SPURGEON'S PULPIT PRAYERS

CHARLES SPURGEON (1834-1892)

Spurgeon's Pulpit Prayers

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SPURGEON'S Pulpit Prayers

Prayer 1: Help from On High

O Thou Who art King of kings and Lord of lords, we worship Thee. Before Jehovah's awful throne, we bow with sacred joy.

We can truly say that we delight in God. There was a time when we feared Thee, O God, with the fear of bondage. Now we reverence, but we love as much as we reverence. The thought of Thine omnipresence was once horrible to us. We said, "Whither shall we flee from His presence?" and it seemed to make hell itself more dreadful, because we heard a voice, "If I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there." But now, O Lord, we desire to find Thee. Our longing is to feel Thy presence, and it is the heaven of heavens that Thou art there. The sick bed is soft when Thou art there. The furnace of affliction grows cool when Thou art there; and the house of prayer, when Thou art present, is none other than the house of God, and it is the very gate of heaven.

Come near, our Father. Come very near to Thy children. Some of us are very weak in body and faint in heart. Soon, O God, lay Thy right hand upon us and say unto us, "Fear not." Peradventure, some of us are alike and the world is attracting us. Come near to kill the influence of the world with Thy superior power.

Even to worship may not seem easy to some. The dragon seems to pursue them, and floods out of his mouth wash away their devotion. Give to them great wings as of an eagle, that each one may fly away into the place prepared for him, and rest in the presence of God today.

Our Father, come and rest Thy children now. Take the helmet from our brow, remove from us the weight of our heavy armor for a while, and may we just have peace, perfect peace, and be at rest. Oh, help us, we pray Thee, now. As Thou hast already washed Thy people in the fountain filled with blood and they are clean, now this morning wash us from defilement in the water. With the basin and with the ewer,¹ O Master, wash our feet again. It will greatly refresh. It will prepare us for innermost fellowship with Thyself. So did the priests wash ere² they went into the holy place.

¹ ewer – large jug with a wide mouth, formerly used for carrying water for someone to wash in. ² ere – before.

Lord Jesus, take from us now everything that would hinder the closest communion with God. Any wish or desire that might hamper us in prayer remove, we pray Thee. Any memory of either sorrow or care that might hinder the fixing of our affection wholly on our God, take it away now. What have we to do with idols anymore? Thou hast seen and observed us. Thou knowest where the difficulty lies. Help us against it, and may we now come boldly, not into the Holy place alone, but into the Holiest of all, where we should not dare to come if our great Lord had not rent the veil, sprinkled the mercy seat with His own blood, and bidden us enter.

Now, we have come close up to Thyself, to the light that shineth between the wings of the cherubim, and we speak with Thee now as a man speaketh with his friends. Our God, we are Thine. Thou art ours. We are now concerned in one business—we are leagued together for one battle. Thy battle is our battle, and our fight is Thine. Help us, we pray Thee. Thou who didst strengthen Michael and his angels to cast out the dragon and his angels, help poor flesh and blood that to us also the word may be fulfilled, "The Lord shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly."

Our Father, we are very weak. Worst of all we are very wicked if left to ourselves, and we soon fall a prey to the enemy. Therefore, help us. We confess that sometimes in prayer when we are nearest to Thee, at that very time some evil thought comes in, some wicked desire. Oh, what poor simpletons we are. Lord, help us. We feel as if we would now come closer to Thee still and hide under the shadow of Thy wings. We wish to be lost in God. We pray that Thou mayest live in us, and not we live, but Christ live in us and show Himself in us and through us.

Lord, sanctify us. Oh, that Thy spirit might come and saturate every faculty, subdue every passion, and use every power of our nature for obedience to God.

Come, Holy Spirit, we do know Thee. Thou hast often overshadowed us. Come, more fully take possession of us. Standing now as we feel we are, right up at the Mercy Seat, our very highest prayer is for perfect holiness, complete consecration, entire cleansing from every evil. Take our heart, our head, our hands, our feet, and use us all for Thee. Lord, take our substance. Let us not hoard it for ourselves, nor spend it for ourselves. Take our talent. Let us not try to educate ourselves that we may have the repute of being wise, but let every gain of mental attainment be still that we may serve Thee better.

May every breath be for Thee; may every minute be spent for Thee. Help us to live while we live; and while we are busy in the world as we must be, for we are called to it, may we sanctify the world for Thy service. May we be lumps of salt in the midst of society. May our spirit and temper as well as our conversation be heavenly. May there be an influence about us that shall make the world the better before we leave it. Lord, hear us in this thing.

And now that we have Thine ear, we would pray for this poor world in which we live. We are often horrified by it. O, Lord, we could wish that we did not know anything about it for our own comfort. We have said, "Oh, for a lodge in some vast wilderness." We hear of oppression and robbery and murder, and men seem let loose against each other. Lord, have mercy upon this great and wicked city. What is to be done with these millions? What can we do? At least help every child of Thine to do his utmost. May none of us contribute to the evil directly or indirectly, but may we contribute to the good that is in it.

We feel we may speak with Thee now about this, for when Thy servant Abraham stood before Thee and spake with such wonderful familiarity to Thee, he pleaded for Sodom, and we plead for London. We would follow the example of the Father of the Faithful and pray for all great cities, and indeed for all the nations. Lord, let Thy kingdom come. Send forth Thy light and Thy truth. Chase the old dragon from his throne, with all his hellish crew. Oh! that the day might come when even upon earth the Son of the woman, the Man-child, should rule the nations, not with a broken staff of wood, but with an enduring scepter of iron, full of mercy, but full of power, full of grace, but yet irresistible. Oh, that that might soon come, the personal advent of our Lord! We long for the millennial triumph of His Word.

Until then, O Lord, gird us for the fight and make us to be among those who overcome, through the blood of the Lamb and through the word of our testimony, because we "love not our lives unto the death."

We lift our voice to Thee in prayer, also, for all our dear ones. Lord, bless the sick and make them well as soon as it is right they should be. Sanctify to them all they have to bear. There are also dear friends who are very weak, some that are very trembling. God bless them. While the tent is being taken down, may the inhabitant within look on with calm joy, for we shall by-andby "be clothed upon with our house that is from heaven." Lord, help us to sit very loose by all these things here below. May we live here like strangers and make the world not a house but an inn, in which we sup and lodge, expecting to be on our journey tomorrow.

Lord, save the unconverted and bring out, we pray Thee, from among them those who are converted, but who have not confessed Christ. May the church be built up by many who, having believed, are baptized unto the sacred name. We pray Thee go on and multiply the faithful in the land. Oh, that Thou wouldst turn the hearts of men to the gospel once more. Thy servant is often very heavy in heart because of the departures from the faith. Oh, bring them back. Let not Satan take away any more of the stars with his tail, but may the lumps of God shine bright. Oh, Thou that walkest amongst the seven golden candlesticks, trim the flame, pour forth the oil, and let the light shine brightly and steadily. Now, Lord, we cannot pray any longer, though we have a thousand things to ask for. Thy servant cannot, so he begs to leave a broken prayer at the mercy seat with this at the foot of it, we ask in the name of Jesus Christ Thy Son. Amen.

Prayer 2: Thanks Be unto God

O Lord God, help us now really to worship Thee. We would thank Thee for this occasion. We bless Thy name for setting apart this hallowed season. Lord, wilt Thou shut the door upon the world for us? Help us to forget our cares. Enable us to rise clean out of this world. May we get rid of all its downdragging tendencies. May the attractions of these grossest things be gone, and do Thou catch us away to Thyself.

We do not ask to be entranced nor to see an angel in shining apparel, but we do ask that by faith we may see Jesus, and may His presence be so evidently realized among us that we may rejoice as well as if our eyes beheld Him, and love Him and trust Him and worship Him as earnestly as we should do if we could now put our fingers into the print of the nails.

O Thou precious Lord Jesus Christ, we do adore Thee with all our hearts. Thou art Lord of all. We bless Thee for becoming man that Thou mightest be our next of kin, and being next of kin, we bless Thee for taking us into marriage union with Thyself and for redeeming us and our inheritance from the captivity into which we were sold. Thou hast paid Thy life for Thy people. Thou hast ransomed Thy folk with Thy heart's blood. Be Thou, therefore, forever beloved and adored.

And now Thou art not here, for Thou art risen. Our souls would track the shining way by which Thou hast ascended through the gate of pearl up to Thy Father's throne. We seem to see Thee sitting there, Man, yet God, reigning over all things for Thy people; and our ears almost catch the accents of the everlasting song which rolls up at Thy feet, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive honor, and power, and glory, and dominion, and might forever and ever." Lord, we say, "Amen." From the outskirts of the crowd that surround Thy throne, we lift up our feeble voices in earnest "Amens," for Thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood and hast made us kings and priests unto God, and we shall reign with Thee, for though far off by space, we know that we are very near to Thy heart. Thou lookest over the heads of the angelic squadrons to behold us and Thou dost hear the praises—aye, and the groans of Thy well-beloved, for are not we most near Thee, Thy flesh and Thy bones? We know we are. We feel the ties of kinship within us. We our best Beloved's are, and He is ours, and we are longing to get through the crowd that surround Him, and to get to the forefront, and there to bow prostrate at the dear feet that were nailed to the tree for us, and worship the Lamb Who liveth forever and ever, Who has prevailed to take the book and loose the seven seals thereof, to Whom be glory, world without end. Hallelujah!

O, Savior, accept these our poor praises. They come from those Thou lovest, and as we prize any little things that come from those we love, so do we feel that Thou wilt accept the thanksgiving, the reverential homage of Thy people, redeemed ones who are a people near unto Thee, whose names are graven on the palms of Thy hands, of whom Thou art the active head and for whom Thy heart beats true and full of love even now.

Oh, we can say we love Thee. We wish we loved Thee more, but Thou art very dear to us. There is nought on earth like Thee. For the love of Thy name we would live and die. If we think we love Thee more than we do, we pray that we may yet love Thee more than we think. Oh, take these hearts right away and unite them with Thine own, and be Thou heart and soul and life and everything to us, for whom have we in heaven but Thee and there is none upon earth we desire beside Thee.

We worship the Father, we worship the Son, we worship the Holy Ghost with all the powers of our being. We fall prostrate before the awful yet glorious throne of the Infinite Majesty of heaven. The Lord accept us since we offer these praises in the name of Jesus.

And now most blessed Lord, look down upon those who do not love Thee. O Redeemer, look upon them with those eyes of Thine which are as flames of fire. Let them see how ill they treat Thee. May they consider within themselves how dire is the ingratitude which can be negligent of a Savior's blood, indifferent from a Savior's heart. Oh, bring the careless and the godless to seek for mercy. Let those that are postponing serious things begin to see that the very thought of postponement of the claims of Christ is treason against His Majesty. O Savior, dart Thine arrows abroad and let them wound many that they may fall down before thee and cry out for mercy.

But there are some who are wounded, broken hearts that seek peace men and women, like Cornelius, that want to hear the words which God commands. Oh, come divine Physician and bind up every broken bone. Come with Thy sacred nard³ which Thou hast compounded of Thine own heart's blood, and lay it home to the wounded conscience, and let it feel its power. Oh, give peace to those whose conscience is like the troubled sea which cannot rest.

O God, our God, let not the teaching of the Sunday school, the preaching of the evangelists, the personal visitations of individual minds, let not any of these efforts be in vain. Do give conversions. We groan out this prayer from our very heart, yet can we also sing it, for Thou hast heard us plenteously already, and our heart doth rejoice in God the Savior Who worketh so graciously among the children of men.

We have been astonished as the Holy Ghost has fallen even upon the chief of sinners, and men afar off from God have been brought in. But, Lord, do more of this among us. Let us see greater things than these. Where we have had one saved, let us have a hundred to the praise of the glorious name and the Well-beloved.

Lord, keep us all from sin. Teach us how to walk circumspectly. Enable us to guard our minds against error of doctrine, our hearts against wrong feelings, and our lives against evil actions. Oh, may we never speak unadvisedly with our lips, nor give way to anger. Above all, keep us from covetousness which is idolatry and from malice which is of the devil. Grant unto us to be full of sweetness and light. May love dwell in us and reign in us. May we look not every man on his own things, but every man on the things of others. Give us to live for Jesus. There is no life like it. Help us to be Christly men, Christ's men, and may we in all things reflect the light which we receive from Him.

