

*A*  
**BOOK OF**  
**PRAVERS**  
**FOR**  
**HOSPITAL**  
**PATIENTS**

## **This Book Is For You**

This booklet is provided by United Evangelical Church, Baltimore, Maryland with the hope it will be useful to you in the strengthening of your spiritual life.

The cost of printing is being borne by the Young Women's Guild of this church.

The book was written and compiled by Rev. Paul A. Rasche, former pastor of United Evangelical U.C.C.

May God's healing power be upon you in these days of your hospitalization. The Lord bless and keep you.

**Spiritual  
Thoughts  
for the  
Afflicted**

**(Suggestions from Stark's  
Gebetbuch, edition, 1855)**

## **Calling to Mind the Love of God**

When affliction and distress overtake a believer, he can receive no better consolation than to be assured that God still loves him. For one of the first and severest temptations with which Satan assails a troubled soul is this: If God loved you would He afflict you and withdraw His love from you? To such temptation the afflicted believer needs to reaffirm:

1. Remember that God never leaves nor forsakes His children.

2. Remember that to live in tribulation and yet be a child of God are entirely compatible; for even our Lord suffered much and yet did not cease to be the Son of God.

3. Remember that afflictions are not sent out of wrath, for God deals with us only in His love.

4. Remember that the love of God is active in your affliction to support, strengthen and comfort you.

## **Comfort at the Thought of the Help and Mercy of God**

Sometimes when affliction comes, the individual feels that no one, not even God, can help him. We need to remember and meditate upon these truths:

1. That your God in heaven is aware of the suffering and the cross you must bear, however great those sufferings be, however long they must be endured, however grievous they may be.

2. God not only knows about your trouble, but He takes pity on you and will sustain you and give strength for each day as you request it of Him.

3. God manifests His mercy and the believer must not despair, knowing that you have recourse unto God, and that He has promised that all in affliction shall be comforted and strengthened.

## **A Consideration on the Divine Promises**

As on the one hand the afflictions and troubles of our humanity seem to crush us; so on the other hand the precious promises of God's grace and assistance will sustain and support us in faith in good spirits.

1. May you know that the promises of God in the Bible are for your benefit as well as for the benefit of others. Not only for Moses or David or Paul were they given, but you in your affliction are also in God's intention.

2. Remember that all God's promises will be fulfilled in His good time. It is not right for us to presume to order God, or to set the day and hour when He must send us deliverance from affliction. Rather you must patiently wait for the working out of the divine promises.

3. Remember that God's promises of help, deliverance, relief from grievance, are sometimes fulfilled in this world partly, so that the sick are made whole, the afflicted comforted, the wretched delivered; but that often God only fulfills His promises in the life to come.

4. Do not question God's Will. Set your mind on the goodness of God, who has already fulfilled His promises to so many thousands.

**Prayers**  
**for your**  
**Devotional Use**

### **Prayer Upon Entering Hospital**

**Almighty God, I have come here because of the need of healing in my physical body. I pray for calmness in this experience, for confidence in those who are to serve me—the nurses, doctors and surgeons. May I have patience through the long hours here in my room, all these that Thy healing may be at work unencumbered in my body. And I further pray for the healing of my spiritual being, that all things may be right between me and Thee. Amen.**

### **Prayer Before Surgery**

Dear Heavenly Father, as I prepare to go to surgery, I would humbly commit myself into Thy loving hands with perfect trust. Thou who art mindful of me every moment, be mindful as I sink into unconsciousness, giving my body strength to withstand the effect of surgery. Be with those who will care for me, the nurses and surgeons—guiding their hands as well as their decisions about me.

It is my fervent wish that complete success may be forthcoming in this surgery, and my health restored. Yet I pray not that my will be done, but that Thy Will be accomplished in me. If it be possible, may I successfully pass through this experience, but in all events may Thy blessings be upon me. I love Thee, my Lord and God. Amen.

