

## Prayers and Thoughts on Prayer from a Few Saints Who Experienced Trials

Corrie Ten Boom (Family hid Jews from the Nazis during the Holocaust)

"The Bible is a cheque book. When you said "yes" to Jesus Christ, many promises were deposited to your credit at that very moment, and they were signed by the Lord Jesus Himself. But now you have to cash your cheques in order to profit by them. When you come upon such a promise and say, "Thank you, Lord, I accept this," then you have cashed a cheque, and that very day you'll be richer than you were the day before,"

PRAYER But, Lord, my sins! How many they are. Oh, pardon them for the honour of your name. (Ps. 25:11)

PROMISE If we confess our sins to Him, He can be depended on to forgive us, and to cleanse us from every wrong. (1 John 1:9)

PRAYER Help me to prefer obedience to making money! (Ps. 119:36)

PROMISE I will inscribe my laws upon their hearts, so that they shall want to honour me. (Jer. 31:33)

PRAYER Search me, O God, and know my heart; test my thoughts. (Ps 139:23)

PROMISE He searches all hearts and examines deepest motives. (Jer. 17:10)

PRAYER My problems go from bad to worse. Oh, save me from them all! (Ps 25:17)

PROMISE Be really glad – because these trials will make you partners with Christ in his suffering. (1 Pet. 4:13)

PRAYER Don't let the floods overwhelm me, or the ocean swallow me; save me from the pit that threatens me. (Ps 69: 15)

PROMISE When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! (Is. 43:2)

"The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of not being able to do something, and enter God's realm where everything is possible. He specializes in the impossible. Nothing is too great for His almighty power. Nothing is too small for His love."

Joni Eareckson Tada (Diving accident in 1949 at age 17 left her a quadriplegic)

*“A Kingdom View toward Healing”*

Jesus’ miracles, including healing, didn’t guarantee the end of any of sin’s results for those who follow him. And so, in this age, we still must put up with storms, abuse from wicked people, death, and yes, disease: whether spinal cord injury or multiple sclerosis, autism, or Alzheimers.

*So does God want us to pray for healing?*

Yes! The Bible tells us to pray for healing (James 5:14).

*Should we fully expect God to heal?*

All healing from every sort of affliction always comes from his hand (Ps. 103:3). But in view of the fact that the kingdom has not yet come in its fullness, we are not to automatically expect it. Why should we arbitrarily single out disease—which is just one of sin’s many results—and treat it in a special way as something that Christians shouldn’t have to put up with? We are living in “this present age” and the emphasis on earthly problems in the New Testament tells us we’re going to have to put up with plenty! (Mark 10:30; Eph. 1:21).

*Does it show a lack of faith if people are not healed?*

No! The focus of our faith should always be Jesus. And although Jesus wants what’s best for his followers, that doesn’t mean best is an easy life with no head colds or back pain; God’s idea of best may be physical hardships that drive us closer to him.

*Why does God heal some people and not others?*

We cannot know what God has not revealed. God may occasionally grant miraculous healing as a gracious glimpse, a sneak preview, of the coming age. So when people are healed miraculously, it should encourage us to look forward to the time when healing will be for everyone.

*What should be our response when God doesn’t heal us?*

When bedsores afflict me as boils did Job, I will say with him, “Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?” (Job 2:10). And when I feel bound to my wheelchair as Paul was to his chains, I will say with him, “For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him” (Phil. 1:29).

## *The King Is Coming Back*

*What should be our response as we wait for the completed kingdom and healing for all?*

The apostle Paul wrote, “We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for... the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently” (Rom. 8:23–25).

From: *Where's My Miracle* (Aspire Press. Kindle Edition.)

### Martin Luther King Jr.

O thou Eternal God, out of whose absolute power and infinite intelligence the whole universe has come into being. We humbly confess that we have not loved thee with our hearts, souls and minds and we have not loved our neighbors as Christ loved us. We have all too often lived by our own selfish impulses rather than by the life of sacrificial love as revealed by Christ. We often give in order to receive, we love our friends and hate our enemies, we go the first mile but dare not travel the second, we forgive but dare not forget. And so as we look within ourselves we are confronted with the appalling fact that the history of our lives is the history of an eternal revolt against thee. But thou, O God, have mercy upon us. Forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be. Give us the intelligence to know thy will. Give us the courage to do thy will. Give us the devotion to love thy will. In the name and spirit of Jesus we pray. Amen.

John Calvin (Fired from his job as Reformed Pastor in Geneva in 1538 over theological disputes, asked to return in 1541)

Grant, Almighty God, that since under the guidance of thy Son we have been united together in the body of thy Church, which has been so often scattered and torn asunder, O grant that we may continue in the unity of faith, and perseveringly fight against all the temptations of this world, and never deviate from the right course, whatever new troubles may daily arise; and though we are exposed to many deaths, let us not be seized with fear, such as may extinguish in our hearts every hope; but may we, on the contrary, learn to raise up our eyes and minds and all our thoughts to thy great power, by which thou quickenest the dead, and raisest from nothing things which are not, so that, though we be daily exposed to ruin, our souls may ever aspire to eternal salvation, until thou at length really showest thyself to be the fountain of life, when we shall enjoy that endless felicity which has been obtained for us by the blood of thine only begotten Son our Lord. Amen.

## Puritans (English Protestants of 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> century)

### **Paradoxes**

O Changeless God,  
Under the conviction of the Spirit I learn that  
The more I do, the worse I am,  
The more I know, the less I know,  
The more holiness I have, the more sinful I am,  
The more I love, the more there is to love.  
O wretched man that I am!

O Lord,  
I have a wild heart  
And cannot stand before thee;  
I am like a bird before a man.  
How little I love thy truth and ways!  
I neglect prayer,  
By thinking I have prayed enough and earnestly,  
By knowing thou hast saved my soul.  
Of all hypocrites, grant that I may not be an evangelical hypocrite,  
Who sins more safely because grace abounds,  
Who tells his lusts that Christ's blood cleanseth them,  
Who reasons that God cannot cast him into hell, for his is saved,  
Who loves evangelical preaching, churches, Christians, but lives  
Unholily.  
My mind is a bucket without a bottom,  
With no spiritual understanding,  
No desire for the Lord's Day,  
Ever learning but never reaching the truth,  
Always at the gospel-well but never holding water.  
My conscience is without conviction or contrition,  
With nothing to repent of.  
My will is without power of decision or resolution.  
My heart is without affection, and full of leaks.  
My memory has no retention,  
So I forget so easily the lessons learned,  
And thy truths seep away.  
Give me a broken heart that yet carries home the water of grace.