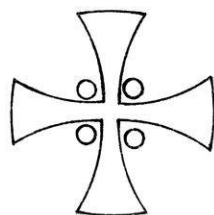


# Prayers for Discernment



Learning to Pray  
Prayers as we seek our Pathway  
Prayers of Surrender

## Learning to Pray

### *Let Your God Love You*

Be silent.  
Be still.  
Alone.  
Empty  
Before your God.  
Say nothing.  
Ask nothing.  
Be silent.  
Be still.  
Let your God look upon you.  
That is all.  
God knows.  
God understands.  
God loves you  
With an enormous love,  
And only wants  
To look upon you  
With that love.  
Quiet.  
Still.  
Be.  
  
Let your God—  
Love you.

- Edwina Gateley

Think of prayer more simply: it means putting yourself near God, with God, in a time of quietness every day. You put yourself with him just as you are, in the feebleness of your concentration, in your lack of warmth and desire, not trying to manufacture pious thoughts or phrases. You put yourself with God, empty perhaps, but hungry and thirsty for him; and if in sincerity you cannot say that you want God you can perhaps tell him that you want to want him; and if you cannot even say that, perhaps you can say you want to, want to, want him! Thus you can be very near to him in your naked sincerity; and *he* will do the rest, drawing out from you longings deeper than you knew were there and pouring into you a trust and a love like that of the psalmist...I am trying to say that you find you are “with God” not by achieving certain devotional exercises in his presence but by daring to be your own self as you reach towards him.

- Archbishop Michael Ramsey

## Prayers as we Seek our Pathway

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.  
I do not see the road ahead of me.  
I cannot know for certain where it will end.  
Nor do I really know myself,  
and the fact that I think that I am following your will  
does not mean that I am actually doing so.  
But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.  
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.  
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.  
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,  
though I may know nothing about it.  
Therefore will I trust you always,  
though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.  
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,  
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

-Thomas Merton

Walk with me, good and loving God, as I journey through life.  
May I take Your hand and be led by Your Holy Spirit.  
Fill me, inspire me, free me to respond generously to Your call.  
For I believe You desire my deepest joy,  
And it is only in Your company  
That my soul will be satisfied  
And my life will find its meaning and purpose. Amen.

-Sisters of Notre Dame.

May today there be peace within.  
May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.  
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.  
May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given  
to you. May you be content knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones,  
and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.  
It is there for each and every one of us.

-St. Therese of Liseux

## Prayers of Surrender

Father, I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will.

Whatever you may do, I thank you: I am ready for all, I accept all.

Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures.

I wish no more than this, O Lord.

Into your hands I commend my soul; I offer it to you with all the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands, without reserve, and with boundless confidence, for you are my Father. Amen.

*-Charles de Foucauld*

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will. All I have and call my own. Whatever I have or hold, you have given me. I restore it all to you and surrender it wholly to be governed by your will. Give me only your love and grace and I am rich enough and ask for nothing more.

*St. Ignatius of Loyola*