

PRAYERS TO TRUST IN GOD'S LOVE

The wide variety in the formality and tone of these prayers will hopefully help them to appeal to many people, in whatever moment we find ourselves. The personal prayers that I offer here are taken from my journal, from my struggles during the darker moments of my journey when I doubted God's love for me. I hope to add to this collection in the future.

Prayer To Know the Love of Christ by St. Paul

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. - Eph. 3:16-21

Lover of Humanity

O Lover of humanity
who becomes bread and wine
to feed Your beloved! - Marie Paul Curley, FSP

God's Masterpiece

O Master Painter of the skies
who has wrought in blinding light
each sunrise and sunset,
Your true masterpiece--
the heart that chooses Love. - Marie Paul Curley, FSP

Psalms 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—
who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Dizzying Truth of Your Love

My Jesus, I am struggling with self-doubt again,
not able to hang on to the dizzying truth that You love me tenderly,
gently call me, and deeply will my happiness.

Help me to believe in, cherish, and root myself in Your incredible love.
Help me to recognize Your love in all its dailiness,
and allow it to fill me with joy, with thankfulness,
so that Your love overflows from me into others,
a love so vast and so deep
that it will sweep them closer to You. Amen. - Marie Paul Curley, FSP

God's Mission for Me

1. God was all-complete, all-blessed in Himself; but it was His will to create a world for His glory. He is Almighty, and might have done all things Himself, but it has been His will to bring about His purposes by the beings He has created. We are all created to His glory—we are created to do His will. I am created to do something or to be something for which no one else is created; I have a place in God's counsels, in God's world, which no one else has; whether I be rich or poor, despised or esteemed by man, God knows me and calls me by my name.

2. God has created me to do Him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission—I never may know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. Somehow I am necessary for His purposes, as necessary in my place as an Archangel in his—if, indeed, I fail, He can raise another, as He could make the stones children of Abraham. Yet I have a part in this great work; I am a link in a chain, a bond of connexion between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do His work; I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it, if I do but keep His commandments and serve Him in my calling.

3. Therefore I will trust Him. Whatever, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him; in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him; if I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. My sickness, or perplexity, or sorrow may be necessary causes of some great end, which is quite beyond us. He does nothing in vain; He may prolong my life, He may shorten it; He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends, He may throw me among strangers, He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide the future from me—still He knows what He is about.

O Adonai, O Ruler of Israel, Thou that guidest Joseph like a flock, O Emmanuel, O Sapientia, I give myself to Thee. I trust Thee wholly. Thou art wiser than I—more loving to me than I myself. Deign to fulfill Thy high purposes in me whatever they be—work in and through me. I am born to serve Thee, to be Thine, to be Thy instrument. Let me be Thy blind instrument. I ask not to see—I ask not to know—I ask simply to be used.

- Bl. John Henry Newman

A Simple Prayer

Let me find my home in Your Heart. - Marie Paul Curley, FSP

Living Encounter

God, I need a daily, living encounter with You:

With You, the Creator and Father

who loves me not as I "should" be, but as I am.

Who loves me so much that You made me as I am.

For Your own reasons.

With You, Loving Redeemer and Faithful Master,

the Bread and Wine who pours out Your very self to give me life;

the ultimate Gentle One

who loves humility, simplicity, poverty of spirit, a gentle heart.

With You, Holy Spirit, who inspires

my thought and writing,

my creative moments and my "organizational" ones.

You, the Whisper in my awareness, calling me to love, life, joy, hope!

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You who love me so much You inhabit my life--
hidden, silent, waiting for me to be ready to see You.

Loving Creator, Gentle Nurturer, Kindred Spirit!
You are the One I've dedicated my life to.
You are the One whom I sit with in prayer every day.
You are the One whom I proclaim.
You are the One who has called me, loved me, sent me! - Marie Paul Curley, FSP

Praise for Your Gifts

Lord, what I keep forgetting is that to deny or "overlook" my giftedness is to deny or overlook the marvels of Your creation—the very personal marvels You wanted me to have and rejoice in, to feel strengthened by and to use for the good of others. - Marie Paul Curley, FSP

Help Me Accept Your Love

My Jesus,
help me to simply "be" in the present;
To accept Your unconditional, unbelievably wonderful,
tender love for me.
Help me to know how loved I am,
so that Your love can free me to become more truly,
more deeply,
more authentically,
myself.
For in being my true self,
I can finally let go of the inconsistencies;
I can start to really witness to the power of a Love
that could save even my poor self
from the self-hate and despair that have haunted me
for much of my life.

