

ANNEX 6

FAVORITE PRAYERS

Introduction: These are some of my favorite prayers. The great prayers are those which God hears and approves. What is great in his eyes is not always great in our eyes. The humble prayer such as that of the Publican who prayed "God have mercy on me a sinner" or the prayer of the thief on the Cross praying "Remember me when you come into your kingdom", these are great prayers even though they might not be memorized for their beauty or appear in prayer books. Prayers are pleas that go to God. If God hears and answers, then it is a great prayer. Below are some of my favorite prayers. On some I make a few comments.

THE MODEL PRAYER

Jesus Christ

Our father who art in heaven,
Hallowed Be Thy Name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive
Those who have trespassed against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power and the glory forever.

Comment: This is the great prayer. It is great because here the Son teaches us how to pray to the Father. It is The Prayer. Books have been written upon the prayer. I use this prayer numerous times each day, sometimes repeating it and other times making it my own by elaborating it or putting it into my own words. If you want to pray, start here. If there were only one teaching on prayer, this would be the one.

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love,
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is doubt, faith,
Where there is darkness, light,
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much
 Seek to be consoled as to console,
 Not so much to be understood as to understand,
 Not so much to be loved, as to love;
 For it in giving that we receive,
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
 It is in dying that we awake to eternal life.

Comment: This is a truly beautiful prayer. Many people, including myself, refer to it regularly. It captures the true meaning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and sets a standard for us to try to reach in our personal lives and thoughts.

Serenity Prayer

Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr

God grant me
 The serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
 The 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.

Comment: This is a popular prayer utilized by many including those in AA and other recovery groups.

Give Me a Pure Heart

Dag Hammarskjold

Give me a pure heart
 That I may see thee,
 A humble heart
 That I may hear thee,
 A heart of love
 That I may serve thee
 A heart of faith
 That I may abide in thee.

Comment: Dag Hammarskjold was the Secretary General of the United Nations. He was killed in an airplane accident. This book is contained in his book, *Markings*.

Ignatius Loyola

Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous;
Teach me to serve thee as thou deserve;
 To give and not count the cost,
 To fight and not to seek for rest,
 To labour and not to seek reward,
Save that of knowing that I do thy will.

Comment: Loyola was a Spaniard who was a soldier and became a priest. He founded the Jesuit Order and wrote a devotional book in 1524 called *The Spiritual Exercises*.

Prayer of St. Patrick

St. Patrick

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
 Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ where I lie, Christ where I sit, Christ where I arise
Christ in the heart of every one who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of every one who speaks to me
 Christ in every eye that sees me
 Christ in every ear that hears me.
Salvation is of the Lord. Salvation is of the Christ.
May your salvation, Lord, be ever with us.

Comment: St. Patrick was a slave taken to Ireland. He later fled and returned home. Patrick returned to Ireland as a missionary eventually becoming the patron Saint of Ireland.

Tyndale's Prayer for the King of England

Lord, open the King of England's eyes!

Comment: William Tyndale in 1525 translated the Bible into English. The Bishop of London hearing about this said, "the vulger tongue...will without doubt, infect and contaminate the flock committed to us." Tyndale was later charged with treason and hanged in Europe. Just before he died he prayed for the King. Within a century 90% of Tyndale's Bible had made it into the *King James Bible*.

Child's Night Time Prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep
I pray the Lord my soul to keep
If I die before I wake
I pray the Lord my soul to take.

Comment: This a version of an earlier prayer found in The New England Primer which was used in the School Systems of the U.S. in the 18th century. As a child in the 1940's and early 50's I was taught this prayer and used it regularly as my bed time prayer. Life was often uncertain even then and this prayer taught children to commit their souls to God before they went to sleep and to trust God for their safety.

The Prayer of the Publican

God have mercy upon me a Sinner.

Comment: This is the prayer that Jesus said was a prayer that helped to justify a sinner instead of the prayer of the Pharisee at Luke 18:12. We call upon God with a humble heart. Humility brings us to God; pride separates us from God. Religious observance, including religious acts, giving, and fasting are not what God is looking for. Instead he is looking for a humble heart.

Prayer for Salvation

Thief on the Cross

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Comment: Even if your sins merit death (and all of our sins do), you have the right to pray and to call upon Christ for salvation. It is never too late to call upon Jesus and ask for salvation. Here a thief on the cross called upon Christ at his last minute and was saved through the mercy of Jesus. This thief was promised salvation by Jesus himself and that day joined Jesus in Paradise. He joined Christ without water baptism and without doing any good acts. He simply asked Jesus for mercy.