Bless our beloved church and all its organizations. O God, take care of it. Oh, do thou make every member of the church a pastor over others. Let all strive together for the good of all, and so may Thy kingdom come among us.

And do Thou prosper all the churches of Jesus Christ. What we ask for ourselves, we seek for them. Let missionaries especially be helped by Thy Spirit and may there come a day in which the minds of men may be better prepared to receive the gospel, and may Messiah's kingdom come to the overthrow of her that sitteth on the Seven Hills, and to the eternal waning of Mohammed's moon, to the overthrow of every idol, that Christ alone may reign. Our whole heart comes out in this. Reign, Immanuel, reign. Sit on the high throne. Ride on Thy white horse and let the armies of heaven follow

³ nard – healing ointment.

thee, conquering and to conquer. Come, Lord Jesus, even so, come quickly. Amen and amen.

Prayer 3: The Love without Measure or End

Lord, we would come to Thee, but do Thou come to us. Draw us, and we will run after Thee. Blessed Spirit, help our infirmities, for we know not what we should pray for as we ought. Come, Holy Spirit, and give right thoughts and right utterance that we may all be able to pray in the common prayer, the whole company feeling that for each one there is a portion. We are grateful as we remember that if the minister in the sanctuary should not be able to pray for any one of us there is One Who bears the names of all His redeemed upon His breast and upon His shoulder, Who will take care with the love of His heart and the power of His hand to maintain the cause of all His own.

Dear Savior, we put ourselves under Thy sacred patronage. Advocate with the Father, plead for us this day, yea, make intercession for the transgressors. We desire to praise the name of the Lord with our whole heart, so many of us as have tasted that the Lord is gracious. Truly Thou hast delivered us from the gulf of dark despair, wherein we wretched sinners lay. Thou hast brought us up also out of the horrible pit and out of the miry clay. Thou hast set our feet upon a rock, and the new song which Thou hast put into our mouths we would not stifle, but we would bless the Lord Whose mercy endureth forever.

We thank Thee, Lord, for the love without beginning which chose us or ever⁴ the earth was, for the love without measure which entered into covenant for our redemption, for the love without failure which in due time appeared in the person of Christ and wrought out our redemption, for that love which has never changed, though we have wandered, that love which abideth faithful even when we are unfaithful.

O God, we praise Thee for keeping us till this day and for the full assurance that Thou wilt never let us go. Some can say, "He restoreth my soul." They had wandered, wandered sadly, but Thou hast brought them back again. Lord, keep us from wandering; then will we sing, "Unto Him that is able to keep us from stumbling and to present us faultless before His presence with exceeding joy." Bless the Lord. Our inmost soul blesses the Lord. Blessed be the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Triune. Blessed be the Lord for every office sustained by each divine person and for the divine blessing which has come streaming down to us through each one of those condescending titles worn by the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

⁴ or ever – before.

We feel like singing all the time. We would take down our harp from the willows, if we had hung it there, and we would waken every string to the sweetest melody of praise unto the Lord our God. Yet, Lord, we cannot close with praise, for we are obliged to come before Thee with humble confession of sin. We are not worthy of the least of all these favors. We cannot say, "He is worthy for whom Thou shouldst do this thing," nay, but we are altogether unworthy, and Thy gifts are according to the riches of Thy grace, for which again we praise Thee.

Lord, forgive us all our sin. May Thy pardoned ones have a renewed sense of their acceptance in the Beloved. If any cloud has arisen to hide Thee from any believing eye, take that cloud away. If in our march through this world, so full of mire as it is, we have any spot on us, dear Savior, wash our feet with that blessed foot-bath and then say to us, "Ye are clean every whit." May we know it so, that there is no condemnation, no separation, sin is removed as to its separating as well as its destroying power, and may we enter into full fellowship with God. May we walk in the light as God is in the light and have fellowship with Him, while the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin. Let no child of Thine have any dead work upon his conscience, and may our conscience be purged from dead works to serve the living and true God.

And oh, if there are any that after having made the profession of religion have gone astray by any form of sin, Lord, restore them. If they have fallen by strong drink, if they have fallen by unchastity, if they have fallen by dishonesty, if, in any way, they have stained their garments, oh, that Thy mighty grace might bring them back and put them yet among the children. But give them not up, set them not as Admah, make them not as Zeboim, but let Thy repentings be kindled and Thy bowels of compassion be moved for them, and let them also be moved, and may they return with weeping and with supplication and find Thee a God ready to pardon.

Furthermore, we ask of Thee, our Father, this day to perfect Thy work within our hearts. We are saved, but we would be saved from sin of every form and degree—from sins that lie within and we are scarcely aware that they are there. If we have any pride of which we are not conscious, any unbelief of which we are not aware, if there is a clinging to the creature, a form of idolatry which we have not yet perceived, we pray Thee, Lord, to search us as with candles till Thou dost spy out the evil and then put it away. We are not satisfied with pardoned sin. We pray, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Help us in our daily life, in our families, in our relations as husbands or wives, parents or children, masters or servants, in our business transactions with our fellow men, in our dealings with the church of God. May we be true, upright, pure, kept from the great transgression because we are kept from the minor.

Oh, that we may be such as glorify Christ. Save us, we pray Thee, from the common religion. Give us the peculiar grace of a peculiar people. May we abide in Christ. May we live near to God. Let not the frivolities of the world have any power over us whatever. May we be too full-grown in grace to be bewitched with the toys which are only becoming in children. Oh, give us to serve Thee and especially—and this prayer we have already prayed but we pray it again—make us useful in the salvation of our fellow man. O Lord, have we lived so long in the world and yet are our children unconverted? May we never rest until they are truly saved. Have we been going up and down in business, and are those round about us as yet unaware of our Christian character? Have we never spoken to them the Word of Life? Lord, arouse us to a deep concern for all with whom we come in contact from day to day. Make us all missionaries at home or in the street, or in our workshop, wherever Providence has cast our lot, may we there shine as lights in the world.

Lord, keep us right, true in doctrine, true in experience, true in life, true in word, true in deed. Let us have an intense agony of spirit concerning the many who are going down to the everlasting fire of which our Master spoke. Lord, save them! LORD, SAVE THEM! Stay, we pray Thee, the torrents of sin that run down the streets of London, purge the Dead Sea of sin, in which so many of the heathen are lying asoak. Oh, that the day were come when the name of Jesus shall be a household word, when everybody knew of His love, and of His death, and of His blood, and of its cleansing power. Lord, save men. Gather out the company of the redeemed people. Let those whom the Father gave to Christ be brought out from among the ruins of the Fall to be His joy and crown. "Let the people praise Thee, O God, yea, let all the people praise Thee." Let the ends of the earth fear Him Who died to save them. Let the whole earth be filled with the glory of God.

This is our great prayer, and we crown it with this, Come, Lord Jesus. Come, Lord, and tarry not. Come in the fulness of Thy power and the splendor of Thy glory! Come quickly, even so come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Prayer 4: The All-Prevailing Plea

O Lord God, the Fountain of all fullness, we, who are nothing but emptiness, come unto Thee for all supplies, nor shall we come in vain, since we bear with us a plea which is all prevalent. Since we come commanded by Thy Word, encouraged by Thy promise, and preceded by Christ Jesus, our great

High Priest, we know that whatsoever we shall ask in prayer, believing, we shall receive. Only do Thou help us now to ask right things and may the utterances of our mouth be acceptable in Thy sight, O God our Strength and our Redeemer.

We would first adore Thy blessed and ever-to-be-beloved Name. All the earth doth worship Thee, the Father everlasting. Heaven is full of Thy glory. Oh, that men's hearts were filled therewith, that the noblest creatures Thou hast made, whom Thou didst set in the Paradise of God, for whom the Savior shed His blood, loved Thee with all their hearts.

The faithful, chosen, called, and separated join in the everlasting song. All Thy redeemed praise Thee, O God! As the God of our election, we extol Thee for Thine everlasting and immutable love. As the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we bless Thee for that unspeakable gift, the offering of Thine Only-begotten. Words are but air, and tongues but clay, and Thy compassion is divine, therefore it is not possible that any words of ours should "reach the height of this great argument" or sound forth Thy worthy praise for this superlative deed of grace.

We bless Thee, also, divine Son of God, coequal and coeternal with the Father, that Thou didst not disdain to be born of the Virgin, and that, being found in fashion like a man, thou didst not refuse to be obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Let Thy brows be girt with something better than thorns. Let the eternal diadem forever glitter there. Thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood. Unto Thee be glory, and honor, and power, and majesty, and dominion, and might, forever and ever!

And equally, most blessed Spirit, Thou Who didst brood over chaos and bring it into order, Thou Who didst beget the Son of God's body of flesh, Thou Who didst quicken us to spiritual life, by Whose divine energy we are sanctified and hope to be made meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light, unto Thee also be hallelujahs, world without end!

O Lord, our soul longeth for words of fire, but we cannot reach them! Oh, when shall we drop this clay which now is so uncongenial to our song? When shall we be able with wings to mount upward to Thy throne, and having learned some flaming sonnets that have once been sung by cherubim above, we shall praise Thee forever?

Yet even these are not rich enough for Thy glory. We would sing unto Thee a new song. We will, when we reach the heavenly shore, become leaders of the eternal music. "Day without night" will we "circle God's throne rejoicing," and count it the fulness of our glory, our bliss, our heaven, to wave the palm, and cast our crowns with our songs at Thy feet forever and ever! Our Father, which art in heaven, next to this we would offer prayer for those who never think of Thee, who, though created by Thee, are strangers to Thee, who are fed by Thy bounty and yet never lift their voices to Thee, but live for self, for the world, for Satan, for sin. Father, these cannot pray for themselves, for they are dead. Thy quickened children pray for them. These will not come to Thee, for, like sheep, they are lost, but do Thou seek them, Father, and bring them back.

O our glorious Lord, Thou hast taught us to pray for others, for the grace which could have met with such undeserving sinners as we are must be able to meet with the vilest of the vile. Oh, we cannot boast of what we are. We cannot boast of what we have been by nature. Had we our doom, we had now been in hell. Had we this day our proper, natural, and deserved position, we should still have been in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity. 'Tis Thy rich, free, sovereign, distinguishing grace which has brought us up out of the miry clay and set our feet upon a rock. And shall we even refuse to pray for others? Shall we leave a stone unturned for their conversion? Shall we not weep for those who have no tears and cry for those who have no prayers? Father, we must and we will.

Fain our pity would reclaim, And snatch the firebrands from the flame.

There are those who are utterly careless about divine things. Wilt Thou impress them! May some stray shot reach their conscience! Oh, that they may be led solemnly to consider their position and their latter end! May thoughts of death and of eternity dash like some mighty waves, irresistibly against their souls! Oh, may heaven's light shine into their conscience! May they begin to ask themselves where they are, and what they are, and may they be turned unto the Lord with full purpose of heart.

There are others who are concerned, but they are halting between two opinions. There are some that we love in the flesh who have not yet decided for God. Behold it trembles in the balance! Cast in Thy cross, O Jesus, and turn the scale! O love irresistible, come forth and carry by blessed storm the hearts which have not yet yielded to all the attacks of the law! Oh, that some who never could be melted, even by the furnace of Sinai, may be dissolved by the beams of love from the tearful eyes of Jesus!

Lord, Lord, if there be a heart that is saying, "Now, behold I yield. Lo, at Thy feet rebellion's weapons I lay down and cease to be Thy foe, Thou King of kings"—if there be one who is saying, "I am willing to be espoused unto Christ, to be washed in His blood, to be called in His righteousness"—bring that willing sinner in now! May there be no longer delay, but may this be the time when, once for all, the great transaction shall be done and they shall be their Lord's and He shall be theirs.

Oh, that we could pour out our soul in prayer for the unconverted! Thou knowest where they will all be in a few years! Oh, by Thy wrath, we pray Thee, let them not endure it! By the flames of hell, be pleased to ransom them from going down into the pit! By everything that is dreadful in the wrath to come, we do argue with Thee to have mercy upon these sons of men, even upon those who have no mercy upon themselves. Father, hast Thou not promised Thy Son to see of His soul's travail? We point Thee to the ransom paid. We point Thee once again to the groans of Thy Son, to His agony and bloody sweat! Turn, turn Thy glorious eyes thither, and then look on sinners and speak the word and bid them live.

