60</i>
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“Now unto him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.”

9. Prayer - Looking vertically in a horizontal world

AT THE ENDING OF THE DAY - "**FOR EACH OTHER'S NEED** . . ."

SO often, Father, my prayers are full of me. I lose the wider vision and the needs of others do not come into my mind as they should. So, Father, this evening I bring before Thee through our Lord Jesus, all those who are in special need.

I think of those sisters who have a life full of duty to others. They seem to have so little time for themselves. They spend themselves for others—sometimes with little acknowledgement and appreciation. Father, I pray for them this night.

I think of those who live alone and, although content to do so, do need that sense of belonging which true fellowship can bring. I think of those parents who are unhappy because their children are unwilling to turn to Thee, seeming to delight in being rebellious and spurning Thy Word. Father, I pray for all of these this night.

I think of those who are unwell—not just poorly, but who bear a burden of pain and suffering and have done so for years. May we all look beyond this present into the face of Jesus our Lord, who is not only the author of our faith but also its finisher. May we all bear up and enjoy to the full the hope set before us, remembering that it is Thy good pleasure to give the Kingdom to those who seek it first. Inasmuch as I can offer an understanding word, a sympathetic ear or an outstretched hand, then, Father, help me to do this in sincerity and love.

I ask Thee for a thoughtful love,
Through constant watching wise,
To meet the glad with joyful smiles,
And wipe the weeping eyes;
A heart at leisure from itself
To soothe and sympathise. *Hymn 137*

"If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."

Philippians 2:1, 2

May each of us, like our Lord, be moved with compassion towards those about us, and let us all come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Amen.

AT THE ENDING OF THE DAY - **FOR SUBMISSION** ...

I HAVE been upset today, Father; somehow things don't seem to have gone 'right'. It is in the name of Jesus that I come tonight before Thy gracious throne beseeching Thee to put things right in my mind. I thought, Father, that I had got it all worked out. I had prayed, seeking Thy blessing on what I had planned to do and it was all so set in my mind that when it didn't turn out that way, I thought things had gone 'wrong'.

O Father, forgive my foolishness! There are so many times when I forget Thy guiding hand, I forget Thy Word, I forget Thy Presence and then feel put out when my plans do not have 'a good success'. In my pride and self-reliance, I forget that it is Thy will which is paramount. Thou knowest best, and often our own plans would bring ruin upon us. The fruit of the Spirit would shrivel and die, we would bear no fruit at all, yet we know that we must be purged in order to bring forth more fruit to Thy honour and glory. This, Father, would never happen if we always had our own way. O Father, may we put our lives into Thy hands more and more and not try to run them ourselves.

Father, I ask that all my life May be o'erruled by Thee:
The changes then that surely come, I shall not fear to see.
I ask Thee for a steadfast mind, Intent on pleasing Thee.
I ask Thee for the daily strength, To none that ask denied;
A mind to blend with outward life, While keeping at Thy side;
Content to fill a little space, If Thou be glorified. *Hymn 137*

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

1 Peter 5:6, 7

May the power of Thy Word strengthen us; may the consolation of Thy love sustain us, and may Thy answers to our prayers comfort us. We ask all these blessings for the sake of Him who died for us, even Jesus our Lord. Amen.

10. Prayer – Looking vertically in a horizontal world

AT THE ENDING OF THE DAY - **LISTENING** . . .

I'VE said much too much today, Father! I always want to stick my oar in to justify myself—to interrupt, and say, “Yes, I know, I’ve had that problem too . . .” It’s so easy to talk and so hard to listen. The brother I went to see today, now old and frail and yet in his prime a tower of strength to us all. He spoke with such authority then, and now he wants to share some of those old times, to re-live them, to look back with joy and happiness to the days long gone when he was able to influence so many young minds for good—mine included! Why don’t I listen more as his eyes fill with tears—instead of blurting out some story which at the time seemed so funny?

If only, Father, I had listened to him more attentively then, perhaps I would not be such a chatterbox now. Good words fitly chosen can bring such comfort, can encourage and warn; and here I am now, Father, still using too many words.

Oh! give me Samuel’s ear,
The open ear, O Lord,
Alive and quick to hear
Each whisper of Thy word;
Like him to answer at Thy call,
And to obey Thee first of all. *Hymn 146*

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.” *Psalms 19: 14*

Help me, Father, really to listen to others, not just make an opportunity to interrupt. But above all, may I listen attentively to Thy Word, take it to my heart and meditate upon it in all I do—for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

AT THE ENDING OF THE DAY - **LOOKING FORWARD** . . .

O FATHER in heaven, as the day draws to a close, I am thinking of the coming of the King: wondering just how ready I am to stand before Thee, to be seen for exactly what I am. Even the thought is overwhelming! Often, Father, we say that we look forward to the return of Jesus. When in our minds that day seems distant, we see it as a day of restitution and of joy. But when, for one reason or another, that day seems imminent, we back away from reality and say, “How can I ever be ready?” Sometimes I am confident—but not that often. When I am like that I realise how deceptive self-reliance is. How can I be so, Father—in that day! Sometimes I hear other brethren saying how much they are looking forward to speaking to Moses or Elijah, and I get despondent. Fancy presuming that any of us could speak with such giants! Help me not to delude myself, but to trust in the consolation of Thy love. “Little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before him at his coming”. Yes, Father, we think of Thy hidden love, whose height, whose depth unfathomed, no man knows. So, Father, I can look forward confidently to that great and dreadful day—in awe, certainly; but also knowing that Thy grace is always extended towards those who repent. What reassurance we gain from the way the prodigal son was received back home!

