

I Said a Prayer for You

"I said a prayer for you today
and know God must have heard;
I felt the answer in my heart
Although He spoke not a word.

I didn't ask for wealth or fame,
I knew you wouldn't mind,
I asked for priceless treasures rare,
Of a more lasting kind.

I prayed that He'd be near to you
At the start of each new day,
To grant you health and blessing fair,
And friends to show your way.

I asked for happiness for you
In all things great and small,
But that you'd know His loving care
I prayed for most of all."

The Guy In The Glass

When you get what you want in your struggle for self
And the world makes you "King" for a day
Then go to the mirror and look at yourself
And see what the guy has to say

For it isn't your father, or mother, or wife
Whose judgment upon you must pass
The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life
Is the guy staring back from the glass

He's the fellow to please - never mind all the rest
For he's with you clear to the end
And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult task
If the guy in the glass is your friend

You may be like Jack Horner and "chisel" a plum
And think you're a wonderful guy
But the man in the glass says you're only a bum
If you can't look him straight in the eye

You can fool the whole world down the pathway of years
And get pats on the back as you pass,
But your final reward will be heartaches and tears
If you've cheated the guy in the glass

The Legend of The Dogwood Tree

When Christ was on earth, the dogwood grew
To a towering size with a lovely hue.
It's branches were strong and interwoven
And for Christ's cross its timbers were chosen.
Being distressed at the use of this wood,
Christ made a promise which still holds good:
"Not ever again shall the dogwood grow
To be large enough for a cross, and so
Slender and twisted it shall always be
With cross-shaped blossoms for all to see.
The petals shall have bloodstains marked in brown
And in the blossom's center a thorny crown.
All who see it will think of me,
Nailed to a cross from a dogwood tree.
Protected and cherished this tree shall be
A reflection to all of my agony."

The True Meaning of Christmas

And there were in the same country shepherds
abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them,
and the glory of the Lord shone round about them:
and they were sore afraid.
And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold,
I bring you good tidings of great joy,
which shall be to all people.
For unto you is born this day in the city of David
a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.
And this shall be a sign unto you;
Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes,
lying in a manger. And suddenly
there was with the angel a multitude of the
heavenly host praising God, and saying,
Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, good will toward men.
Luke 2:8-14

The Difference

"I got up early one morning
and rushed right into the day.

I had so much to accomplish
that I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me
and heavier came each task.

'Why doesn't God help me?' I wondered.
He answered, 'You didn't ask.'

I wanted to see joy and beauty,
but the day toiled on, gray and bleak;
I wondered why God didn't show me.
He said, 'But you didn't seek.'

I tried to come into God's presence;
I used all my keys at the lock.
God gently and lovingly chided,
'My child, you didn't knock.'

I woke up early this morning,
and paused to pray before entering the day.
I had so much to accomplish
that I had to take time to pray.

Sonnet

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways,
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
For the ends of Being and ideal Grace.

I love thee to the level of every day's
Most quiet need, be sun and candle - light.
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.

I love thee with the passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints, - I love thee with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life! - and, if God choose,
I shall love thee better after death.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

God knows

It's God who knows
our every need and hears
each prayer we say, It's
He who grants us heart's
content and guides us
through each day...

So may it be His gracious
will to always give to you,
His understanding and His love
and all His blessings, too.

Choose this day

Choose ye this day
whom ye will serve...
but as for me and
my house,
we will serve
the Lord!
Joshua 24:15

Rainbows

Rainbows appear after mighty storms,
When things look their very worst,
Just when skies are darkest gray,
Look for the rainbow first.

The rainbow is a sign of God's promise,
That He will guide us through all our trials.

No matter what their form,
When you feel battered by life's storms,
And you are filled with doubt and dismay,
Just remember God's rainbow will come,
For it's only a prayer away.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the
power and the glory forever and ever.

Amen

The Twenty - Third Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

He restoreth my soul:

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil:

For thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff
they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence
of mine enemies:

Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup
runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all
the days of my life:

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.

Bible: Psalms, 23

The Ten Commandments

I. Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

II. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord, thy God, in vain

III. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy

IV. Honor thy father and mother

V. Thou shalt not kill

VI. Thou shalt not commit adultery

VII. Thou shalt not steal

VIII. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor

IX. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife

X. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods

Footprints

One night a man had a dream.

He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the LORD.

Across the sky flashed scenes from his life.

For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand;
one belonged to him and the other belonged to the LORD.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him,
he looked back at the footprints in the sand.

He noticed that many times along the
path of his life, there was only one set of footprints.
He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest
and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the LORD about it,

"LORD, you said that once

I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way.

But I have noticed that during the most troublesome
times in my life, there is only one set of footprints.

I don't understand why,
when I needed you most you would leave me."

The LORD replied, "My precious, precious child,

I love you and would never leave you.

During your times of trial and suffering, when you see
only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

Footprints 2

In another dream that followed again he asked once more
about the footprints of his life left along the shore.

"Dear Lord, It's now quite clear to me that You were always there
and that You never left my side when I was in despair.

But how could You have led me through such troubled times as those?

If You love me as you say you do why did I face such woes?
For I followed where You led me. You know You've been my guide.