Righteous Father, refresh every corner of the vineyard, and on every branch of the vine let the dew of heaven rest. Oh, that Thou wouldest bless Thy church throughout the world! Let visible union be established, or if not that, yet let the invisible union which has always existed be better recognized by believers. Wilt Thou repair our schisms? Wilt Thou repair the breaches which have been made in the walls of Zion? Oh, that Thou wouldest purge us of everything unscriptural, till all Christians shall come to the law and to the testimony, and still keep the ordinances and the doctrines as they were committed to the apostles by Christ!

Remember our land in this time of need. Do Thou be pleased by some means to relieve the distress prevalent. Quicken the wheels of commerce that the many who are out of employment in this city may no longer be crying for work and bread. Oh, that Thou wouldest make wars to cease to the ends of the earth, or when they break out, break Thou the slave's fetters thereby, and though desperate be the evil, yet grant that Satan may cast out Satan and may his kingdom be divided and so fall.

Above all, Thou long-expected Messiah, do Thou come! Thine ancient people who despised Thee once are waiting for Thee in Thy second coming, and we, the Gentiles, who knew Thee not, neither regarded Thee, we too are watching for Thine advent. Make no tarrying, O Jesus! May Thy feet soon stand again on Olivet! Thou shalt not have this time there to sweat great drops of blood, but Thou shall come to proclaim the year of vengeance for Thy foes and the year of acceptance for Thy people.

When wilt thou the heavens rend, In majesty come down?

Earth travails for Thy coming. The whole creation groaneth in pain together until now. Thine own expect Thee. We are longing till we are weary for Thy coming. Come quickly, Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen and Amen.

Prayer 5: To the King Eternal

Our God and Father, draw us to Thyself by Thy Spirit and may the few minutes that we spend in prayer be full of the true spirit of supplication. Grant that none of us with closed eyes may yet be looking abroad over the fields of vanity, but may our eyes be really shut to everything else now but that which is spiritual and divine. May we have communion with God in the secret of our hearts and find Him to be to us as a little sanctuary.

O Lord, we do not find it easy to get rid of distracting thoughts, but we pray Thee help us to draw the sword against them and drive them away, and as when the birds came down upon his sacrifice Abraham drove them away, so may we chase away all cares, all thoughts of pleasure, everything else, whether it be pleasing or painful, that would keep us away from real fellowship with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

We would begin with adoration. We worship from our hearts the Three in One, the infinitely glorious Jehovah, the only living and true God. We adore the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob. We are not yet ascended to the place where pure spirits behold the face of God, but we shall soon be there, perhaps much sooner than we think, and we would be there in spirit now, casting our crowns upon the glassy sea before the throne of the Infinite Majesty and ascribing glory and honor, and power and praise, and dominion and might to Him that sitteth upon the throne and unto the Lamb forever and ever.

All the Church doth worship Thee, O God. Every heart renewed by grace takes a delight in adoring Thee; and we, among the rest, though least and meanest of them all, yet would bow as heartily as any, worshipping, loving, praising in our soul—being silent unto God because our joy in Him is altogether inexpressible.

Lord, help us to worship Thee in life as well as lip. May our whole being be taken up with Thee. As when the fire fell down on Elijah's sacrifice of old and licked up even the water that was in the trenches, so may the consuming fire of the divine Spirit use up all our nature, and even that which might seem to hinder, even out of that may God get glory by the removal of it. Thus would we adore.

But, O dear Savior, we come to Thee and we remember what our state is, and the condition we are in encourages us to come to Thee now as beggars, as dependents upon Thy heavenly charity. Thou art a Savior, and as such Thou art on the outlook for those that need saving. And here we are; here we come. We are the men and women Thou art looking for, needing a Savior. Great Physician, we bring Thee our wounds and bruises and putrefying sores. And the more diseased we are and the more conscious we are today of the depravity of our nature, of the deep-seated corruption of our hearts, the more we feel that we are the sort of beings that Thou art seeking for, for the whole have no need of a physician, but they that are sick.

Glorious Benefactor, we can meet Thee on good terms, for we are full of poverty. We are just as empty as we can be. We could not be more abjectly dependent than we are. Since Thou wouldest display Thy mercy, here is our sin. Since Thou wouldest show Thy strength, here is our weakness. Since Thou wouldest manifest Thy lovingkindness, here are our needs. Since Thou wouldest glorify Thy grace, here are we, such persons as can never have a shadow of a hope except through Thy grace, for we are undeserving, illdeserving, hell-deserving, and if Thou do not magnify Thy grace in us, we must perish forever.

And somehow we feel it sweet to come to Thee in this way. If we had to tell Thee that we had some good thing in us which Thou didst require of us, we should be questioning whether we were not flattering ourselves and presumptuously thinking that we were better than we are. Lord Jesus, we come just as we are. This is how we came at first, and this is how we come still. With all our failures, with all our transgressions, with all and everything that is what it ought not to be, we come to Thee. We do bless Thee that Thou dost receive us and our wounds, and by Thy stripes we are healed. Thou dost receive us and our sins, and by Thy sin-bearing we are set clear and free from sin. Thou dost receive us and our death, even our death, for Thou art He that liveth and was dead, and art alive forevermore.

We just come and lie at Thy feet, obedient to that call of Thine, "Come unto Me, all ye that labour...and I will give you rest" (Mat 11:28). Let us feel sweet rest, since we do come at Thy call. May some come that have never come till this day, and may others who have been coming these many years consciously come again, coming unto Thee as unto a living stone, chosen of God and precious, to build our everlasting hopes upon.

But, Lord, now that we are come so near Thee and on right terms with Thee, we venture to ask Thee this: that we that love Thee may love Thee very much more. Oh, since Thou hast been precious, Thy very name has music in it to our ears, and there are times when Thy love is so inexpressibly strong upon us that we are carried away with it. We have felt that we would gladly die to increase Thine honor. We have been willing to lose our name and our repute if so be Thou mightest be glorified. And truly we often feel that if the crushing of us would lift Thee one inch the higher, we would gladly suffer it. For O Thou blessed King, we would set the crown on Thy head, even if the sword should smite our arm off at the shoulder blade. Thou must be King whatever becomes of us. Thou must be glorified whatever becomes of us.

But yet we have to mourn that we cannot get always to feel as we should this rapture and ardor of love. Oh, at times Thou dost manifest Thyself to us so charmingly that heaven itself could scarce be happier than the world becomes when Thou art with us in it. But when Thou art gone and we are in the dark, oh, give us the love that loves in the dark, that loves when there is no comfortable sense of Thy presence. Let us not be dependent upon feeling, but may we ever love Thee, so that if Thou didst turn Thy back on us by the year together, we would think none the less of Thee, for Thou art unspeakably to be beloved whatsoever Thou doest. And if Thou dost give us rough words, yet still we would cling to Thee. And if the rod be used till we tingle again, yet still will we love Thee, for Thou art infinitely to be beloved of all men and angels, and Thy Father loved Thee. Make our hearts to love Thee evermore the same. With all the capacity for love that there is in us, and with all the more that Thou canst give us, may we love our Lord in spirit and in truth.

Help us, Lord, to conquer sin out of love to Thee. Help some dear strugglers that have been mastered by sin sometimes, and they are struggling against it. Give them the victory, Lord. And when the battle gets very sharp and they are tempted to give way a little, help them to be very firm and very strong, never giving up hope in the Lord Jesus, and resolving that if they perish they will perish at His feet and nowhere else but there.

Lord, raise up in our churches many men and women that are all on fire with love to Christ and His divine gospel. Oh, give us back again men like Antipas, Thy faithful martyr, men like Paul, Thy earnest servant who proclaimed Thy truth so boldly. Give us Johns, men to whom the Spirit may speak, who shall bid us hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. Lord, revive us! Lord, revive us! Revive Thy work in the midst of the years in all the churches. Return unto the church of God in this country. Return unto her. Thine adversaries think to have it all their own way, but they will not, for the Lord liveth, and blessed be our Rock.

Because of truth and righteousness, we beseech Thee lay bare Thine arm in these last days. O Shepherd of Israel, deal a heavy blow at the wolves, and keep Thy sheep in their own true pastures, free from the poisonous pastures of error. O God, we would stir Thee up. We know Thou sleepest not, and yet sometimes it seems as if Thou didst sleep awhile and leave things to go on in their own way. We beseech Thee, awake. Plead Thine own cause. We know Thine answer, "Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion" (Isa 52:1). This we would do, Lord, but we cannot do it unless Thou dost put forth Thy strength to turn our weakness into might.

Great God, save this nation! O God of heaven and earth, stay the floods of infidelity and of filthiness that roll over this land. Would God we might see better days! Men seem entirely indifferent now. They will not come to hear the Word as once they did. God of our fathers, let Thy Spirit work again among the masses. Turn the hearts of the people to the hearing of the Word and convert them when they hear it. May it be preached with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven.

Our hearts are weary for Thee, Thou King, Thou King forgotten in thine own land, Thou King despised among Thine own people. When wilt Thou yet be glorious before the eyes of all mankind? Come, we beseech Thee, come quickly, or if Thou comest not personally, send forth the Holy Spirit with a greater power than ever that our hearts may leap within us as they see miracles of mercy repeated in our midst.

Father, glorify Thy Son. Somehow our prayer always comes to this before we have done. "Father, glorify Thy Son, that Thy Son also may glorify Thee" (Joh 17:1), and let the days come when "he shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied" (Isa 53:11). Bless all work done for Thee, whether it be in the barn or in the cathedral, silently and quietly at the street door, or in the Sunday school or in the classes. O Lord, bless Thy work. Hear also prayers that have been put up by wives for their husbands, children for their parents, parents for their children. Let the holy service of prayer never cease, and let the intercession be accepted of God for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Prayer 6: The Wonders of Calvary

Great God, there was a time when we dreaded the thought of coming near to Thee, for we were guilty and Thou wast angry with us, but now we will praise Thee because Thine anger is turned away and Thou comfortest us. Ay, and the very throne which once was a place of dread has now become the place of shelter. I flee unto Thee to hide me.

We long now to get right away from the world, even from the remembrance of it, and have fellowship with the world to come by speaking with Him that was, and is, and is to come, the Almighty. Lord, we have been worried and wearied oftentimes with care, but with Thee care comes to an end. All things are with Thee; and when we live in Thee, we live in wealth, in sure repose, in constant joy.

We have to battle with the sons of men against a thousand errors and unrighteousnesses, but when we flee to Thee, there all is truth and purity and holiness, and our heart finds peace. Above all, we have to battle with ourselves, and we are very much ashamed of ourselves. After many years of great mercy, after tasting of the powers of the world to come, we still are so weak, so foolish, but oh, when we get away from self to God, there all is truth and purity and holiness and our heart finds peace, wisdom, completeness, delight, joy, victory.

Oh, bring us, then, we pray Thee, now near to Thyself. Let us bathe ourselves in communion with our God. Blessed be the love which chose us before the world began. We can never sufficiently adore Thee for Thy sovereignty, the sovereignty of love which saw us in the ruins of the Fall, yet loved us notwithstanding all.

We praise the God of the Eternal Council Chamber and of the Everlasting Covenant, but where shall we find sufficiently fit words with which to praise Him Who gave us grace in Christ His Son before He spread the starry sky. We also bless Thee, O God, as the God of our redemption, for Thou hast so loved us as to give even Thy dear Son for us. He gave Himself, His very life, for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity and separate us unto Himself to be His peculiar people, zealous for good works.

Never can we sufficiently adore free grace and dying love. The wonders of Calvary never cease to be wonders. They are growingly marvelous in our esteem as we think of Him Who washed us from our sins in His own blood. Nor can we cease to praise the God of our regeneration Who found us dead and made us live, found us at enmity and reconciled us, found us loving the things of this world and lifted us out of the slough and mire of selfishness and worldliness into the love of divine everlasting things.

O Spirit of God, we love Thee this day, especially for dwelling in us. How canst Thou abide in so rude a habitation. How canst Thou make these bodies to be Thy temples, and yet Thou dost so, for which let Thy name be had in reverence so long as we live.