Sinner's Prayer

Dear God, I know I'm a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe that He died for my sin and that you raised Him to life. I want to trust Him as my Savior and follow Him as Lord, from this day forward. Guide my life and help me to do your will. I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Comment: This prayer or one similar to it has been used in *The Four Spiritual Laws* and by numerous churches and evangelists to lead people to salvation. Although a prayer such as this may seem formulaic and an over simplification, it has been the beginning spot for many people who have come to know Christ and who have experienced salvation.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit
St. Augustine

Breathe in me O Holy Spirit
 That my thoughts may all be holy
 Act in me O Holy Spirit
 That my work, too, may be holy.
 Draw my heart O Holy Spirit
 To defend all that is holy.
 Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit
 That I may always be holy.

Comment. St. Augustine was the Bishop of Hippo. He lived from 351-430. He wrote the famous book *The City of God*.

Watch, O Lord
 St. Augustine

Watch, O Lord,
 With those who wake or watch,
 Or weep tonight
 and give Your angels charge
 Over those who sleep.
 Tend Your sick ones,
 O Lord Christ.
 Rest Your weary ones,
 Bless Your dying ones.
 Soothe Your suffering ones.
 Pity Your afflicted ones.
 Shield Your joyuous ones.
 And all for Your love's sake.
 Amen.

Prayer of John Calvin
 John Calvin

Almighty God and Father, grant unto us,
 because we have to go through much strife on this earth,
 the strength of thy Holy Spirit, in order that we may,
 courageously go through the fire and through the water,
 and that we may put ourselves under Thy rule
 that we may go to meet death in full confidence of thy
 assistance and without fear.

Grant us that we may bear all hatred and enmity of mankind,
 until we have gained the last victory
 and that at last come to that blessed rest
 which Thy only begotten son has acquired for us
 through His blood.
 Amen

Comment: John Calvin was a galley slave who later brought Scotland into the Reformation. He is well known for his great book *The Institutes*.

God Be in My Head

Sarum Primer

God be in my head,
 and in my understanding;
 God be in mine eyes
 and in my looking;
 God be in my mouth;
 and in my speaking;
 God be in my heart,
 and in my thinking;
 God be at mine end,
 and at my departing.

Comment: This prayer is from the *Sarum Primer* of 1558.

Watch Night Covenant Prayer

John Wesley

I am no longer my own, but Yours.
 Put me to what You will, rank me with whom You will;
 Put me to doing, put me to suffering;
 Let me be employed for You, or laid aside for you,
 Exalted for You, or brought low for You:
 Let me be full, let me be empty,
 Let me have all things, let me have nothing;
 I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
 to Your pleasure and disposal.
 And now glorious and blessed God,
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
 You are mine and I am Yours. So be it!
 And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.
 Amen.

Comment: John Wesley is the founder of the Methodist Church. This prayer was given on “Watch Night” which is New Year’s Eve.

Prayer for Salvation

John Wesley

...Lord, add this to all of your blessings-let me be
born again. Deny me not this let me be born
from above. Take away whatever seems good to you-
reputation, fortune, friends, health-
Only give me this, to be born of the Spirit,
To be received among the children of God.
Let me born of the incorruptible seed
by the word of God.
And then let me grow in grace
and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ.

Prayer for the World

Billy Graham

...Our Father and our God, we pray that in this period of crisis in our world
That the Holy Spirit will use it to remind us our need of Thee and our relationship with Thee
And we pray that tonight if our relationship is not right that we'll make it right
through Jesus Christ our Lord who came to die on the cross
because He loved us. For we ask it in His Name.
Amen.

Comment: Billy Graham prayed this prayer in Sacramento, California in 1983.

**Morning Prayer
And Evening Prayer**

Martin Luther

Morning

In the name of the Father and of the Son and
Of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
I thank you , my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ,
your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger;
And I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil,
that all my doings and life may please You.
For into Your hands I commend myself;
my body, and soul, and all things.
Let your holy angel be with me,

that the evil foe may have no power over me.
Amen.

Evening

In the name of the Father and of the Son and
Of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ,
Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day;
And I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong
and graciously keep me this night.
For into Your hands, I commend myself,
my body and soul and all things.
Let your holy angel be with me,
that the evil foe may have no power over me.
Amen

Comment: These prayers came from Martin Luther's *Small Catechism* and were written for individuals and families to pray in the morning and evening.

