

Prayers for Boys and Girls



REV. JOSHUA JOHN WILSON

*"In everything by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving let your requests be
made known unto God."*

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Dedicated to Angela Faith, Joy Melody, and
Rebecca Ruth

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Forward

NORMALLY, the first lesson in religion is an elementary instruction in the ancient and universal practice of prayer. The child kneels beside his father or mother. The parent offers up, at first *for* him, and afterwards *with* him, simple words of petition. In this way provision is made for meeting, by prayer, the very real problems, the disappointments, the cruel heartaches, as well as the new found joys, discoveries and satisfactions which attend youthful life. Young people need to know that God wants them to go to Him at all such times, and that He wishes to be their constant friend and confidant.

—*Elisabeth Robinson Scovill (1849-1934)*

Introduction

The prayers in this book are not meant to be memorized, but are designed rather to stimulate the developing child's mind to understand the religious impulses welling up from within his or her spirit. Children, even very young children have the desire to know and worship God. Their earliest inclinations are to love their family and friends.

Sound religious training in the life of prayer can help tremendously to keep the child on the path of truth, beauty and goodness as he or she grows older and is confronted with increasingly complex and difficult moral challenges.

It is suggested that the parent read these prayers to their young children at a regular time each day, such as before bedtime. Then the time of prayer may be concluded with a spontaneous

prayer by the parent dealing with the needs and thoughts of the day, followed by prayers by the children themselves. As the children grow older, they may at times read these prayers aloud themselves.

Meal times and morning devotions before school are also good times to meet with the family and have someone read a prayer aloud. This will help to enrich and inspire the group prayers which may follow.

Prayer does change things. There are laws of effective praying that saints throughout the ages have employed.

1. You must first qualify as a person of powerful prayer by honestly and courageously facing problems—you must be persistent.
2. You must have done everything humanly possible to solve the problem. (Pray for a good harvest, but *keep on plowing*.)

3. You must with your whole heart choose to do God's will.
4. Your prayer will be for God's wisdom to solve specific problems.
5. And you must have faith—living faith!

Each prayer in this book is ended with an expression of faith and certainty, or a simple, *Thank You, God*. These appear in italics. The word “amen” is not well understood even by adults. It is fitting to end each prayer with a thought which affirms the certainty, truth, reality, and confidence we have concerning the object of the prayer. Jesus taught, "Whatever things you desire when you pray, *believe that you receive* them, and you shall have them." Faith involves an essential spiritual understanding that we *now are* eternally and actively receiving God's abundant supply.

The prayers themselves can only partially represent this thought, since our words are temporal and God's truth is eternal. Although this book contains many words I must confess that words are somewhat irrelevant to prayer. God answers the soul's attitude, not the words. The words are merely a scaffolding. The prophet Isaiah said, "And it shall come to pass that before they call I will answer; and while they are yet speaking I will hear." And Jesus taught us saying, "Your father in heaven knows what you have need of before you pray for it."

It is my sincere expectation that maturing children will grow in their prayer life from the beginning stage of simple asking to the place where their prayers become an expression of their spirit, an offering of thanksgiving, a surrender of will, a proclamation of loyalty, and a purification of thought and desire. When these prayers become "praying without ceasing" in continuous fellowship with God, basking in His

presence moment by moment, then the prayer life will have flowered to the level where the disciple can look up and enjoy the clear sunshine of the "Father of lights in whom there is no shadow of turning."

Also, the reader will notice there are no prayers for things—material goods, within these pages. With the exception of daily bread, Jesus never prayed for material “things,” only for spiritual values and character traits, and for the older children, opportunities to find productive work. It is understood that when we seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, that the material things we need, and the ability to earn them, will come to us as a matter of course.

In the Lord’s Prayer (also known as The Believer’s Prayer) we learn to pray, “save us during temptation.” A practical illustration of this type of prayer—to save us from temptation— can be found within these pages in the prayer entitled “For Cheerfulness” which asks

God, “... *prevent me from saying the hurtful words that stir up strife. If tempted to argue, help me to keep my temper.*” Many prayers seeking help like this are found in the book. This is a vitally important point about God’s help ... which if understood will help us to reach “inward” and have our thoughts adjusted by the presence of God within. One might question, “Why ask God to ‘prevent me from saying hurtful words’? I must do that myself.” This is the wonder of the province of prayer, where by asking (praying) for help, God delivers us from, and saves us during the time of temptation when we are most susceptible to stray. This is where we are “set free from evil.”