O Lord, we would delight ourselves in Thee this day. Give us faith and love and hope that with these three graces we may draw very near to the Triune God. Thou wilt keep us, Thou wilt preserve us, Thou wilt feed us, Thou wilt lead us, and Thou wilt bring us to the mind of God, and there wilt Thou show us Thy love. And in the glory everlasting had boundless, there wilt Thou make us know and taste and feel the joys that cannot be expressed. But a little longer waiting, and we shall come to the golden shore. But a little longer fighting, and we shall receive the crown of life that fadeth not away.

Lord, get us up above the world. Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly dove, and mount and bear us on Thy wings, far from these inferior sorrows and inferior joys, up where eternal ages roll. May we ascend in joyful contemplation, and may our spirit come back again, strong for all its service, armed for all its battles, armored for all its dangers, and made ready to live heaven on earth, until by-and-by we shall live heaven in heaven. Great Father, be with Thy waiting people. Any in great trouble, do Thou greatly help. Any that are despondent, do Thou sweetly comfort and cheer. Any that have erred and are smarting under their own sin, do Thou bring them back and heal their wounds. Any that this day are panting after holiness, do Thou give them the desire of their hearts. Any that are longing for usefulness, do Thou lead them into ways of usefulness.

Lord, we want to live while we live. We do pray that we may not merely groan out an existence here below, nor live as earthworms crawling back into our holes and dragging now and then a withered leaf with us. But oh, give us to live as we ought to live, with a new life that Thou hast put into us, with the divine quickening which has lifted us as much above common men as men are lifted above the beasts that perish.

Do not let us always be hampered like poor half-hatched birds within the egg. May we chip the shell today and get out into the glorious liberty of the children of God. Grant us this, we pray Thee.

Lord, visit our church. We have heard Thy message to the churches at Ephesus. It is a message to us also. Oh, do not let any of us lose our first love. Let not our church grow cold and dead. We are not, we fear, what once we were. Lord, revive us! All our help must come from Thee. Give back to the church its love, its confidence, its holy daring, its consecration, its liberality, its holiness. Give back all it ever had and give it much more. Take every member and wash his feet, sweet Lord, most tenderly, and set us with clean feet in a clean road, with a clean heart to guide them. And do Thou bless us as Thou art wont⁵ to do after a divine fashion.

Bless us, our Father, and let all the churches of Jesus Christ partake of like cause and tenderness. Walking among the golden candlesticks, trim every lamp and make every light, even though it burneth but feebly now, to shine out gloriously through Thy care.

⁵ wont – accustomed.

Now bless the sinners. Lord, convert them. O God, save men. Save this great city, this wicked city, this slumbering, dead city. Lord, arouse it. Arouse it by any means, that it may turn unto its God. Lord, save sinners all the world over and let Thy precious Word be fulfilled. "Behold, he cometh with clouds" (Rev 1:7). Why dost Thou tarry? Make no tarrying, oh, our Lord. And now unto Father, Son, and Holy Ghost be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer 7: "Let All the People Praise Thee"

Our Father, when we read Thy description of human nature, we are sure it is true, for Thou hast seen man ever since his Fall, and Thou hast been grieved at heart concerning him. Moreover, Thou hast such a love towards him that Thou didst not judge him harshly, and every word that Thou hast spoken must be according to truth. Thou hast measured and computed the iniquity of man, for Thou hast laid it on the Well-Beloved, and we know Thou hast not laid upon Him more than is meet.⁶

O God, we are distressed, we are bowed down greatly, when we see what is the condition to which we and all our race have fallen. "Where is boasting then?" (Rom 3:27). And yet we grieve to say that we do boast, and have boasted, and that our fellowmen are great at boasting, whereas they ought rather to lay their hands upon their mouths before Thee.

It has become a wonder to us that Thou shouldst look upon man at all. The most hateful object in creation must be a man, because he slew Thy Son, because he has multiplied rebellions against a just and holy law. And yet truly there is no sight that gives Thee more pleasure than man, for Jesus was a man, and the brightness of His glory covers all our shame, and the pureness and perfectness of His obedience shines like the sun in the midst of the thick darkness. For His sake Thou art well pleased and Thou dost dwell with us.

Lord, we once thought that those descriptions of our heart were somewhat strained, but we think not so now, for verily we perceive that had it not been for restraint which held us like fetters, we, in our unregenerate state, were capable of anything, for even now when we are regenerate, the old sin that abideth in us is capable of reaching to a high degree of infamy, and did not the new life restrain the old death, we know not what we might yet become.

We thought once we were humble, but we soon found that our pride will feed on any current flattery that is laid at our door. We thought we were believers, but sometimes we are so doubting, so unbelieving, so vexed with

⁶ meet – fitting; proper.

skepticism that we should not certainly choose to follow. That is Thy work in us. By nature, we are such liars that we think Thee a liar too. The surest token of our untruthfulness [is] that we think that Thou canst be untrue.

Oh, this base heart of ours! Hath it not enough tinder in it to set on fire the course of nature? If a spark does but fall into it, any one of our members left to itself would dishonor Christ, deny the Lord that bought us, and turn back into perdition.

We are altogether ashamed. Truly in us is fulfilled Thine own Word, "That thou mayest...be confounded, and never open thy mouth any more" (Eze 16:63). For Thy love to us hath silenced us. That great love hath hidden boasting from us—Thy great love wherewith Thou lovedst us even when we were dead in trespasses and sins, Thy great love wherewith Thou hast loved us still despite our ill manners, our wanderings, our shortcomings, and our excesses.

Oh, the matchless love of God! Truly if there be any glory it must be all the Lord's. If there be any virtue, it is the result of grace. If there be anything whatsoever that lifts us above the devil himself, it is the work of the divine Spirit, to Whom be glory!

And now at the remembrance of all this, and being in Thy presence, we do yet rejoice that covered is our unrighteousness. From condemnation we are free, and we are the favored of the Lord. Thou hast given us, O Lord, to taste of that love which is not merely laid up for us, but we have enjoyed it and do enjoy it still.

Our heart knows the Father's love, for we have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, "Abba Father." And we joy and rejoice in the redemption of our spirits, and we expect the redemption of our bodies, when at the coming of the Lord they too shall be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed.

O Jesus, Thou wilt bring Thy Israel out of Egypt, and not a hoof shall be left behind. No, not a bone, nor a piece of Thine elect shall be left in the hands of the adversary. We shall come out clean, delivered by Him Who doeth nothing by halves, but Who on the cross said, "It is finished" (Joh 19:30), Who much more will say it on His throne. Glory be unto Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Who hath lifted us up from our ruin and condemnation, and made us new creatures and justified us, and guaranteed us eternal life, which eternal life shall be manifested at the coming of the Lord. All glory be unto His ever-blessed name forever and ever!

And now, Lord, during the few days that remain to us here below, be it all our business to cry, "Behold the Lamb!" Oh! Teach these hearts to be always conscious of Thy love, and then these lips that they may set out as best they can by Thy divine help the matchless story of the cross. Oh, do give us to win many to Jesus. Let us not be barren, but may we have to cry that we are the beloved of the Lord and our offspring with us. May we have many spiritual offspring that shall go with us to the throne, that we may say before Him, "I and the children which God hath given me" (Heb 2:13).

Lord, bless the work of the church and all its branches, and let Thy kingdom come into the hearts of multitudes by its means. Remember all churches that are really at work for Jesus and all private individuals, workers alone, workers by themselves. Let the Lord's own name be made known by tens of thousands. Give the Word, and great may be the multitude of them that publish it. Let all this, our beloved country, know Christ and come to His feet. Let the dark places of this huge city be enlightened with the sweet name of Jesus. And then let the heathen know Thee and the uttermost parts of the earth hear of Thee.

Oh, from the tree declare Thou Thy salvation, and from the throne let it be published in proclamations of a king. "Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee" (Psa 67:5).

Our heart seems as if it had not anything else to ask for when it reaches to this, yet would we go back a moment and say, Lord, forgive us our sins. Lord, sanctify our persons. Lord, guide us in difficulty. Lord, supply our needs. The Lord teach us. The Lord perfect us. The Lord comfort us. The Lord make us meet for the appearing of His Son from heaven!

And now we come back to a theme that still seems to engross our desires. Oh, that Christ might come. Oh, that His Word might be made known to the uttermost ends of the earth! Lord, they die, they perish, they pass away by multitudes! Every time the sun rises and sets, they pass away! Make no tarrying, we beseech Thee. Give wings to the feet of Thy messengers and fire to their mouths that they may proclaim the Word with Pentecostal swiftness and might. Oh, that Thy kingdom might come and Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven, for Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer 8: A Prayer for Holiness

Our Father, we worship and love Thee; and it is one point of our worship that Thou art holy. Time was when we loved Thee for Thy mercy. We knew no more. But now Thou hast changed our hearts and made us in love with goodness, purity, justice, true holiness; and we understand now why the cherubim and seraphim continually do cry, "Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts." We adore Thee because Thou art holy, and we love Thee for Thine infinite perfection. For now, we sigh and cry after holiness ourselves. Sanctify us wholly: spirit, soul, and body. Lord, we mourn over the sins of our past life and our present shortcomings. We bless Thee Thou hast forgiven us. We are reconciled to Thee by the death of Thy Son. There are many who know that they have been washed and that He that beareth away sin has borne their sin away. These are they who now cry to Thee to be delivered from the power of sin, to be delivered from the power of temptation without, but especially from indwelling sin within.

Lord, purify us in head, heart, and hand; and if it be needful that we should be put into the fire to be refined as silver is refined, we would even welcome the fire if we may be rid of the dross. Lord, save us from constitutional sin, from sins of temperament, from sins of our surroundings. Save us from ourselves in every shape, and grant us especially to have the light of love strong within us.

May we love God. May we love Thee, O Savior. May we love the people of God as being members of one body in connection with Thee. May we love the guilty world with that love which desires its salvation and conversion. And may we love not in word only, but in deed and in truth. May we help the helpless, comfort the mourner, sympathize with the widow and fatherless, and may we be always ready to put up with wrong, to be longsuffering, to be very patient, full of forgiveness, counting it a small thing that we should forgive our fellowmen since we have been forgiven of God. Lord, tune our hearts to love and then give us an inward peace, a restfulness about everything.

May we have no burden to carry, because, though we have a burden, we have rolled it upon the Lord. May we take up our cross and, because Christ has once died on the cross, may our cross become a comfort to us. May we count it all joy when we fall into divers trials, knowing that in all this God will be glorified, His image will be stamped upon us, and the eternal purpose will be fulfilled, wherein He has predestinated us to be conformed unto the image of His Son.

Lord, look upon Thy people. We might pray about our troubles. We will not. We will only pray against our sins. We might come to Thee about our weariness, about our sickness, about our disappointment, about our poverty, but we will leave all that. We will only come about sin. Lord, make us holy, and then do what Thou wilt with us.

We pray Thee, help us to adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things. If we are fighting against sin—"the sin which doth so easily beset us" (Heb 12:1)—Lord, lend us heavenly weapons and heavenly strength that

we may cut the giants down, these men of Anak that come against us. We feel very feeble.

Oh, make us strong in the Lord, in the power of His might. May we never let sin have any rest in us. May we chase it, drive it out, slay it, hang it on a tree, abhor it, and may we "cleave to that which is good" (Rom 12:9).

Some of us are trying, striving after some excellent virtue. Lord, help stragglers. Enable those that contend against great difficulties only to greater grace, more faith, and so to bring them nearer to God. Lord, we will be holy. By Thy grace, we will never rest until we are. Thou hast begun a good work in us, and Thou wilt carry it on. Thou wilt work in us to will and to do of Thine own good pleasure.

Lord, help the converted child to be correct in his relation to his parents. Help the Christian father or mother to be right in dealing with children. May they not provoke their children to anger lest they may discourage. Take away willfulness from the young. Take away impatience from the old. Lord, help Christian men of business. May they act uprightly. May Christian masters never be hard to their servants, to their workpeople; and may Christian workpeople give to their masters that which is just and equal in the way of work in return for wage. May we as Christian men be always standing upon our rights, but always be willing each one to minister to the help of others.