Awaken Us

Martin Luther

Dear Lord God, awaken us
that we may be ready when your dear Son comes,
that we may receive him with joy
and serve you with pure hearts;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

For Righteous Government

Martin Luther

Lord, preserve your people.
Maintain righteous government everywhere,
so that all things may take place in an orderly way
And peace not be destroyed
by revolution or secret enmity, nor the eternal good order
be corrupted by debased living.
Amen

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

Martin Luther

Dearest Lord Christ,
 You have enlightened my heart with your truth,
 Give me also your Holy Spirit and power,
 that I may know and do what pleases you.
 Amen

Give Your Message Through Me

Martin Luther

O dearest God, as it pleases you,
 give your message through me
 to your glory and not for mine or anyone else's glory,
 and give me a true understanding of your Word
 out of your pure grace and mercy.
 Amen

You are Eager to Hear

Martin Luther

Dearest Lord God, O that we were just eager to pray,
 even with the most meager sighs of the heart
 As you are eager to urge, invite,
 command, and compel us to pray.
 O, we are lazy and unthankful.
 Forgive us for this, dearest Lord,
 and strengthen our faith.
 Amen

Prayer for the United States

George Washington

Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer
 that Thou will keep the United State in thy holy protection
 that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens
 to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government,
 and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another
 and for the fellow citizens of the United States at large.
 And finally that Thou will most graciously be pleased
 so dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy,
 and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility,
 and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics
 of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without

an humble imitation of whose example in these things,
 we can never hope to be a happy nation.
 Grant our supplication we beseech Thee,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

Comment: This was written by George Washington and sent to the Governors of all the States making up the United States in 1789.

Prayers from the Book of Common Prayer

Comment: Some of the most beautiful written prayers are from the Book of Common Prayer utilized by the Church of England and the Episcopal Church in the U.S. Below are a small sampling of some of these beautiful prayers.

For Joy in God's Creation

O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty;
 Open our eyes to behold thy gracious hand in all works;
 That, rejoicing in thy whole creation, we may learn to serve
 Thee with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all
 Things were made,
 Amen

For the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us
 Through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole
 human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which
 infects our hearts; break down the walls that separate us;
 unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggles and
 confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth, that, in
 your good time, all nations and races may serve you in
 harmony around your heavenly throne;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen

For Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn
 but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the
 strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that
 all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of
 Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and
 Glory, now and forever. Amen

For the Unity of the Church

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior,
The Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the
great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away
all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us
from godly union and concord; that, as there is but one Body
and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith,
One Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all
of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth
and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and
one mouth glorify thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

For Courts of Justice

Almighty God, who sittest in the throne judging right: we
humbly beseech thee to bless the courts of justice and the
magistrates in all this land; and give unto them the spirit of
wisdom and understanding, that they may discern the truth,
and impartially administer the law in the fear of thee alone;
through him who shall come to be our Judge, thy Son
Our Savior Jesus Christ
Amen

For the Poor and the Neglected

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you
all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us
to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick,
and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those
who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow
into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for
our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For Prisoners and Those Working in Prisons

Lord Jesus, for our sake you were condemned as a criminal:
Visit our jails and prisons with your pity and judgment.
remember all prisoners, and bring the guilty to repentance
and amendment of life according to your will, and give them
hope for their future. When any are held unjustly, bring them

release; forgive us, and teach us to improve our justice. Remember those who work in these institutions; keep them human and compassionate; and save them from becoming brutal or callous. And since what we do for those in prison, O Lord, we do for you, constrain us to improve their lot. All this we ask for your mercy's sake.

Amen,

For Families

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who settest the solitary In families: We commend to thy continual care the homes in which thy people dwell. Put far from them, we beseech thee, every root of bitterness, the desire of vainglory, and the pride of life. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness. Knit together in constant affection those who, in holy wedlock, have been made one flesh. Turn the hearts of the parents to the children, and the hearts of the children to the parents; and so enkindle fervent charity among us all, that we may evermore be kindly affectioned one to another; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

For Victims of Addiction

O blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you: Look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who care for them, give patient understanding and persevering love.

Amen.

In the Evening

O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last.

Amen.

A General Intercession

Be mindful, O Lord, of thy people bowed before thee,
and of those who are absent through age, sickness or infirmity.

Care for the infants, guide the young, support the aged,
encourage the faint-hearted, collect the scattered,
and bring the wandering to thy fold.

Travel with the voyagers, defend the widows,
shield the orphans, deliver the captives, heal the sick.

Succour all who are in tribulation, necessity, or distress.

Remember for good all those that love us, and those that hate us,
and those that have desired us, unworthy as we are, to pray for them.

And those whom we have forgotten, do thou, O Lord, remember.

for thou are the Helper of the helpless, the Savior of the lost,
the Refuge of the wanderer, the Healer of the sick.