## **Prayer for Guidance of Hands of Surgeons and Nurses**

My loving God and Father, who art aware of my approaching operation, I would come unto Thee now in prayer, asking that Thy Spirit may be with those who will work with my body while in surgery—the anesthetist, nurses, surgeons and all others in responsible positions. Guide their hands and decisions as they perform this surgery, so that in their regard, all things may be accomplished successfully. Thou hast given them their skill. Now guide them in the use of that skill, I humbly pray. I love Thee, my Lord and God, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **Prayer of Thankfulness After Surgery**

**My God and Father, I am again in my hospital room, the surgery completed. Thank you, God, for being with me through this operation and giving my body strength to withstand the shock of surgery, bringing me to this very moment of returned consciousness. I am grateful for this blessing. Carry me onward in Thy Love, that the post-operative days may pass without relapse, and that Thy strength may flow in my being. As I receive each breath by Thy Grace, so also my returning strength comes from Thee. And so, with this strength, give me also patience to bear whatever pain may be a part of my recuperation.**

**May I lead a grateful life, in honor of Thy Love. I Love Thee, my God. Amen.**

## **Prayers for a Sick Child**

### **Before an Operation**

Dear Jesus, my best Friend and my God, please keep me from being afraid of the doctors and nurses. They are here to help me because I'm sick, and they will help me get better soon. May I remember they are my friends and Your helpers. Be with me during my operation. Thank you, God.

Amen

### **During Sickness**

Dear Jesus, I'm here in this hospital because I'm sick. May I not be afraid here but remember that the doctors and nurses want to be my friends and help me. I know You will give me good feelings inside and make me real strong and well again. Be with Mother and Father and all members of my family. Thank You, God. Amen

### **If There Is Pain**

Dear Jesus, even though I hurt inside me, I want to pray to Ycu, my Friend, for I know you can help me. Make me strong so I don't have to cry. Be close to me, dear Jesus, and may I be patient, for sometimes pain is necessary to enable my body to get better again. Thank you, God. Amen

## **Prayer for Mother-to-Be**

My heavenly Father, soon the divine miracle of birth will occur and I shall be given the privilege of motherhood. I feel humble at this wonderful responsibility. May I always be worthy of this honor.

In these moments prior to this miracle, I pray for strength in the act of childbirth. As the period of labor intensifies, strengthen me by Thy strength. Remain with me at, during and after the birth, that all may be well and I may perform my labor patiently and willingly and without fear.

I pray Thee for my unborn child that Thy favor may be upon it. Be also with my husband as he too shares Thy divine gift and responsibility. Strengthen him also in these important moments. I place myself in Thy love. Watch over me. I love Thee, my God. Amen.

### **Prayer for a New Mother**

O Lord, our Lord, how great is Thy goodness to Thy children. Praise and honor be unto Thee. My heart rejoices in the birth of our child. All loveliness has been gathered together in this gift to my husband and myself. As precious as this soul is to Thee, Thou hast given the child into our care, to care for it for Thee. May we always be aware of Thy gift to us.

Thank you, God, for being with me during the ordeal of birth. May Thy blessings be upon me in these hours of recuperation. Be also with the little one, that the child may find life upon this earth pleasurable. Give strength and guidance to this young life.

Be also with the other members of my family, my dear husband especially. He too is thrilled and for him I again give thanks. May our love continue steadfast. Amen.

### **Prayer to Be Said in Sickness**

O Lord Jesus, Thou who are the Physician of bodies as well as souls, may Thy presence be with me in my illness which has brought me to this hospital. Thou, who canst use all things to Thy glory, use now this illness which has overcome me to the betterment of my spiritual life and to the salvation of my immortal soul.

May I use these hours in this hospital to my spiritual benefit fixing my mind on Thy great suffering upon the Cross, so I may learn from Thee patience, courage and true humility and love.

May I most of all learn submission to Thy Will, that being restored to health in Thine own good time, I may show forth Thy praise by giving up myself to Thy service throughout my life. Amen.