Crown him with many crowns
The Lamb upon his throne;
Hark how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own:
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity. *Hymn 291*

Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgement: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment.

1 John 4:17, 18

May our hearts be clean from sin; may we be at peace, without spot, and blameless, as we look forward to that day—so we say, Our Father—“Even so come, Lord Jesus” for Thy mercy’s sake. Amen.

11. Prayer – Looking vertically in a horizontal world

AT THE ENDING OF THE DAY - **TOMORROW** . . .

O FATHER in Heaven, as night draws in I think of tomorrow. Perhaps it might be my last day, or, indeed, the last day. Yet at this particular time, Father, there is something special about tomorrow: it is the first day of another week; it is the day to remember the Lord Jesus; it is a day of self-examination.

My conscience, Father, is chiding me because of the many occasions in the past when my mind has not wholly been given to the Lord when eating that crumb of bread and drinking that sip of wine.

In the quietness of this evening hour, Father, it is somehow easier to dwell for a longer time on the significance of that bread: our Lord is Thy Word made flesh, so eating the bread is symbolic of taking him into our lives by Thy Word: our Lord is the Head of his body, so eating that bread is symbolic of our being parts of that body. Help me, Father, for Jesus' sake, to discern the Lord's body as I eat. The wine too: it is a symbol of his blood shed for our salvation in sacrifice—"Behold, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world". He is the True Vine and the crushed fruit we drink tells us that the fruit of the Vine is all those traits of Godly character manifested by the Lord Jesus, and by drinking, we identify ourselves with those characteristics.

Father, these thoughts are too high for me, yet I look forward to re-living them around the Table of Remembrance tomorrow.

Bread of heaven, on thee we feed,
For thy flesh is meat indeed;
Ever may our souls be fed
With this true and living bread:
Day by day with life supplied
Through the word of him who died.
Vine of God, thy blood supplies
This blest cup of sacrifice;
'Tis thy wounds our healing give,
To thy cross we look and live:
Thou our life! O let us be
Rooted, grafted, built on thee. *Hymn 225*

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day . . . As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me".

John 6:51 , 53 , 54 , 57

May I tomorrow, Father, partake reverently, calling to mind the love and self-sacrifice of our Lord Jesus. It is my earnest prayer now, Father, that when he drinks of the fruit of the True Vine in his Kingdom, then some of that fruit might, by Thy grace, have come from the branch that bears my name. It is in his Name that I come to Thee this night. Amen.

AT THE ENDING OF THE DAY - **GROWING UP** . . .

PRAYER is never easy for us, so please, O Lord in heaven, hear my words and stumblings, for the sake of Jesus. There are some of us, Lord, who cannot make up our minds. We have left school and have started work, or gone on to college, and there seem to be so many exciting and interesting things to do. I keep meeting new people of all sorts. They seem to have got it all worked out, and they never talk about Thy Word or the Lord Jesus. They know what they are doing and where they are going and yet . . . here am I, all torn apart by so many sorts of different things: shall I go on studying if the Lord Jesus is so near, as the brethren keep telling us? ought I ever to think of getting married because the world can only get worse? what is the point in working fifty, sixty hours a week?—what is it all about?

Mum and Dad seem so old-fashioned, Lord—their lives revolve around the meeting, and yet even they are sad sometimes when someone they know and love has drifted away. And I know they wonder about me—you see, Lord, I cannot make up my mind. I know all about the Truth and I know deep down that it is right, but there are so many other things pulling me this way and that.

Help me, Lord, to see clearly that the real things in life are the wonders of Thy Truth; that Jesus is to return to put all things right and make all things new; that he came and died for me.

It is for his sake that I come to Thee in prayer. Amen.

AT THE ENDING OF THE DAY - **FRUSTRATION**

THERE are so many things I wanted to do today, Father, for Thee. Yet as usual I was frustrated and somehow I feel particularly cheated. I come before Thy throne of grace this evening, seeking for contentment and peace. You see, Father, I was going billing. It takes me a long time to pluck up enough courage to go billing and somehow today I felt ready for it—then the telephone rang. My plans had to go and I had to call on old Sister Smith. I'm afraid I went with a bad grace, Father. She is a wise, aged sister and would have read my mind like a book. She's a bit crotchety at times and often has a moan. It was not until I had been with her for a little while that I realised that here was my task for today: to be with her, listening to her story, making her a cup of tea and then fetching her loaf and her pint of milk.

Yes, Father, I must be willing to learn from the telephone. It so often rings at just the 'wrong' time. Six o'clock is worst of all and I go to the telephone with a mouth full of food asking myself whoever is ringing me just now! Help me, Father, not to feel so frustrated by the 'interruptions' of everyday things; to accept them all with good grace and to lift the receiver cheerfully; to undertake what is asked, willingly, and with a full heart, knowing that Thou dost work in each of us to will and to do of Thy good pleasure.

If we this day have failed to tread
The upward path which leads to light;
If any cloud of grief or dread
Broods darkly o'er our souls tonight, —
Thy joy to us can strength afford;
Give us that joy this night, O Lord.

Hymn 414

“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts . . . and be ye thankful.” -Colossians 3:12–15

It is for the sake of Jesus, Father, that we come to Thee, knowing perhaps just a little how he must have felt at times, and yet who did Thy will and work perfectly. Amen.

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