There is no particular pose or position we must take when praying, such as closing the eyes, folding the hands, or bowing the head. We may just as well lift our eyes to heaven as Jesus did during his prayer just before he entered the garden of Gethsemane. Jesus taught us to pray to the Father in his (Jesus’) name; therefore the

prayers in this book are ultimately directed to the Father.

Reader, although I may not have met your children, yet still I love them. God bless you and your family richly.

I am indebted to Elisabeth Robinson Scovil for her inspiring early work in children's prayers; to the insight of the Fifth Epochal Revelation freely referenced herein; and to my teachers of faith and truth over the years.

REV. JOSHUA J. WILSON (1997)

The Lord's Prayer

OUR Father, Who is in heaven, we honor and respect you . . . to us you are amazing. We want your kingdom to come, and your will to be done here on earth as it is done in heaven. Give us today our daily food, and forgive us for our mistakes, as we also forgive those who have not treated us right. Save us when we are tempted to do wrong, and set us free from evil. *Thank You, Heavenly Father.*

Morning Prayer

I THANK You, O God, for keeping me safe through the hours of the night. Be with me through this day and make me alive with Your Spirit. Guide me in all I do and say. Keep my lips from speaking unkind and careless words, and keep my mind pure and

true, thinking the best thoughts I know. Inspire and encourage me to be dependable in my work, cheerful, and thoughtful of others. Save me when I am in danger of giving in to doing wrong. Give me right decisions in all things. May I live my life here in such a way that, in the world to come, I may be with You forever. This new day I dedicate to You! *Father, I know you hear my prayer.*

A Noontime Prayer

O LORD, do not let my busy life turn me away from serving You. Make me Yours and keep me Yours. It is *certain* You are keeping me in the palm of your hand.

For Courage

LORD of all power and energy, Who gives strength to people who are weak and holds up those who are about to fall, give me courage to do what is right, because those who trust in You have no reason to be afraid. You make me brave to face any danger which may now threaten me. Thank you for giving me the help You have promised to those who ask for it, so I may overcome my fears and go bravely forward. You fill me with courage, so that everything which I must do is not too hard for me. I put my trust in Your power and goodness. *Truly* you are now by my side.

For Work

O GOD, Who has said that people should work for their daily food, show me what work is planned for me to do. Help me, I pray, with my chores today. You know the things that I need—help me find an honest job to do that will make me able to get those things. Help me to not dislike my job, even if it is small, and help me to do it *so* well that I may get a better job. I am part of this great world You have made. Give me a place in its work, that I may have enough to pay for my own needs and enough also to help those who have less. I ask this for the sake of Your Son, Jesus, who worked with His hands when He was on earth. *Thank you.*

For a Good Attitude

O DIVINE Master, I trust you to give me a quiet mind, and a body kept in such good condition as nature intended that it may be strong, relaxed and ready to serve. Then, when irritations come, help me to remember that losing my temper and having a bad attitude harms me and those around me, and brings good to no one. Make me think ahead and know that annoying things will soon pass and that I must not let them change who I am. Help me express my thoughts and feelings clearly, and without unkind anger. *Thank you* for the refreshing of Your Spirit.

For Happiness

O LORD, I choose now to be happy so I may bring happiness to others. Help me to remember that the world has plenty of sadness in it and needs all the brightness I can give it. Help me keep my sadness to myself, unless I feel you leading me to share it with another person. Help me to keep cheerfulness on as a brightly colored piece of clothing worn, and so shine happiness on all those around me. When sorrow comes let me not forget that there is still joy on earth and that in time I will share in it again. I ask this, *believing*, so I may become more and more like Jesus.

For Peace at Home

O DIVINE MOTHER, Who helps our family to agree on things, and to not just argue, bring peace into our home. Help me to do my share and to be the person to help bring this change for good. Make me always ready to give the soft answer that keeps the other person from becoming angry. Take away from me the wish to irritate others and prevent me from saying the hurtful words that stir up strife and anger. If tempted to argue, help me keep my temper under control. Let the law of kindness rule my life and control all I do and say. When my feelings are hurt let me turn to You for comfort, and keep me calm under the shadow of your loving arms. *I believe.*

For Truthfulness

O GOD, Who has told us (as it is written) that You are the Truth, inspire me to speak only the truth today. Fear will not force me into saying what is not true. Cause me to think before I speak so that what I say will be the honest truth. Give me such a great respect for my word that I would never break it. When I have made a promise, let me always do what I have said. Make me sincere and honest in all my actions. Keep from me the wish to deceive or trick others, so I may be truthful both in what I say and in what I do. I *trust* you to change my thoughts so they are like your own.