And oh, that as Christians we might be humble! Lord, take away that stiff-necked, that proud look. Take away from us the spirit of "stand by...for I am holier than thou" (Isa 65:5). Make us condescend to men of low estate, ay, and even to men of low morals, low character. May we seek them out, seek their good. Oh, give to the church of Christ an intense love for the souls of men. May it make our hearts break to think that they will perish in their sin. May we grieve every day because of the sin of this city. Set a mark upon our forehead and let us be known to Thyself as men that sigh and cry for all the abominations that are done in the midst of the city.

O God, save us from a hard heart, an unkind spirit that is insensible to the woes of others. Lord, preserve Thy people also from worldliness, from rioting, from drunkenness, from chambering and wantonness, from strife and envy, from everything that would dishonor the name of Christ that we bear. Lord, make us holy. Our prayer comes back to this. Make us holy. Cleanse the inside, and let the outside be clean too. Make us holy, O God. Do this for Christ's sake. Not that we hope to be saved by our own holiness, but that holiness is salvation. Then we are saved from sin.

Lord, help Thy poor children to be holy. Oh, keep us so if we are so. Keep us even from stumbling, and present us faultless before Thy presence at last. We pray for friends that are ill, for many that are troubled because of the illness of others. We bring before Thee every case of trouble and trial known to us and ask for Thy gracious intervention. We pray for Thy ministers everywhere, for Thy missionary servants. Remember brethren that are making great sacrifice out in the hot sun or in the cold and frozen north. Everywhere preserve those who for Christ's sake carry their lives in their hands.

And our brethren at home, in poverty many of them, working for Christ, Lord, accept them and help us to help them. Sunday school teachers, do Thou remember them and the tract visitors from door to door, and the city missionaries, and the Bible women, all who in any way endeavor to bring Christ under the notice of men. Oh, help them all.

We will offer but one more prayer, and it is this. Lord, look in pity upon any who are not in Christ. May they be converted. May they pass from death to life, and they will never forget it. May they see the eternal light for the first time, and they will remember it even in eternity. Father, help us. Bless us now for Jesus's sake. Amen.

Prayer 9: Glorious Liberty

Our Father, we bless Thy name that we can say from the bottom of our hearts, "Abba, Father." It is the chief joy of our lives that we have become the children of God by faith which is in Christ Jesus, and we can in the deep calm of our spirit say, "Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Mat 6:9-10).

Lord, we thank Thee for the liberty which comes to our emancipated spirit through the adoption which Thou hast made us to enjoy. When we were in servitude, the chains were heavy, for we could not keep Thy law. There was an inward spirit of rebellion. When the commandment came, it irritated our corrupt nature, and sin revived, and we died.

Even when we had some strivings after better things, yet the power that was in us lusted unto evil, and the spirit of the Hagarene⁷ was upon us. We wanted to fly from the Father's house. We were wild men, men of the wilderness, and we loved not living in the Father's house.

O God, we thank Thee that we have not been cast out. Indeed, if Thou hadst then cast out the child of the bondwoman, Thou hadst cast us out, but now through sovereign grace all is altered with us. Blessed be Thy name. It

⁷ Hagarene – son of Hagar; an allusion to Ishmael, Abraham's child after the flesh; spirit of bondage (Gal 4:21ff).

is a work of divine power and love over human nature, for now we are the children of the promise, certainly not born according to the strength of the human will, or of blood, or of birth, but born by the Holy Ghost through the power of the Word, begotten again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, children of the Great Father Who is in heaven, having His life within us. Now, like Isaac, we are heirs according to promise and heirs of the promise, and we dwell at home in the Father's house, and our soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and our mouth shall praise Thee as with joyful lips.

O God, we would not change places with angels, much less with kings of the earth. To be indeed Thy sons and daughters! The thought of it doth bring to our soul a present heaven and the fruition of it shall be our heaven, to dwell forever in the house of the Lord and go no more out, but to be His sons and His heirs forever and ever.

Our first prayer is for others who as yet are in bondage. We thank Thee, Lord, that Thou hast given them the spirit of bondage and made them to fear. We are glad that they should be brought to feel the evil of sin, to feel the perfection of Thy law, to know something of the fiery nature of Thy justice, and so to be shut up unto salvation by grace through faith. But, Lord, let them not tarry long under the pedagogue,⁸ but may the schoolmaster with his rod bring them to Christ.

Lord, cure any of Thy chosen of self-righteousness. Deliver them from any hope in their own abilities, but keep them low. Bring them out of any hope of salvation by their own prayers or their own repentance. Bring them to cast themselves upon Thy grace to be saved by trusting in Christ. Emancipate them from all observance of days, weeks, months, years, and things of human institution, and bring them into the glorious liberty of the children of God that Thy law may become their delight, Thyself become their strength, their all, Thy Son become their joy and their crown. We do pray this with all our hearts.

Lord, deliver any of Thy children from quarrelling with Thee. Help us to be always at one with our God. "It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good" (1Sa 3:18), and blessed be His name forever and ever.

God, bless our country, and the sister country across the flood, and all lands where Thy name is known and reverenced, and heathen lands where it is unknown. God, bless the outposts, the first heralds of mercy, and everywhere may the Lord's kingdom come and His name be glorified. Glory

⁸ **pedagogue** – schoolmaster, referring here to the law (Gal 3:24).

be unto the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Prayer 10: The Music of Praise

O Thou blessed God, we must be helped of Thy Spirit, or we cannot worship Thee aright. Behold, the holy angels adore Thee, and the hosts redeemed by blood bring everlasting hallelujahs to Thy feet. What are we, the creatures of a day, polluted with sin, that we should think that we can praise thee? And yet the music of praise were not complete if Thy children did not join in it, even those of them who are still in this world below. Help us, then. Enable us to tune our harps and to fetch forth music from our spirit.

Verily, Lord, if there are any creatures in the world that can praise Thee, we ought to do so. Each one among us feels that he has some special reason for gratitude. Lord, it is an unspeakable mercy to know Thee—to know Thee as our reconciled God, to know Thee as our Father in Christ Jesus, Who has forgiven us all our trespasses. Oh, it is unspeakably sweet to come and rest in Thee and to know that there is now no cause of quarrel between us and Thee. On the contrary, that we are bound to one another by a covenant which in infinite tenderness and mercy Thou hast made that Thy people might have strong consolation and might boldly take hold on Thee.

Oh, the joy of knowing that we are Thine forever—thine in the trials of life, and thine in the last dread trial of death, and then Thine in resurrection, thine throughout eternity. We do therefore worship Thee, O God, not as a constraining nor under terror or pressure, but cheerfully and gladly, ascribing unto Thee praise, and power, and dominion, and glory, and honor, world without end.

We wish we knew how to do something for Thee. We pray that we may be helped to do so ere we die. Yea, that every flying hour may confess that we have brought Thy gospel some renown, that we may so live as to extend the Redeemer's kingdom at least in some little measure, that ours may not be a fruitless, wasted life, that no faculty of ours may lay by and rust, but to the utmost of our capacity may we be helped of the divine Spirit to spend our whole life in real adoration.

We know that he prays that serves, he praises that gives, he adores that obeys, and the life is the best music. Oh, set it to good music, we pray Thee, and help us all through to keep to each note and may there be no false note in all the singing of our life, but all be according to that sacred score which is written out so fully in the life music of our Lord. We beseech Thee to look down upon Thy children and cheer us. Lord, lift us up. Come, Holy Spirit, like a fresh, bracing wind and let our spirit, through Thy Spirit, rise upward toward God.

We would with much shamefacedness acknowledge our transgressions and sins. There are some that never felt the burden of sin at all. Lord, lay it on them. Press them with it. Almighty God, vex their souls. Let them find no rest till they find rest in Thee. May they never be content to live and die in sin but, of Thine infinite mercy, come to them and make them sorry for their sin.

As for Thy people, we are grieved to think that we do not live better than we do. Blessed be Thy name for every fruit of holiness, for every work of faith—but oh, for more. Thou hast changed the tree. It is no longer a bramble. It can bring forth figs, but now we want to bring forth more of these sweet fruits.

The Lord make us to love Christ intensely, to love the souls of men most heartily, to love Thy truth with earnestness, to love the name of Jesus above everything. May we be ravished with the sound of it. The Lord give us to have every grace, not only love, but faith, and hope, and holy gentleness, meekness, patience, brotherly love. Build us up, we pray Thee, Lord, in all knowledge and in all experience, and give us with this submission to Thy will, holy resignation, great watchfulness, much carefulness in our speech, that we may rule the tongue and so rule the whole body.

The Lord pour out His Spirit upon us that every chamber of our nature may be sweetened and perfumed with the indwelling of God, till our imagination shall only delight in things chaste and pure, till our memory shall cast out the vile stuff from the dark chambers, till we shall expect and long for heavenly things, and our treasure shall all be in heaven and our heart be there. Take our highest manhood, Lord, and saturate it in Thy love, till like Gideon's fleece it is filled with dew, every lock and every single fleck of it, not a single portion of it left unmoistened by the dew from heaven.

How we do bless Thee for many that are striving to walk as Christ walked and who are also trying to bring others to Christ. O Lord, help us in this struggle after holiness and usefulness and as Thou hast given to many the desire of their hearts in this respect up to a certain measure, now enlarge their hearts and give them more both of holiness and usefulness. Oh, give us to be like trees planted by the rivers of water, that we ourselves may be vigorous, and then give us to bring forth abundant fruit according to our season, to the praise and glory of God.

Our desire is that we may be quickened in our progress toward the celestial life. Visit us with Thy salvation. Lord, let us not only have life, but

let us have it more abundantly. May we, every one of us, quicken his pace and may we run more earnestly than ever toward the mark that is set before us.

Remember all Thy church throughout the whole world. Prosper missionary operations. Be with any ministers or missionaries that are depressed for lack of success. Be with any that are rejoicing because of success. May each heart be kept in a right state, so that Thou mayest use Thy servants to the utmost of possibility.

O God, send us better days than these, we pray Thee. We thank Thee for all the light there is, but send us more light. We thank Thee for what life there is among Christians, but send more of it. Bind the churches together in unity, and then give them such speed, such force, such power that they shall break into the ranks of the adversary and the victory shall be unto Christ and to His people.

Remember our dear country. Bless the Sovereign. Remember all those that lead our legislature. Be gracious unto all ranks and conditions of men. Have mercy upon all that are poor and needy, all that are sick and sorrowing, and that are tossed upon the sea. Remember the prisoners and such as have no helper. Be gracious to such as are in the article of death and finally, let the day come when the Sun shall shine forth in all His brightness, even Christ Jesus shall be manifested, to be admired in them that believe and to make glad the whole creation. Make no tarrying, O Thou Sun of Righteousness.

Prayer 11: Under the Blood

Jehovah our God, we thank Thee for leaving on record the story of Thine ancient people. It is full of instruction to ourselves. Help us to take its warning to avoid the faults into which they fell! Thou art a covenant God, and Thou keepest Thy promises, and Thy Word never faileth. We have proved this so hitherto.

> *Thus far we find that promise good, Which Jesus ratified with blood.*

But as for ourselves, we are like Israel of old, a fickle people, and we confess it with great shame. There are days when we take the timbrel and we sing with Miriam, "Unto the LORD [Who] triumphed gloriously" (Exo 15:1); and yet we grieve to say it, not many hours after, we are thirsty and we cry for water, and we murmur in our tents. The brackish Marah turns our heart, and we are grieved with our God. Sometimes we bow before Thee with reverence and awe when we behold Thy Sinai altogether on a smoke,

but there have been times when we have set up the golden calf and we have said of some earthly things, "These be Thy gods, O Israel" (Exo 32:4). We believe with intensity of faith and then doubt with a horribleness of doubt.

Lord, Thou hast been very patient with us. Many have been our provocations, many have been Thy chastisements, but

Thy strokes are fewer than our crimes, And lighter than our guilt.

Thou hast "not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities" (Psa 103:10). Blessed be Thy name!

And now fulfil that part of the covenant wherein Thou hast said, "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you...I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me" (Eze 36:26; Jer 32:40). Hold us fast, and then we shall hold fast to Thee. Turn us, and we shall be turned. Keep us, and we shall keep Thy statutes.