So why was I to suffer, when upon you I relied?

And though You carried me at times--deciding my direction;

I still wonder why You let me stray away from your protection? "

"My child," the Lord softly said, "though I've walked with you each day;
I never led the path we took nor let you walk astray.

When you look upon those footprints lying in the sand

You'll see I merely walked with you and gently held your hand.

For the life I gave to you is yours. And though I love you dear.

The path you followed you had chose though I was always near.
And though it's true, I carried you during times of pain and strife.

You decided where I left those footprints in your life.

You see, I loved you so much so--I gave you your own will,
Although you've made mistakes, my child; you know I've loved you still.

For you had chose to live along the path left by my Son
and though your steps fell short of his, through Him you now live on! "

Anthony John Goebel

To Our Pastor

God has sent you to this place
To lead us in the way
That He would have us work and think
And live from day to day.

No matter the hour,
You go the extra mile.
Always ready and willing to share
A comforting thought and a smile.

We're grateful that you're here with us
To teach us from His Word,
And we will try to do our best
In service of our Lord.

We thank you for your ministry
Your guidance and your care.
His greatest blessings for your life
Is our most humble prayer.

The Pastor's Study

The Pastor's Study is a symbol of the calling of the Christian minister to be the shepherd of a flock of God. Here sermons are prepared to feed the congregation on God's Holy Word. Here the work of the Church is planned so that the congregation may grow in grace and bear fruit in fellowship, teaching and witnessing. Here you will always find a friend and counselor in time of need. He will not be surprised at your sins, nor will he judge you in them, but he always invites you to share with him, the wisdom and love of God, the knowledge of forgiveness of sins, and the saving grace of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord ~

Serenity Prayer

God grant me the Courage
to change the things I can
change,

The Serenity to accept those
I cannot change,

And the Wisdom to know the
difference. But God, grant
me the courage
not to give up
on what I think
is right, even though
I think it is hopeless.

Serenity Prayer 2

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things
I cannot change, courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a
time;

Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace.

Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it.

Trusting, that He will make all things right if I
Surrender to His Will;

That I may be reasonably happy in this life,
and supremely happy with Him forever in the next.

Amen

Letter from a Friend

I just had to write to tell you how much I love you and care for you. Yesterday, I saw you walking and laughing with your friends; I hoped that soon you'd want me to walk along with you, too. So, I painted you a sunset to close your day and whispered a cool breeze to refresh you. I waited- you never called- I just kept on loving you, As I watched you fall asleep last night, I wanted so much to touch you. I spilled moonlight onto your face trickling down your cheeks as so many tears have. You didn't even think of me; I wanted so much to comfort you.

The next day I exploded a brilliant sunrise into glorious morning for you. But you woke up late and rushed off to work- you didn't even notice. My sky became cloudy and my tears were the rain.

I Love You!!! Oh, if you'd only listen. I really love love you. I try to say it in the quiet of the green meadow and in the vibrant blue sky. The wind whispers my love throughout the treetops and spills it into the vivid colors of all the flowers. I shout it to you in the thunder of the great waterfalls and compose love songs for birds to sing for you. I warm you with the clothing of my sunshine and perfume the air with nature's sweet scent. My love for you is deeper than any ocean and greater than any need in your heart. If you'd only realize how I care. My Dad sends his love. I want you to meet him- He cares too. Fathers are just that way. So, please, call on Me soon. No matter how long it takes. I'll wait forever- Because I Love You.

Your Friend,
Jesus

A Love Note From the Lord

My Precious Friend,

I just wanted to let you know how much I love and care about you and how

I greatly desire to become a meaningful part of your life. This morning when you awoke, I was already there with you in the light of My beautiful sunshine that filled your room. I was hoping that you would say "Good Morning" to Me; you didn't.

So, I thought maybe it was just a little too early in the day for you to notice Me.

Again, I tried to get your attention when you stepped out of your door. I kissed your face with a soft gentle breeze. I breathed upon you my fragrant sweet breath scented with flowers. Then I sang you a love song through the birds in the trees. You just walked right past Me.

Later on in the day, I watched over you as you were talking with some of your friends. How I wished that you would talk to Me also. I waited and waited, but you just went along your way. This afternoon I sent you a refreshing shower and glistened to you from each rain drop. I even shouted to you a time or two with thunder trying to get your attention. Then, I painted you a lovely rainbow in the midst of my fluffy white clouds. I just knew you would see Me then, but you were unaware of my presence.

This evening to close your day, I sent you a beautiful sunset. After that, I hoped that you would see Me and wink back. You never did.

Tonight, when you went to bed, I spilled moonlight upon your face to let you know that I was there with you. I was hoping that you would talk to Me a little while before you went to sleep. You never said a word. It hurts Me deeply; however, I continued to watch over you all through the night thinking that, maybe, just maybe, you would say hello to Me in the morning.

Each and every day, I have revealed myself to you in many strange and wondrous ways hoping that you would accept Me as your Shepherd. For, I am the only One that can supply you with all your needs. My love for you is deeper than the deepest ocean and bigger than the great blue sky. I have so very much to give to you and also share with you. Please let Me hear from you soon.

Your loving friend forever,
Jesus