Thou, who knowest each man's need, and has heard his prayer,
grant unto each according to thy merciful loving-kindness
and thy eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Prayers of the Eastern Orthodox Church

Comment: Below are some prayers from the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Intercession

Remember, O Lord all civil authorities,
our armed forces, this city in which we dwell,
and every city and land. Grant us peaceful times,
that we may lead a calm and tranquil life
in all godliness and holiness.

Remember, O Lord, those who travel
by land, and sea, and air,
the young and the old, orphans and widows,
the sick and the suffering,
the sorrowing and the afflicted, all captives,
and the poor and needy. On all of these,
pour out your mercy,
for you are the giver of all good things.

Remember, O Lord, me,
your humble servant.
Grant me your grace
that I may be diligent and faithful,

that I may avoid evil company and influence
 and resist all temptation;
 that I may lead a godly and righteous life,
 blameless and peaceful,
 always serving you.

**17th Century Prayer
 St. Dimitrii of Rostov**

Come, my light and illumine my darkness
 Come, my Life and revive me from death.
 Come, my Physician, and heal my wounds,
 Come, Flame of divine love, and burn up the thorns of my sins, kindling
 my heart with the flame of thy love.
 Come, my King, sit upon the throne of my heart and reign there.
 for thou alone art my King and my Lord.

**Anne Bradstreet
 Wife, mother and Puritan Poet**

...and I am confounded to think that God,
 who has done so much for me, should have
 so little from me. But this is my comfort,
 when I come to heaven, I shall understand
 perfectly what He has done for me, and I shall
 be able to praise him as I ought.
 Lord, having this hope
 help me to purify myself as You are pure,
 and let me be no more afraid of death,
 but even desire to be dissolved
 and be with you which is best of all.

Prayer of Bishop Brooke Foss Wescott

O God, the God of goodness and all grace,
 Who art worthy of a greater love than
 we can either give nor understand:
 Fill our hearts we beseech Thee,
 with such love toward Thee that
 nothing may seem too hard for us
 to do or suffer in obedience to Thy will;
 And grant that thus loving Thee,
 we may daily become more like Thee
 and finally obtain the crown of life
 which thou has promised to those who love Thee;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Some Prayers of St. Anselm
11th Century**

O Lord our God,
Grant us grace to desire Thee with our whole heart,
that so desiring we may seek Thee and find Thee;
and so finding Thee we may love Thee;
And loving Thee we may hate those sins
from which Thou has redeemed us;
For the sake of Jesus Christ.

Lord I am not trying to make it to Thy height,
for my understanding is in no way equal to that,
but I do desire to understand a little of Thy truth
which my heart already believes and loves.
I do seek to understand so that I can believe,
but I believe so that I can understand;
and what is more,
I believe that unless I do believe,
I shall not understand.

**St. Clement of Rome
First Century**

We beg you, Lord, to help and defend us.
Deliver the oppressed, pity the insignificant,
raise the fallen, show yourself to the needy,
heal the sick, bring back those who
have gone astray, feed the hungry,
lift up the weak, take off the prisoner's chains.
May every nation come to know that you alone are God,
and that Jesus Christ is your child,
that we are your people, the sheep that you pasture.

A Prayer of George McDonald

My father, do with me as thou wilt,
only help me against myself and for thee,
I am thy child, the inheritor of thy spirit, thy being,
a part of myself, glorious in thee, but grown poor in me;
Let me be thy dog, thy horse, thy anything,

anything thy wilt; let me be thine in any shape
 the love that is my Father may be pleased to have me;
 Let me be thine in any way, and
 my own or another's in no way but thine.

**A Prayer from
 The New Hebrides**

O Jesus, be the canoe that holds me in the sea of life.
 Be the steer that keeps me straight.
 Be the outrigger that supports me in times of great temptation.
 Let thy spirit be my sail which carries me through each day.
 Keep my body strong so that I can paddle
 steadfastly on in the long voyage of life.

A Prayer of Thomas a Kempis

Grant to me, O Lord, to know what I ought to know,
 To love what I ought to love,
 To praise what delights thee most,
 To value what is precious in thy sight,
 To hate what is offensive to thee.
 Do not suffer me to judge according to my eyes,
 nor to pass sentence according to the ears of ignorant men
 but to discern between things visible and spiritual,
 and above all things to inquire what is the good
 pleasure of Thy will.