We cry to Thee that we may no more provoke Thee. We beg Thee rather to send the serpents among us than to let sin come among us. Oh, that we might have our eye always on the brazen serpent that healeth all the bites of evil, but may we not look to sin nor love it. Let not the devices of Balaam and of Balak prevail against us, to lead Thy people away from their purity. Let us not be defiled with false doctrine or with unholy living, but may we walk as the separated people of God and keep ourselves unspotted from the world. Lord, we would not grieve Thy Spirit. Oh, may we never vex Thee so as to lead Thee in Thy wrath to say, "They shall not enter into my rest" (Heb 3:11). Bear with us still for His dear sake Whose blood is upon us. Bear with us still, and send not the destroying angel as Thou didst to Egypt, but again fulfil that promise of Thine, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you" (Exo 12:13).

Just now may we be consciously passed over by the Spirit of condemnation. May we know in our hearts that, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus" (Rom 8:1). May we feel the peace-giving power of the divine absolution. May we come into Thy holy presence with our feet washed in the brazen laver, hearing our great High Priest say to us, "Ye are clean every whit" (see Joh 13:10). Thus made clean, may we draw near to God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Further, our heavenly Father, we come before Thee now washed in the blood, wearing the snow-white robe of Christ's righteousness, and we ask Thee to remember Thy people. Some are sore burdened—lighten the burden or strengthen the shoulder. Some are bowed down with fear, peradventure they mistrust—forgive the mistrust and give a great increase of faith that they may trust Thee where they cannot trace Thee. The Lord remember any who bear the burden of others. Some cry to Thee day and night about the sins of the times, about the wanderings of Thy church. Lord, hear our prayers! We would bear this yoke for Thee, but help us to bear it without fearing so as to distrust Thee. May we know that Thou wilt take care of Thine own case and preserve Thine own truth and may we therefore be restful about it all.

Some are crying to Thee for the conversion of relatives and friends. This burden they have taken up to follow after Jesus in the cross bearing. Grant them to see the desire of their heart fulfilled. God, save our children and children's children; and if we have unconverted relatives of any kind, the Lord have mercy upon them for Christ's sake. Give us joy in them—as much joy in them as Christians, as we have had sorrow about them as unbelievers.

Further, be pleased to visit Thy church with the Holy Spirit. Renew the day of Pentecost in our midst, and in the midst of all gatherings of Thy people may there come the downfall of the holy fire, the uprising of the heavenly wind. May matters that are now slow and dead become quick and full of life, and may the Lord Jesus Christ be exalted in the midst of His church which is His fulness, "the fulness of Him that filleth all in all" (Eph 1:23). May multitudes be converted. May they come flocking to Christ with holy eagerness to find in Him a refuge as the doves fly to their dovecotes.

Oh, for salvation work throughout these islands and across the sea and in every part of the world, specially in heathen lands. Bring many to Christ's feet, we pray Thee, everywhere where men are ready to lay down their lives that they may impart the heavenly life of Christ. Work, Lord, work mightily! Thy Church cries to Thee. Oh, leave us not! We can do nothing without Thee! Our strength is wholly Thine! Come to us with great power, and let Thy Word have free course and be glorified.

Remember every one that calls Thee Father. May a Father's love look on all the children. May the special need of each one be supplied, the special sorrow of each one be assuaged. May we be growing Christians, may we be working Christians, may we be perfected Christians, may we come to the fulness of the stature of men in Christ Jesus. Lord Jesus, Thou art a great pillar. In Thee doth all fulness dwell. Thou didst begin Thy life with filling the water pots to the full. Thou didst fill Simon Peter's boat until it began to sink. Thou didst fill the house where Thy people were met together with the presence of the Holy Ghost. Thou dost fill heaven. Thou wilt surely fill all things. Fill us, oh, fill us today with all the fulness of God and make Thy people thus joyful and strong, and gracious and heavenly!

But we cannot leave off our prayer when we have prayed for Thy people, though we have asked large things. We want Thee to look among the thousands and millions round about us who know Thee not. Lord, look on the masses who go nowhere to worship. Have pity upon them. Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. Give a desire to hear Thy Word. Send upon the people some desire after their God. O Lord, take sinners in hand thyself. Oh, come and reach obstinate, obdurate minds. Let the careless and the frivolous begin to think upon eternal things. May there be an uneasiness of heart, a sticking of the arrows of God in their loins, and may they seek to the great Physician and find healing this very day. Ah, Lord, thou sayest, "Today, if ye will hear His voice," and we take up the echo. Save men today, even today. Bring them Thy Spirit in power that they may be willing to rest in Christ. Lord, hear, forgive, accept, and bless, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Prayer 12: On Holy Ground

"Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Mat 6:9-10). We fear that we often begin our prayer with petitions for ourselves and put our daily bread before Thy kingdom and the pardoning of our sins before the hallowing of Thy name. We would not do so today, but guided by our Lord's model of prayer, we would first pray for Thy glory and here, great God, we would adore Thee. Thou hast made us and not we ourselves. We are Thy people and the sheep of Thy pasture. All glory be unto Thee, Jehovah, the only living and true God.

With heart and mind, and memory and fear, and hope and joy, we worship the Most High. It well becomes us to put our shoes from off our feet when we draw near to God, for the place whereon we stand is holy ground. If God in the bush demanded the unsandalled foot of the prophet, how much more shall God in Christ Jesus?

With lowliest reverence, with truest love, we worship God in Christ Jesus, uniting therein with all the redeemed host above, with angels and principalities and powers. We cannot cast crowns at His feet, for we have none as yet, but if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, if there be about us anything of grace and good repute, we ascribe it all to God. We cannot veil our faces with our wings, for we have none, but we veil them with something better than angelic wings, the blood and righteousness of Jesus Christ. With these we cover our faces, with these we cover our feet, and with these we fly up to God in holiest fellowship of God. Glory, and honor, and power, and dominion be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne and unto the Lamb forever and forever. Great God, we long that Thou mayest be known unto the ends of the earth, that the idols may be utterly abolished. We long that false doctrine may fly like birds of darkness before the light and Thy coming. Reign Thou in the hearts of our fellowmen. Lord, subdue sin, and under Thy feet let drunkenness, and unchastity, and oppression, and every form of wickedness be put away by the gospel of Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit.

Oh, that today, even today, many hearts might be won to God. Convince men of the wrong of being alienated from God. Put into their hearts sorrow for sin and dread of wrath to come, and lead and drive men to Christ. Oh, how we pray for this, the salvation of our fellowmen, not so much for their sakes as for the sake of the glory of God and the rewarding of Christ for His pain.

We do with all our hearts pray, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Mat 6:10). Lord, help us to do Thy will. Take the crippled kingdom of our manhood and reign Thou over it. Let spirit and body be consecrated to God. May there be no reserves. May everything be given up to Thee. Reign forever! Pierced King, despised and nailed to a tree, sit Thou on the glorious high throne in our hearts, and may our lives prove that Thou art Lord over us by our every thought and desire, and imagination, and word, and act, in every respect being under Thy divine control.

Thy people breathe to Thee out of their very hearts the prayer that Thou mayest reign over us without a rival. O Savior, use for Thyself what Thou hast bought with blood, and drive out the enemy, and let no power have any dominion over us except the power of Thy good Spirit which worketh righteousness and peace.

We pray today also that Thy truth may prevail against the many anti-Christs that have gone forth against it. Our Father, restore a pure language to Thy Zion once again. Take away, we pray Thee, the itching for new doctrine, the longing for that which is thought to be scientific and wise above what is written, and may Thy church come to her moorings. May she cast anchor in the truth of God and there abide. And if it be Thy will, may we live to see brighter and better times.

If it might be so, we would pray for the coming of our Lord very speedily to end these sluggish years, these long delaying days. But if He come not, yet put power into Thy truth and quicken Thy church that she may become energetic for the spread of it, that so Thy kingdom may come. This do we seek first and above everything: the glory of God. We ask for grace that we may live with this end in view. May we lay ourselves out to it. May this be our morning thought, the thought that we have in our minds when we lay awake at nights. What shall I do, my Savior, to praise? How can I make Him illustrious and win another heart to His throne? Now bless us. Forgive us our trespasses wherein we have sinned against Thee. Seal our pardon upon our consciences and make us feel that as we truly forgive them that trespass against us, so hast Thou forgiven us all our iniquities. We pray Thee, lead us not into temptation. Do not try us, Lord, nor suffer the devil to try us. If we must be tried, then deliver us from evil, and especially from the evil one, that he may get no dominion over us.

Oh, keep us, Lord. This life is full of trial. There are many that are perplexed about temporary things. Let not the enemy lead them to do or think aught that is amiss, because of the straitness⁹ of supply. Others are blessed with prosperity. Lord, let it not be a curse to them. Let them know how to abound as well as to suffer loss. In all things may they be instructed to glorify God, not only with all they are, but with all they have, and even with all they have not, by a holy contentment to do without that which it doth not please Thee to bestow.

And then, Lord, give us day by day our daily bread. Provide for Thy poor people. Let them not think that the provision for themselves rests fully on themselves, but may they cry to Thee, for Thou hast said, "Thy bread shall be given thee, thy waters shall be sure" (see Isa 33:16). If we follow Thee, if Thou lead us into a desert, Thou wilt strew our path with manna. May Thy people believe this, and let them have no care, but like the birds of the air which neither sow nor gather into barns and yet are fed, so may Thy people be.

But above all, give us spiritual help. Give us wisdom, which is profitable to get. Give us the absence of all self-seeking and a complete yielding up of our desires to the will of God. Help us to be as Christ was, Who was not His own, but gave Himself to His Father for our sins. So may we for His sake give ourselves up to do or suffer the will of our Father Who is in heaven.

Remember Thy people in their families and convert their children. Give us help and strength. Spare precious lives that are in danger. Be gracious to any that are dying. May the life of God swallow up the death of the body. Prepare us all for Thy glorious advent. Keep us waiting and watching, and do Thou come quickly to our heart's desire, for we pray, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven...For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen" (Mat 6:10, 13).

⁹ straitness – lacking needed resources.

Prayer 13: The Wings of Prayer

Our Father, Thy children who know Thee delight themselves in Thy presence. We are never happier than when we are near Thee. We have found a little heaven in prayer. It has eased our load to tell Thee of its weight. It has relieved our wound to tell Thee of its smart. It has restored our spirit to confess to Thee its wanderings. No place like the Mercy Seat for us!

We thank Thee, Lord, that we have not only found benefit in prayer, but in the answers to it we have been greatly enriched. Thou hast opened Thy hid treasures to the voice of prayer. Thou hast supplied our necessities as soon as ever we have cried unto Thee. Yea, we have found it true, "Before they call I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear" (Isa 65:24).

We do bless Thee, Lord, for instituting the blessed ordinance of prayer. What could we do without it, and we take great shame to ourselves that we should use it so little. We pray that we may be men of prayer, taken up with it, that it may take us up and bear us as on its wings towards heaven.

And now at this hour wilt Thou hear the voice of our supplication. First, we ask at Thy hands, great Father, complete forgiveness for all our trespasses and shortcomings. We hope we can say with truthfulness that we do from our heart forgive all those who have in any way trespassed against us. There lies not in our heart, we hope, a thought of enmity towards any man. However¹⁰ we have been slandered or wronged, we would, with our inmost heart, forgive and forget it all.

We come to Thee and pray that, for Jesus' sake, and through the virtue of the blood once shed for many for the remission of sins, Thou wouldest give us perfect pardon of every transgression of the past. Blot out, O God, all our sins like a cloud, and let them never be seen again. Grant us also the peace-speaking word of promise applied by the Holy Spirit, that being justified by faith we may have peace with God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let us be forgiven and know it, and may there remain no lingering question in our heart about our reconciliation with God. But by a firm, full assurance based upon faith in the finished work of Christ, may we stand as forgiven men and women against whom transgression shall be mentioned never again forever.

And then, Lord, we have another mercy to ask which shall be the burden of our prayer. It is that Thou wouldest help us to live such lives as pardoned men should live. We have but a little time to tarry here, for our life is but a vapor. Soon it vanishes away, but we are most anxious that we may spend

¹⁰ **however** – in whatever way.

the time of our sojourning here in holy fear, that grace may be upon us from the commencement of our Christian life even to the earthly close of it.