For Understanding

OLORD, there are many things I do not understand. Make it clear to me what is important for me to know. Show me your truth, give me a revelation, an understanding of your truth. You said in the Gospel that if any person would do Your will he or she would understand your teaching. Help me to follow in the footsteps of Your holy life, Jesus, and not be troubled about questions and things I'm not sure of yet. Let my life show that I have faith and trust in You. I know in the next worlds all mysteries will be made clear to me. Give me light so I can see to walk and give me the Holy Spirit to lead me to all truth. *God, I believe You will do what you say.*

For Patience

OLORD Jesus, Who in Your life on earth showed us an example of perfect patience, help me to outlast my troubles without complaining. I know these tests that seem so hard are bringing something good to me. Enable me to keep strong and wait patiently, and to not waste my energy with many tears and complaining. Let patience have its perfect work in me. Let me remember the good which comes from slow, gradual growth, and let me not lose hope because I don't see its fruit all at once. When I am upset and annoyed with others, help me remember my own mistakes, and make me patient with their faults. Help me to not be in a hurry. *I will wait for You.*

For Endurance

O GOD Who has given me the wish to do right and has helped me to serve You, strengthen me to keep going. When I am tired, remind me that the ways of sin are hard in the end. Don't let me, in a moment of weakness, lose what I've gained. In the darkness of discouragement, give me the light of Your presence. Help me to endure hard times, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. *I know you hold my hand.*

Forgiveness

HEAVENLY FATHER, You have taught us to ask forgiveness from You. Help me to forgive those who have hurt me and to treat them as if they had never wronged me.

Soften my heart, that I may do good to them and not harm by my words or actions. If mean thoughts are in my mind and cruel words come to my lips, help me to give them over to you. Help me remember that whatever wrongs may be done to me I cannot set them right by seeking revenge or by trying to get even. *Through you, I am confident I can forgive completely and from my heart.*

For Helpfulness

O DIVINE MOTHER, Who has put me in this world and given me my work to do, show me how to help those who are near to me, and who need what I can give them. Kindness and encouragement will lighten another's load. Let me see how I can help them. Make me a helper, for when I share someone's problem it only weighs half as much. If I don't have much strength at the

moment someone needs me, let me do what I can. Help me to put love into each little service, and let me not turn away hurt and offended when those I help don't show appreciation. *My will is dedicated to serving You and others.*

For Self-Control

O GOD, help me think in such a way that I will have my mind, my feelings and my emotions under control. Get my attention when I need a reminder that self-control just means controlling myself. When tempted to do wrong, help me to be ready for the challenge. If fear attacks, make me stronger than the fear. Keep me calm during times of danger, and unruffled when panic seizes me and those around me. When I am annoyed, help me to keep it to myself. If others try to

push me past my limit, help me to keep quiet. However, if I am to speak out let it be to stand up for who you really are, your character, and for your purposes, and not for my own small self-defense. Send me power to rule my own spirit. Give me such calmness so I can use all my powers of mind and body to the best use. *My trust in You is strong.*

For Unselfishness

OCHRIST JESUS, Who in your life here on earth showed us the perfect example of love for others, set me free from harmful self-centered thoughts. You said that he who loses his life for You will find it, so put far from me selfish words and actions. Teach me that a heart devoted to helping others has more happiness than a heart whose goal is its own self-advantage. Let me find

pleasure in helping others, and joy in giving without thinking of getting something in return. I want to keep the thought of your own unselfish life always on my mind. It is *settled in my heart* to lose my life for your sake.

For Sensitivity

O HOLY SPIRIT, Who is full of love and mercy, help me to be sensitive to the feelings of others. Let me beware of asking a prying question or suggesting something mean--I know these things can hurt more than being hit with a fist. Show me how to help a shy friend feel more at home, and to give her confidence by sharing words of kindness and being interested in her life. Keep me from blundering into the private and sacred places of others. Give me a wholesome sense of the rights of others. Help me to not even seem to

be uncaring. Give me good insight, so I may see quickly the right thing to do. *Holy Spirit, you give me a sense of quick understanding.*

For Love

O DIVINE MOTHER, You are One who knows me personally. You are a God who loves me and that I can love in return. It's my desire today to love You with all my heart, and mind and soul and strength. Help me to show love to my father, mother, family, teachers, friends and neighbors as much as I love and care for myself and my own personal needs—help me to love my neighbor as myself. Give me, I pray, a big heart to also love those who don't love me—show me how I can do good to them as well. Jesus and Divine Mother, I hear you calling me to live in your love, even as you always live in the Father's love. It is my desire to

love—it is my desire to good to others. Help me to love one more person today than I did yesterday. And when my friends and family need my love and understanding, let me not be quick to believe the worst about them; instead let me be quick to see their change of heart, and let me help make their change easier for them by sharing sympathy and kindness. "God is love." *Thank you divine Mother for making me a loving person.*

Saving and Planning

O Heavenly Father, Who has made all things in this world of ours, teach me to use Your good gifts with planning and care. Let me not waste what I should save for a time of need in the future. Before I begin a work, let me count the cost and see if I have the time and strength and supplies to finish it.