**Metropolitan Philaret of Moscow
 1553-1633**

O Lord, I do not know what to ask of thee.
 Thou alone know my true needs.
 Thou lovest me more than I myself know how to love.
 Help me to see my real needs which are concealed from me.
 I dare not ask either a cross nor a consolation.
 I can only wait on thee.
 My heart is open to thee.
 Visit and help me, for thy great mercy's sake.
 Strike me and heal me,
 cast me down and raise me up.
 I worship in silence thy holy will
 and thy inscrutable ways.
 I offer myself a sacrifice to thee.
 I will put all my trust in thee.

I have no other desire than to fulfill thy will.
 Teach me how to pray.
 Pray thou thyself in me.

**An Evening Prayer
 From the Church of South India**

O God, our Father
 by whom the world turns into darkness
 and returns again to light:
 We give into your hands our unfinished tasks,
 our unsolved problems, our unfulfilled hopes,
 knowing that only that which thou dost bless will prosper.
 To thy great love and protection,
 we commit each other and all those we love
 knowing that Thou alone are our sure defender,
 through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**A Prayer of
 Eric Milner-White**

O God our father, help us to nail
 to the cross of Thy dear son,
 the whole body of our death,
 the wrong desires of the heart,
 the sinful devisings of the mind,
 the corrupt apprehensions of the eyes,
 the cruel words of the tongue,
 the ill employment of the hands and the feet,
 that the old man being crucified and done away,
 the new man may live and grow
 into the likeness of Thy son, Jesus Christ,
 who liveth and reigneth with Thee
 and the Holy Ghost, one God,
 world without end.

**A Worker's Prayer
 Reinhold Niebuhr**

Grant us grace, Our Father
 To do our work this day as workman
 who need not be ashamed.
 Give us the spirit of diligence and honest inquiry
 in our quest for the truth,
 The spirit of charity in all our dealings with our fellows,

and the spirit of gaiety, courage and a quiet mind
in facing all tasks and responsibilities.

A Breton Fisherman's Prayer

Dear God, be good to me;
The sea is so wide,
and my boat is so small.

**A Portion of the
Daily Prayer
Of Mother Teresa**

Dearest Lord, may I see you today and every day
in the person of your sick, and while nursing them,
minister unto you.

Though you hide yourself beneath the
unattractive disguise of the irritable, the exacting,
the unreasonable, may I still recognize you and say
"Jesus, my patient, how sweet it is to serve you."

Lord, give me this seeing faith,
then my work will never be monotonous.
I will ever find joy in humoring the fancies
and gratifying the wishes of all poor sufferers.

O beloved sick, how doubly dear you are to me,
when you personify Christ; and what a privilege
is mine to be able to tend you.

Prayer of St. Columba

Almighty Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
eternal ever blessed gracious God;
To me the least of saints, to me
allow that I may keep a door in paradise.
That I may keep even the smallest door,
the furthest, the darkest, the coldest door,
the door that is least used, the stiffest door.
if so it be but in thine house, O God,
if so be that I can see your Glory even from afar,
and hear thy voice, O God,
and know that I am with thee, O God.

**Prayer of Sir Richard Chichester
13th Century**

Thanks be to thee, O Lord Jesus,
for all the benefits thou hast given us;
for all the pains and insults which thou has borne for us.
O merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
May we know thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly,
and follow thee more nearly;
For thine own sake.

**Prayer of Martin Luther King, Jr.
Forgive Us For What We Could Have Been**

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 eternal revolt against you.

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 your will.
Give us the courage to do your will.
Give us the devotion to love thy will.
In the name and spirit of Jesus we pray. Amen.

**Do It Anyway
Mother Teresa**

People are often unreasonable, irrational and self-centered
Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.
Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies.

Succeed anyway.
 If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you.
 Be honest and sincere anyway.
 What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight.
 Create anyway.
 If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous.
 Be happy anyway.
 The good you do today, will often be forgotten.
 Do good anyway.
 Give the best you have, and it will never be enough.
 Give your best anyway.
 In the final analysis, it is between you and God.
 It was never between you and them anyway.

Comment: The version of Do It Anyway was found written on the wall in Mother Teresa's home for children in Calcutta. The original version is entitled "The Paradoxical Commandments" and was written by Dr. Kent M. Keith. That version is given below:

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered.
 Love them anyway.
 If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.
 Do good anyway.
 If you are successful, you win false friends and true enemies.
 Succeed anyway.
 The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.
 Do good anyway.
 Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable.
 Be honest and frank anyway.
 The biggest men and women with biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds.
 Think big anyway.
 People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs.
 Fight for a few underdogs anyway.
 What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.
 Build anyway.
 People really need help but may attack you if you do help them.
 Help people anyway.
 Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth.
 Give the world the best you have anyway.