Sometimes it's hard to believe there is any power strong enough
to free me
from those inner bonds.
I feel their weight, their trap, their tug
even now.
And that's what prevents me from being quiet,
from listening to Your voice
in the hushedness of my soul.
Unbind me! I beg You,
Savior, Redeemer, Friend,
my Beloved,
Soul of mine,
Heart of mine,
my Breath,
my Pulse,

my Food,
my Joy,
my only Comfort. - Marie Paul Curley, FSP

Canticle of a Redeemed Soul

Blessed be the Father of Jesus and now my Father too
-for having adopted me in Jesus
-for having sent Your only Son to be with humanity,
with every human person
in their sufferings, joys, and blessings
-for Your loving eternal plan to create the cosmos
and to give me an essential place in this world
-for lovingly creating me
and gifting me with intelligence, freedom,
my unique and particularly beloved identity,
my way of imaging You in the world

Blessed be the only Son of the Father,
the Beloved,
Jesus,
-who unites us in Himself
-who sanctifies every human endeavor by becoming fully human
-who offers to the Father every human emotion of which we are capable
-who comes to us humbly
as a Baby
as a broken piece of Bread
as one rejected by His own--
misunderstood and betrayed,
tormented and put to death
-who brings life out of even the darkest place
-who brings hope even in desperation
-who lives in us, offering us to the Father in Himself
-who sanctifies and blesses all of the "stuff" of creation anew
by taking on this very "stuff" in His being
-who offers us the Way of Servanthood
-who is our Resurrection and our Life

Blessed be the Lord, the Giver of life, the Spirit,
-who brings to fruition in us the saving work of the Father and the Son
-who works in and through history to save
-who inspires us with His very own love,
building a communion of justice and peace
-who speaks powerfully in and through the prophets of each age,
and encourages each of us to live prophetically
-who speaks in the sighs and longings of our broken humanity

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- who searches out each heart thirsting for a share in God's own life
- who works in a hidden, mysterious way in each person's life
- who forms Jesus in me
- who prays within me when I have naught left to say
- who adopts each of us as children of God
- who brings peace, love, trust, strength, wisdom
- who gently waits for us to make space for Him. - Marie Paul Curley, FSP

Prayer to Surrender to Love

Loving God,
You know me intimately:
my fears, my inability to trust You
my grasping for those things over which I have no control
my blindness to the reality of Your love and Your presence
my stubbornness in never trusting the experience of Your love that You continuously shower on me.
I am a mess of contradictions:
I want to witness to You
while emotionally I am locked into overwhelming fear.

In Your time,
in Your way,
free me.

Let Your Presence fill my prison until its bars burst open
Let Your Love give wings to my desperate heart
Let Your Gentleness soothe my ego's frantic efforts to control
Let Your Truth root my fluttering doubts
Let Your Light show my faltering feet the Way
Let Your Banquet nourish my weakness into Life
Let Your Faithfulness encompass and embrace me
until I am transformed from a being bound by Fear
into a Being transformed by Love. - Marie Paul Curley, FSP

Earthen Dish

My Jesus, why did You choose this earthen dish--
misshapen and unfinished
even the lacquer uneven?
This hardened clay vessel,
bubbled and stained by struggle,
seems unworthy to carry sparkling life to others.
Yet You delight
in using flawed and humble utensils.
Is it the cracks that make the earthenware
unique and precious in Your sight,
made valuable by its doubled awareness
of its imperfections and role to serve?

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Maybe today You call me
not to doubt Your love for me--
Not to doubt You, but to trust You?
To trust Your goodness.
To trust Your love.
To trust You (even) in me.
To trust that You don't make worthless, bad stuff.
To trust...
That You love whom You create
That You choose whom You create and sustain
That Your life and death and Resurrection are one big "Yes!" to my life,
to my meaning, to my being loved. - Marie-Paul Curley, FSP