Lord, Thou knowest there are some that have not yet begun to live for Thee, and the prayer is now offered that they may today be born again. Others have been long in Thy ways and are not weary of them. We sometimes wonder that Thou art not weary of us, but assuredly we delight ourselves in the ways of holiness more than ever we did. Oh, that our ways were directed to keep Thy statutes without slip or flaw. We wish we were perfectly obedient in thought, and word, and deed, entirely sanctified. We shall never be satisfied till we wake up in Christ's likeness, the likeness of perfection itself. Oh, work us to this self-same thing, we beseech Thee. May experience teach us more and more how to avoid occasions of sin. May we grow more watchful. May we have a greater supremacy over our own spirit. May we be able to control ourselves under all circumstances and so act that if the Master were to come at any moment, we should not be ashamed to give our account into His hands.

Lord, we are not what we want to be. This is our sorrow. Oh, that Thou wouldest, by Thy Spirit, help us in the walks of life to adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things. As men of business, as work-people, as parents, as children, as servants, as masters, whatever we may be, may we be such that Christ may look upon us with pleasure. May His joy be in us, for then only can our joy be full.

Dear Savior, we are Thy disciples, and Thou art teaching us the art of living, but we are very dull and very slow, and besides, there is such a bias in our corrupt nature, and there are such examples in the world, and the influence of an ungodly generation tells even upon those that know Thee. O dear Savior, be not impatient with us, but still school us at Thy feet, till at last we shall have learned some of the sublime lessons of self-sacrifice, of meekness, humility, fervor, boldness, and love which Thy life is fit to teach us. O Lord, we beseech Thee, mold us into Thine own image. Let us live in Thee and live like Thee. Let us gaze upon Thy glory till we are transformed by the sight and become Christ-like among the sons of men.

Lord, hear the confessions of any that have backslidden, who are rather marring Thine image than perfecting it. Hear the prayers of any that are conscious of great defects during the past. Give them peace of mind by pardon, but give them strength of mind also to keep clear of such mischief in the future. O Lord, we are sighing and crying more and more after Thyself. The more we have of Thee, the more we want Thee. The more we grow like Thee, the more we perceive our defects and the more we pine after a higher standard, to reach even unto perfection's self. Oh, help us. Spirit of the living God, continue still to travail in us. Let the groanings that cannot be uttered be still within our Spirit, for these are growing pains, and we shall grow while we can sigh and cry, while we can confess and mourn. Yet this is not without a blessed hopefulness that He that hath begun a good work in us will perfect it in the day of Christ.

Bless, we pray Thee, at this time, the entire church of God in every part of the earth. Prosper the work and service of Christian people, however they endeavor to spread the kingdom of Christ. Convert the heathen. Enlighten those that are in any form of error. Bring the entire church back to the original form of Christianity. Make her first pure and then she shall be united. O, Savior, let Thy kingdom come. Oh, that Thou wouldest reign and Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

We pray Thee, use every one of us according as we have ability to be used. Take us and let no talent lie to canker¹¹ in the treasure house, but may every pound of Thine be put out in trading for Thee in the blessed market of soul-winning. Oh, give us success. Increase the gifts and graces of those that are saved. Bind us in closer unity to one another than ever. Let peace reign. Let holiness adorn us.

Hear us as we pray for all countries, and then for all sorts of men, from the sovereign on the throne to the peasant in the cottage. Let the benediction of heaven descend on men, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer 14: "Bless the Lord, O My Soul!"

Lord, we are longing to draw near. May Thy Spirit draw us near. We come by the way of Christ our Mediator. We could not approach Thee, O our God, if it were not for Him, but in Him we come boldly to the throne of heavenly grace. Nor can we come without thanksgiving—thanksgiving from the heart, such as the tongue can never express. Thou hast chosen us from before the foundation of the world, and this wellhead of mercy sends forth streams of lovingkindness never ceasing. Because we were chosen, we have been redeemed with precious blood. Bless the Lord! And we have been called by the Holy Spirit out of the world, and we have been led to obey that wondrous call which hath quickened us and renewed us, and made us the people of God, given us adoption into the divine family. Bless the Lord!

Our hearts would pause as we remember the greatness of each one of Thy favors, and we would say, "Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name" (Psa 103:1). When we consider our utter

¹¹ canker – rust.

unworthiness before conversion and our great faultiness since, we can but admire the riches of abounding grace which God has manifested to us unworthy ones. Bless the Lord! And when we think of all that Thou hast promised to give, which our faith embraces as being really ours, since the covenant makes it sure, we know not how abundantly enough to utter the memory of Thy great goodness. We would make our praises equal to our expectations and our expectations equal to Thy promises. We can never rise so high. We give to Thee, however, the praise of our entire being. Unto Jehovah, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the Creator of the world, the redeemed of men, unto Jehovah be glory forever and ever, and let all His people praise Him. "Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy" (Psa 107:2).

O Lord, Thy works praise Thee, but Thy saints bless Thee, and this shall be our heaven, yea, our heaven of heavens, eternally to praise and magnify the great and ever blessed God. May many a maiden this day—may many a man—break forth and say with the virgin of old, "My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour" (Luk 1:46-47). May there be going up this day sweet incense of praise laid by holy hands privately upon the altar of God. May the place be filled with the smoke thereof, not perhaps to the consciousness of everyone, but to the acceptance of God Who shall smell a sweet savor of rest in Christ and then in the praises of His people in Him.

But, Lord, when we have praised Thee, we have to fold the wing. Yea, we have to cover the face and cover the feet and stand before Thee to worship in another fashion, for we confess that we are evil, evil in our original, and though renewed by sovereign grace, Thy people cannot speak of being clean rid of sin. There is sin which dwelleth in us, which is our daily plague. O God, we humble ourselves before Thee. We ask that our faith may clearly perceive the blood of the atonement and the covering of the perfect righteousness of Christ, and may we come afresh, depending alone on Jesus.

I, the chief of sinners am, But Jesus died for me. (Charles Wesley)

May this be our one hope: that Jesus died and rose again, and that for His sake we are accepted in the Beloved.

May every child of Thine have his conscience purged from dead works to serve the true and living God. May there be no cloud between us and our Heavenly Father, nay, not even a mist, not even the morning mist that soon is gone. May we walk in the light as God is in the light. May our fellowship with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ, be unquestionable. May it be fuel. May it fill us with joy. May it be a most real fact this day. May we enjoy it to the full, knowing whom we have believed, knowing Who is our Father, knowing Who it is that dwells in us, even the Holy Spirit.

Take away from us everything which now might hinder our delighting ourselves in God. May we come to God this day with a supreme joy. May we speak of Him as "God my exceeding joy; yea, mine own God is He." O God, give us a sense of property in Thyself. May we come near to Thee, having no doubt and nothing whatsoever that shall spoil the beautiful simplicity of a childlike faith which looks up into the great face of God and saith, "Our Father, which art in heaven."

There are those who never repented of sin and never believed in Christ, and consequently the wrath of God abideth on them. They are living without God. They are living in darkness. O God, in Thy great mercy look upon them. They do not look at Thee, but do Thou look at them. May the sinner see his sin and mourn it, see His Savior and accept Him, see himself saved and go on his way rejoicing. Father, do grant us this.

Once more, we pray Thee, bless Thy church. Lord, quicken the spiritual life of believers. Thou hast given to Thy church great activity, for which we thank Thee. May that activity be supported by a corresponding inner life. Let us not get to be busy here and there with Martha and forget to sit at Thy feet with Mary. Lord, restore to Thy church the love of strong doctrine. May Thy truth yet prevail. Purge out from among Thy church those who would lead others away from the truth as it is in Jesus, and give back the old power and something more. Give us Pentecost, yea, many Pentecosts in one, and may we live to see Thy church shine forth clear as the sun and fair as the moon, and terrible as an army with banners.

God grant that we may live to see better days. But if perilous times should come in these last days, make us faithful. Raise up in England, raise up in Scotland, men that shall hold the truth firmly as their fathers did. Raise up in every country, where there has been a faithful church, men that will not let the vessel drift upon the rocks. O God of the judges, Thou who didst raise up first one and then another when the people went astray from God, raise up for us still—our Joshuas are dead—our Deborahs, our Baraks, our Gideons, and Jephthahs, and Samuels, that shall maintain for God His truth and worst the enemies of Israel. Lord, look upon Thy church in these days. Lord, revive us. Lord, restore us. Lord, give power to Thy Word again that Thy name may be glorified.

Remember the church of God in this land in all its various phases and portions, and pour out Thy Spirit upon it. Remember the multitude of Thy people across the sea in America. Prosper them; bless them with the increase of God. And wherever Thou hast a people, may Jesus dwell with them and reveal Himself to His own, for Christ's sake, to Whom be glory with the Father and with the Holy Ghost, forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer 15: The Peace of God

Our God, we stand not afar off as Israel did in Sinai, nor does a veil hang dark between Thy face and ours, but the veil is rent by the death of our divine Lord and Mediator, Jesus Christ. And in His name we come up to the Mercy Seat all blood-besprinkled, and here we present our prayers and our praises accepted in Him. We do confess that we are guilty. We bow our heads and confess that we have broken Thy law and the covenant of which it is a part. Didst Thou deal with us under the covenant of works, none of us could stand. We must confess that we deserve Thy wrath and to be banished forever from Thy presence. But Thou hast made a new covenant, and we come under its divine shadow. We come in the name of Jesus. He is our High Priest. He is our righteousness. He is the well-beloved in Whom Thou art well-pleased.

Holy Spirit, teach us how to pray. Let us know what we should pray for as we ought. Our first prayer is, Be Thou adored. Reign Thou over the whole earth. Hallowed be Thy name. We desire to see all men submit themselves to Thy gracious government. We wish especially that in the hearts of Thine own there may be an intense love for Thee and a perfect obedience to Thee. Grant this to each one of us. We would each one pray, "Lord, sanctify me. Make me obedient. Write Thy law upon my heart and upon my mind." Make our nature so clean that temptation cannot defile it.

"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil" (Mat 6:13). May our course be very clean, our path be very straight. May we keep our garments unspotted from the world; and in thought and desire and imagination, in will and in purpose, may we be holy as God is holy.

O God, we pray again, fulfill that covenant promise: "I will take away the heart of stone out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh." May we be very tender towards Thee. May we feel Thy faintest monition.¹² May even the gentlest breath of Thy Spirit suffice to move us. May we not be "as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee" (Psa 32:9). But may we be as children obedient to a father. May we yield our members cheerfully to the instruments of righteousness. May we have a natural desire wrought in the new nature towards everything that is pure and honest, unselfish and Christly.

¹² **monition** – direction; warning.

O Spirit of God, dwell in us. Is not this also a covenant promise, "I will put My Spirit within you, and I will cause you to walk in my statutes" (Eze 36:27). Dwell with us, Holy Spirit. Rule over us, Holy Spirit. Transform us to Thy own likeness, O Holy Spirit! Then shall we be clean, then shall we keep the law. We would offer a prayer to Thee for those who are quite strange to the work of the Spirit of God, who have never owned their God, who have lived as if there were no God. Open their eyes that they may see God even though that sight should make them tremble and wish to die. Oh, let none of us live without our God and Father. Take away the heart of stone, take away the frivolities, the levity, the giddiness of our youth, and give us in downright earnest to seek true happiness where alone it can be found, in reconciliation to God, and in conformity to His will.

Lord, save the careless, save the sinful, the drunkard—take away from him his cups. The unholy and unjust men, deliver these from their filthiness. The dishonest and false, renew them in their lives. And any that are lovers of pleasure, dead while they live, and any that are lovers of self, whose life is bounded by the narrowness of their own being, the Lord renew them, regenerate them, make them new creatures in Christ Jesus. For this we do fervently pray.

Lord God the Holy Ghost, may faith grow in men. May they believe in Christ to the saving of their souls. May their little faith brighten into strong faith and may their strong faith ripen into the full assurance of faith. May we all have this last blessing. May we believe God fully. May we never waver. Resting in the great Surety and High Priest of the New Covenant, may we feel "the peace of God, which passeth all understanding" (Phi 4:7), and may we enter into rest.