Give me such wisdom that I won't have to look backward with sad regrets. Let me never be in a hurry, but help me to be like You, who has "made all things beautiful in Your time." Let me guard my health and all that I own, so I may have enough extra to help others. If I have more things than I can use, let me keep them carefully so I may have something to share with those who have a need or are less fortunate than I am. *Let it be so.*

For Faithfulness

O FATHER in Heaven, Who has given each of us our work to do on earth, help me to be faithful in mine. I desire to put my best into it. Let me do each part of my work knowing that I am in your very presence--that you are always with me. When my school

work is tiring and harder than I thought it would be, help me to keep on and not neglect it. Help me to be faithful and loyal to my friends; never to tell a secret given me to keep, nor to reveal what I have overheard by accident, nor to repeat anything that I know someone doesn't want told. Make me a trustworthy person. I am *happy to know* that as I am faithful in the little things, that I will grow to be faithful in bigger things, and will be made ruler over many things. *Amen.*

For a Right Decision

O GOD, Who has made us with the power and free will to choose good or evil, guide me to a right decision in all things. Give me an open mind, so I may see all sides of a question and understand their true values. I desire to look into the heart of things to see what is beneath the surface and to not be

fooled by the way things look at first. Do not let pleasantly spoken words or flattery distract my decision making, or dares or threats disturb it. *Thank you for the gift of wisdom.*

For Hope

O INFINITE SPIRIT, thank you for growing in my heart a living Hope. When it seems I have nothing to look forward to, open my eyes to see that life has many things to do--fun, work and play, still coming up for me. You, O God, are my hope. There is an ecstasy and joy which fills my soul as I rest securely and confidently in your arms when everything around me seems insecure and uncertain. *Thank you* for working out your wonderful plan for my life.

For Purity

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, Son of God, Who lived a perfect life on earth, give me the ability and grace to be pure and clean in soul and body. When temptation is strong, help me remember that having one moment of pleasure isn't worth the stain of sin which follows. Let me not fail in my mission as Adam and Eve did in theirs. Let me guard my mind, for impure thoughts are the beginning of evil, sin and iniquity. Keep me from lifting my thoughts above you God as Lucifer did, willfully going against your divine law, the will of God. Make me know that in time I could wind up being upset with myself, and with those who love me, if I give way to sin. No one can hurt me but myself. Give me grace to honor my body and mind as

the temple of the Holy Spirit. *You are creating a clean heart in me, O God.*

For a Quiet Mind

DEAR MOTHER IN HEAVEN, sometimes my mind is tossed about like the waves of the sea, and filled with doubts and trouble. Calm me down and keep me calm in the middle of confusion. I know that in Your protection all things are safe; open my eyes so I can see your loving care surrounding me. Make me feel and truly realize it. Help me to trust You as the tender mother you are. You have said that “in quietness and in confidence is strength.” Let me put away the doubts and fears that distract my attention away from you. *You have promised to keep my mind in perfect peace when I concentrate on You.*

At Christmas Time

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, Who was born on earth as a little child, help me to keep in mind Your great gift to people, the first Christmas gift, the gift of Yourself and Your perfect life. Happy birthday, Jesus! The idea of You, the Creator wanting to come to earth and become like me, your child, so you could really understand and know me is wonderful. Thank You for this gift. Help me to remember that giving, and not getting, is the lesson of this day. Fill my heart with praise for all You have done for me and given to me. Fill me with gratitude for the kindness of my friends and the power to enjoy. My thought for today is, *Good will to all people. Let it be so.*

Feeling What Others Feel

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, Who cried when Your friend Lazarus died, give me a heart to feel the sadness of others. Make me quick to sympathize with their troubles and do all I can to make them easier. When they are happy, let me be happy with them. Let me also set a healthy limit or boundary so I don't make the mistake of letting their troubles become *my* troubles, for then I will be as troubled as they are. Instead, when I feel what a friend feels, let her know that because of this, she is not alone. Help me to be a faithful prayer partner. I know that when two or three agree on any need, *You will help.*