**St. Teresa's Book-Mark**

Let nothing trouble thee,  
Let nothing a-fright thee,  
All things are passing,  
    God never changes;  
Patience obtains everything,  
Nothing is wanting to him  
    who possesses God.  
    God alone suffices.

## **Prayer for God's Presence Through the Day**

Eternal Father, who didst give Thy Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to be with man, hear my prayer of supplication for the presence of this Spirit in my life. These days in the hospital are trying, and periods of melancholy and depression would overwhelm me. Loneliness is also a reality to take away my calmness.

My Father, may I have the presence of this Comforter by my side, to sustain me through the days when I must be absent from my family and loved ones. May He sustain me also through these periods of sadness, when I would feel sorry for myself. May Thy buoyancy and the joy of living which comes from Thee be my measure of blessing.

Carry me through this day in Thy Love, O God, for I love Thee through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

## **Prayer for Surrender to God's Will**

Dear Lord, I pray Thee now because I need to surrender myself to Thy Will. I have been trying to fight my own battles, using only my own strength. I confess I am weary and confused. My problems are too great, my pain is too severe, my confusion of mind and spirit is too enormous. Take over, O Lord, take over my mixed-up life. I need Thy help. I need the calmness of spirit which can come only from Thee. I surrender my will and my life to Thy Will, Thou who art my Lord and God. Direct my thought into quiet channels; by Thy power deal with my problems, my confusions; ease the pain of my body and mind. May Thy quietness envelope me. I love Thee, my Lord. Amen.

## **Prayer for a Right Attitude Toward Pain**

Dear Lord, I am suffering from the pain of my illness. I would come unto Thee in my distress and affliction, beseeching Thee to ease my pain, or to give me patience to bear it. I know that sometimes pain is necessary and sometimes cannot be avoided, and I also know that it does not come from Thee, but that Thou dost suffer when we suffer and are of a mind to assist and strengthen us.

Give me, then, O most precious Lord, a right attitude to my pain and a measure of Thy blessing to withstand it. Knowing the doctors and nurses are doing all they can to help me, I know also Thy help cometh unto me. Thou who are the Divine Healer, may Thy healing power be at work in my being and Thy love overcome my pain. I love Thee, my Lord and God. Amen.

## **Prayer for Courage and Steadfastness**

Dear Lord, I have need for courage and steadfastness of faith, for my illness is grievous, I know not where to find consolation or counsel but with Thee, who dost give comfort, help and counsel. Thou hast said, "I am with Thee in trouble and will deliver Thee." I humbly pray now for courage and steadfastness of faith—courage to keep fighting the battles of overcoming my illness and steadfastness of faith to know that no matter how grievous my distress, Thou art with me. and my prayers are heard continuously by Thee. Let not my soul be cast down within me and my heart disquieted. May Thy gifts of renewed courage and steadfastness be given me. O Lord, my God, I cry unto Thee, Thou who art my Rock and my fortress. Encompass me about with Thy love. Amen.

### **Prayer of St. 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 despair, hope;**

**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;**

**To be understood, as to understand;**

**To be loved, as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive;**

**It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;**

**It is in dying unto ourselves that we are  
born to eternal life.**

### **Prayer for One's Family**

I think of my loved ones at home, dear Lord, and would ask Thy blessing upon them.

Bless them and watch over them that illness and accident may not befall them. May the love of our family members for one another be increased and grow stronger during these days while I am gone from them. I pray for them, for I love them very dearly.

I pray to Thee, my Lord, for I love Thee dearly also, my God and my King. Amen.