Bless Thy people that are at rest and deepen that rest. May the rest that Thou givest be further enhanced by the rest which they find when they take Thy yoke upon them and learn of Thee. May Thy Word be very sweet to them. May there come over our spirits a deep calm, as when Christ hushed both winds and waves. May we feel not only resignation to Thy will, but delight in it, feeling pleased with all the Lord provides. May we rest in our God and be quite happy in the thought that our sins and our iniquities He will remember no more. He has brought us into covenant with Him by a covenant which can never fail, so like David we may say this morning, "Although my house be not so with God...yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure" (2Sa 23:5).

Lord, bless Thy Word throughout the world. Prosper all missions amongst the heathen, all work among the Mohammedans, and oh, send Thy grace to the churches at home. Turn the current of thought which sets so strong in the wrong direction and bring men to love the simplicities of the gospel. Remember our country in great mercy, and in all ranks and conditions of men do Thou give the blessing. May there be multitudes come to Christ from among the poorest of the poor, and let the wealthy be led away from their sin and brought to Jesus' feet. Be gracious to the sovereign and royal family, and to all that are in authority over us. May peace and order be maintained, and let not the peace of the world be broken.

But what of all this? Our heart goes far beyond all this: "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven...For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever" (Mat 6:10, 13). Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly. All things are in Thy hand. Come quickly. The cries of Thy people persuade Thee; "The Spirit and the bride say, Come" (Rev 22:17). Make no tarrying, O our Redeemer. And unto the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, the God of Abraham and God of our Lord Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer 16: He Ever Liveth

Our God, we come to Thee by Jesus Christ Who has gone within the veil on our behalf and ever liveth to make intercession for us. Our poor prayers could never reach Thee were it not for Him, but His hands are full of sweet perfume which makes our pleading sweet with Thee. His blood is sprinkled on the Mercy Seat, and now we know that Thou dost always hear those who approach Thee through that ever-blessed name.

We have deeply felt our entire unworthiness even to lift up our eyes to the place where Thine honor dwelleth. Thou hast made us to die to our selfrighteousness. We pray now because we have been quickened. We have received a new life and the breath of that life is prayer. We have risen from the dead, and we also make intercession through the life which Christ has given us. We plead with the living God with living hearts because He has made us to live.

Our first prayer shall be for those who do not pray. There is an ancient promise of Thine: "I am found of them that sought Me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation that was not called by my name" (Isa 65:1). Prove the sovereignty of Thy grace, the priority of Thy power, which runs before the will of man by making many willing in this the day of Thy power, and calling the things that are not as though they were. May the day come in which they that are in their graves shall hear the voice of God, and they that hear shall live.

How very often Thou showest Thy mighty power. O Lord, we bless Thee that the voice of God has called many to Christ. Those that are hardened have felt a softness stealing over their spirits. Those who were careless have been compelled to sit down and think. Those that were wrapped up in earthly things have been compelled to think of eternal things, and thinking, have been disturbed and driven to despair, but afterwards led to Thee, even to Thee, dear Savior, Who wast lifted high upon the cross that by Thy death sinners might live.

But, Lord, we next would pray that Thine own people should know somewhat of the quickening of the Spirit of God. Lord, we thank Thee for the very least life to God, for the feeblest ray of faith and glimmering of hope. We are glad to see anything of Christ in any man, but Thou hast come, O Savior, not only that we might have life, but that we might have it more abundantly, so our prayer is that there may be abundance of life.

Oh, make Thy people strong in the Lord, in the power of His might. Lord, we find when we walk close with God that we have no desire for the world. When we get away altogether from the things that are seen and temporal, and live upon the invisible and eternal, then we shall have angels' food. Nay, better than that, the food of Christ Himself, for His flesh is meat indeed and His blood is drink indeed. Then have we meat to eat that the world knoweth not of. We pray Thee, raise all our brothers and sisters in Christ into the high and heavenly frame of mind in which they shall be in the world and not be of it. Whether they have little or much of temporal things, may they be rich in Thee and full of joy in the Holy Ghost, and so be blessed men and women.

We pray for some of Thine own people who seem to be doing very little for Thee. Lord, have mercy upon those whose strength runs towards the world and who give but little of their strength to the spread of the gospel and the winning of souls. O let none of us fritter away our existence. May we begin to live since Christ hath died. May we reckon that because He died, we died to all the world, and because He lives, we live in newness of life. Lord, we thank Thee for that newness of life.

We praise Thy name for a new heaven and a new earth. We bless Thee that we now see what we never saw before and hear what we never heard before. Oh, that we might enter into the very secret place of this inner life. May we have as much grace as can be obtained. May we become perfect after the manner of Thy servant Paul, but still press forward, seeking still to be more and more conformed to the image of Christ.

Lord, make us useful. Oh, let no believer live to himself. May we be trying to bring others to Christ. May our servants, and work people, and neighbors all know where we live, and if they do not understand the secret of that life, yet may they see the fruit of that life and may they ask, "What is this?" and inquire their way to Christ that they may be sanctified too. O Lord, we pray Thee, visit Thy church. May none of us imagine that we are living aright unless we are bringing others to the cross. Oh, keep us from worldliness. Keep us much in prayer. Keep us with the light of God shining on our forehead. May we be a happy people, not because screened from affliction, but because we are walking in the light of God.

Again, we offer prayer for the many efforts that are scattered abroad today. May they be good wherever they are. We pray for all churches. Lord, revive them all. Wherever Christ is preached, may it be proved that He draws all men unto Him. May the preaching of Christ today be peculiarly efficacious. Oh, that Thou wouldst raise up many that would preach Christ, simply, boldly, and with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven. Send us better days. Send us days of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

Lord, shake the earth with the power of God. Oh, that the heathen lands may hear the Word of God and live. But first convert the church and then Thou wilt convert the world. Oh, deal with those that depart from the faith and grieve Thy Holy Spirit. Bring them back again to their first love, and may Christ be fully and faithfully preached everywhere to the glory of His name. Now forgive us every iniquity. Now lift us beyond the power of every sin. Now lift us to pray and praise. Now make the home full of sacred power. And last of all, come, Lord Jesus. This is the great wish of our souls. Even so, come quickly. Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen and Amen.

Prayer 17: Prayer Answered and Unanswered

God of Israel, God of Jesus Christ, our God forever and ever! Help us now by the sacred Spirit to approach Thee aright with deepest reverence, but not with servile fear. With holiest boldness, but not with presumption. Teach us as children to speak to the Father and yet as creatures to bow before our Maker.

Our Father, we would first ask Thee whether Thou hast ought against us as Thy children? Have we been asking somewhat of Thee amiss, and hast Thou given us that which we have sought? We are not conscious of it, but it may be so, and now we are brought as an answer to our presumptuous prayers into a more difficult position than the one we occupied before. Now it may be that some creature comfort is nearer to us than our God. We had better have been without it and have dwelt in our God and have found our joy in Him. But now, Lord, in these perilous circumstances, give us grace that we may not turn away from Thee. If our position now be not such as Thou wouldst have allotted to us had we been wiser, yet nevertheless, grant that we may be taught to behave ourselves aright even now lest the mercies Thou hast given should become a cause of stumbling, and the obtaining of our hearts' desire should become a temptation to us. Rather do we feel inclined to bless Thee for the many occasions in which Thou hast not answered our prayer, for Thou hast said that we did ask amiss and therefore we could not have, and we desire to register this prayer with Thee that whensoever we do ask amiss, Thou wouldst in great wisdom and love be pleased to refuse us.

O, Lord, if we at any time press our suit without a sufficiency of resignation, do not regard us, we pray Thee, and though we cry unto Thee day and night concerning anything, yet if Thou seest that herein we err, regard not the voice of our cry, we pray Thee. It is our hearts' desire now, in our coolest moments, that this prayer of ours might stand on record as long as we live: "Not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Mat 26:39).

But, O Lord, in looking back we are obliged to remember with the greatest gratitude the many occasions in which Thou hast heard our cry. We have been brought into deep distress, and our heart has sunk within us. And then have we cried to Thee, and Thou hast never refused to hear us. The prayers of our lusts Thou hast rejected, but the prayers of our necessities Thou hast granted. Not one good thing hath failed of all that Thou hast promised.

Thou hast given to us exceeding abundantly above what we asked or even thought, for there was a day when our present condition would have been regarded as much too high for us ever to reach. And in looking back we are surprised that those who did lie among the pots of Egypt should now sit every man under his vine and fig tree, that those who wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way should now find a city to dwell in, that we who were prodigals in rags should now be children in the Father's bosom, that we who were companions of swine should now be made heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. Oh, what encouragement we have to pray to such a prayer-hearing God Who far exceeds the request of His children.

Blessed be the name of the Lord forever, our inmost heart is saying. Amen, blessed be His name. If it were only for answered prayer or even for some unanswered prayers, we would continue to praise and bless Thee as long as we have any being.

And now, Lord, listen to the voice of Thy children's cry. Wherever there is a sincere heart seeking for greater holiness, answer Thou that request, or wherever there is a broken spirit seeking for reconciliation with Thyself, be pleased to answer it now. Thou knowest where there is prayer, though it be unuttered, and even the lips do not move. Oh, hear the publican who dares not lift his eye to heaven. Hear him while he cries, "God be merciful to me a sinner" (Luk 18:13). Hear such as seem to themselves to be appointed unto death. Let the sighing of the prisoner come before Thee! Oh, that Thou wouldst grant peace and rest to every troubled spirit all over the world who now desires to turn his face to the cross and to see God in Christ Jesus. O Lord, if there are any of Thy servants exercised about the cases of others, we would thank Thee for them. Raise up in the church many intercessors who shall plead for the prosperity of Zion and give Thee no rest till Thou establish her and make her a joy in the land.

Oh, there are some of us that cried to Thee about our country. Thou knowest how in secret we groaned and sighed over evil times, and Thou hast begun to hear us already, for which we desire to praise and bless Thy name. But we would not cease to pray for this land that Thou wouldst roll away from it all its sin, that Thou wouldst deliver it from the curse of drunkenness, rescue it from infidelity, from popery, from ritualism, from rationalism, and every form of evil, that this land might become a holy land.

O Lord, bring the multitudes of the working men to listen to the gospel. Break in, we pray Thee, upon their stolid¹³ indifference. Lord, give them a love of Thy house, a desire to hear Thy gospel, and then wilt Thou look upon the poor rich who so many of them know nothing about Thee and are worshipping their own wealth. The Lord grant that the many for whom there are no special gospel services, but who are wrapped up in selfrighteousness, may be brought to hear the gospel of Jesus that they also, as well as the poor, may be brought to Christ.

God bless this land with more of gospel light and with more of gospel life and love. Thou wilt hear us, O Lord.

Then would we pray for our children, that they might be saved. Some of us can no longer pray for our children's conversion, our prayers are heard already. But there are others who have children who vex them and grieve their hearts. O God, save sons and daughters of godly people. Let them not have to sigh over their children as Eli did and as Samuel did, and may they see their sons and daughters become the children of the living God. We would pray for our servants, for our neighbors, for our kinsfolk of near or far degree, that all might be brought to Jesus. Do Thou this, O God, of Thine infinite mercy.

And as we are now making intercession, we would, according to Thy Word, pray for all kings, such as are in authority, that we may lead quiet and peaceable lives. We pray for all nations also. O Lord, bless and remember the

¹³ **stolid** – immovable; unfeeling.

lands that sit in darkness and let them see a great light, and may missionary enterprise be abundantly successful. And let the favored nations where our God is known, especially this land and the land across the mighty ocean that love the same Savior and speak the same tongue, be always favored with the divine presence and with abundant prosperity and blessing.

O Lord, Thou hast chosen this our race and favored it and multiplied it on the face of the earth, and whereas with this staff it crossed this Jordan, it hath now become two great nations. Lord be pleased to bless the whole of the race and those absorbed into it, and then all other races, that in us may be fulfilled the blessing of Abraham: "I will bless thee...and thou shalt be a blessing" (Gen 12:2). And now, Father, glorify Thy Son! In scattering pardons through His precious blood, glorify Thy Son! In sending forth the Eternal Spirit to convince men and bring them to His feet, Father, glorify Thy Son! In enriching Thy saints with gifts and graces and building them up into His image, Father, glorify Thy Son! In the gathering together of the whole company of His elect and in the hastening of His kingdom and His coming, Father, glorify Thy Son! Beyond this prayer we cannot go, "Glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee" (Joh 17:1). And unto Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be glory forever and ever. Amen.