For Fairness

O GOD, Who has the last word, give me the spirit of fairness. Let me and my friends enjoy the happiness everyone feels when there is sharing, and things are fair. Give me, I pray, a wide view that can see the rights and needs of others. Don't let my feelings carry me into thinking that wrong is right. Help me to make room for situations, and to not quickly condemn others for things they do. Let me do to others as I would have them do to me. Make me true to myself as well—because giving up my own honest rights could help the other person to be selfish, and may wrong us both. *I receive now the mind of Christ, a reasonable and fair mind.*

For Holding My Peace

O GOD, You know that I'm sometimes tempted to use angry words and to act on the spur of the moment. When I'm not peaceful with those around me, it's so easy to be upset. Help me hold my peace, so I don't stir up trouble. Keep me from words and actions I know will bother others. Give me grace to be silent, and not let others push me into saying things I'll be sorry for later. When holding my peace is difficult and seems impossible, let me remember how you were patient when your enemies attacked you, and help me to follow your example. *You keep me at peace. Thank you.*

For Mercy

O LORD, help me to accept others just as they now are, and to show kindness and forgiveness. I will do whatever is needed to help my brother and my sister find happiness—and to just pray if that is all that is called for. Help me be tolerant of others' behavior when I find it bothers me, and let me not be pressured into giving a mean, sharp answer back. Instead, I will stop at nothing to help restore self-respect to anyone who has lost it, and truly desires to get it back again. *Father, I know this is how you show mercy to me . . . may I return the same favor today to others.*

For My Teachers

DEAR DIVINE TEACHER, Thank You for my teachers. Help me pay attention to what they say. Let me remember to say “thank you” for their kindness to teach me how to live. When they teach me about language, art, music, math, religion, science, history and the people in this world, help me to learn, remember and understand everything I can. I know that You are the Great Teacher. Help my teachers to hear your voice. If my teacher becomes cross or upset at me or other children, remind me that they have a big job to do. *Show me what I can do to make their job easier. Thank you.*

For Help in Playing Music

DEAR DIVINE MUSICIAN, Thank You for your music that surrounds me-- the sound of birds singing sweetly, the whisper of the wind thru forest trees, the enchanted bubbling of water in a creek, the rhythm of a baby breathing, and the bold clap of thunder in the sky. Help me to enjoy my practice time and remind me that it is all praise to you. My single life is a melody floating above the noise of everyday life. My life as it intertwines with you and others is the harmony of different sounds that go together well. The steady plan for my life that you work out moment by moment takes its tempo from the rhythm and pulse of your Spirit.

Inspire me to play skillfully on the stringed instruments to show your glory, on the horns to call your people to worship, on the woodwinds to woo your children to your presence, and on percussion to start the dance which leads all the way to Paradise. *My time today to enjoy music is my gift of praise, adoration and worship to You. Let it be so.*

For Power to Earn Money

OLORD, You know I have need of certain things that money can buy. Give me the power to earn money honestly and to spend it wisely. There is great abundance in this world of Yours. Help me to earn enough so I will not be poor, and help me to not be worried and upset about things. When I have extra, help me as I use it to remember that it comes from You. Teach me to use my freedom for Your plans, and for the good of

others, and not for my own fun and pleasure only. I enjoy helping your big family on earth. *Truly I am blessed. Thank you.*

For Help in Sports

Dear Lord Jesus, Son of God, I would like to be strong in body and mind so that I can do my best when playing sports. When I run, jump, throw, kick, or swing help me be ready to do my best. Help me and my teammates work together so we may enjoy ourselves, and maybe win the game. If we lose the game, help us to remember that others will win, and soon we will have another turn. Help our coaches to see the best plan for the game, and to help every member become better every week.

A Lost or Sick Animal

Dear Mother in Heaven, You know all about every pet and every animal that flies in the air, swims in the water, or walks on the earth, including mine. If my pet is lost, help it to find shelter, and help the people in my neighborhood to care for it while it is away. I know that all animals, and even the bodies of people eventually die. When my pet is sick, help us to know how to help it and care for it. If it is our pet's time to die, let us be grateful for the times we had together. If my pet is able to live longer, let us enjoy every day playing together. *God knows all about it when even the smallest bird falls to the earth. So let it be.*

When a Family Member Moves from Home

Dear Father in Heaven, Help me to know that if a brother or sister, or family member moves from home that they are on an adventure. I will miss them being around the home all the time as they have been for so long.

I pray that this next step in life will be a good one for them. If my loved one is going to school, going to college, or going to a new place of work, or going to a new home, help me to remember that I will see them again for visits and it will be like old times again, because of our love for each other and our friendship. *Thank you, dear God.*

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You may write your own prayers here:

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