### **Prayer for Others Who Are Ill**

Watch not merely over me, Lord God, but be also by the bedside of each of Thy children who are also here in this hospital. All are thine own children and Thou art mindful of the needs of each one, physically and spiritually. Meet now those needs in Thy love that all who need Thee may feel Thee very close, as I feel Thy Spirit close unto me. For patients here in all conditions this prayer of intercession is uttered, in love of Thee and respect for my fellow beings who are also sick. I love Thee, my Lord and God. Amen.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, which 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  
And forgive us our debts, As we for-  
give our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil:**

**For Thine is the kingdom and the  
power, and the glory, forever.**

**Amen.**

## **Prayer of Commendation for One Who Is Dying**

Merciful and loving God, who dost care for Thy children throughout life and dost receive our spirits when human life is ended; who dost draw Thy loved ones unto Thyself in death and give them a share of Thy glory—I would ask that Thou mayest receive my soul, for I feel I soon must die. My sickness is so grievous that I feel I cannot continue longer in life. And so I would commend myself into Thy loving care. Cleanse Thou my heart and soul while human life is still given me, that I may be clean as I come unto Thee. I confess unto Thee many wrongdoings and failures and ask Thy pardon and cleansing. If there be any unrighted wrong with a loved one or friend which I have failed to settle, permit me time to so do. Help me to remember my precious Lord and Master and fix my eyes on Him and Him alone. And, when the hour of my passing comes, may it be free from assaults and sad thoughts and acute pains.

I utter a prayer for the loved ones I leave here. Strengthen them in their bereavement and continue to bless and keep them, my loving Father.

If, however, my days are to be prolonged; if my strength is sufficient to carry me through this crisis, I would also be happy for continued life. Thy Will be done in my body and my soul. I love Thee, my Savior and my God. Amen.

# Assorted Prayers

## A Morning Prayer

O God, my own dear God,  
I Thy child look up to greet Thee.  
I thank Thee for this new day.  
I want to live it close to Thee.  
Help me to remember Thee,  
And in all to serve and please Thee.  
Amen.

## A Child's Faith

I believe in God above,  
I believe in Jesus' love,  
I believe His Spirit, too,  
Comes to teach me what to do.  
I believe that I can be  
True and loving, Lord, like Thee.

## At Bedtime

Lord, keep us safe this night,  
Secure from all our fears;  
May angels guard us while we sleep  
Till morning light appears.

**An Affirmation**  
(to be said often during the day)

Lord Jesus, I believe Thee  
Lord Jesus, I trust Thee  
Lord Jesus, I love Thee.

**A Prayer Before a Meal**

God is great, and God is good,  
And we thank Him for our food;  
By His hand must all be fed.  
Give us, Lord, our daily bread.

or

Lord Jesus, be our holy Guest  
Our morning Joy, out evening Rest;  
And with our daily bread impart  
Thy love and peace to every heart.

Amen.

**A Prayer After a Meal**

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that  
is within me, bless His holy name. Bless  
the Lord and forget not all His benefits.

or

We thank Thee, Lord, for Thou art  
good and Thy goodness endureth forever.

**Favorite  
Scripture  
Passages**

## **Psalm 121**

**I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from  
whence cometh my help.**

**My help cometh from the Lord which  
made heaven and earth.**

**He will not suffer thy foot to be moved;  
He that keepeth thee will not slumber.**

**Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall  
neither slumber nor sleep.**

**The Lord is thy keeper; the Lord is thy  
shade upon thy right hand.**

**The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor  
the moon by night.**

**The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil:  
He shall preserve thy soul.**

**The Lord shall preserve thy going out and  
thy coming in from this time forth and  
even for evermore.**

### **Psalm 23**

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

## **Psalm 100**

**Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.**

**Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing.**

**Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.**

**Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him and bless His name.**

**For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations.**

### **A Portion of the Sermon on the Mount by Jesus**

**Therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, nor yet for your body, what we shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body more than raiment:**

**Behold the fowl of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your Heavenly Father feedeth them. Are you not much better than they?**

Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

And why take ye thought for raiment? consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all His glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Therefore, take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or Where withal shall we be clothed?

For your heavenly Father knoweth that you have need of all these things.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.

Take therefore no thought for the morrow; for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself.

Matthew 6:25-34