

Prayer Charles SPURGEON



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HOUSE

All Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

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Help from On High



ou who are King of Kings and Lord of Lords, we worship You. "Before Jehovah's awful throne, we bow with sacred joy." We can truly say that we delight in God. There was a time when we feared You with the fear of bondage. Now we reverence You, but we love as much as we reverence. The thought of Your omnipresence was once horrible to us. We said, "*Whither shall [we] flee from thy presence?*" (Psalm 139:7). It seemed to make hell itself more dreadful, because we heard, "*If I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there*" (v. 8).

But now, O Lord, we desire to find You. Our longing is to feel Your presence, and it is heavenly that You are there. The sick bed is soft when You are there. The furnace of affliction grows cool when You are there. The house of prayer when You are present is none other than the house of God, the very gate of heaven.

Come near, our Father, to Your children. Some of us are very weak in body and faint in

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heart. Soon, God, lay Your right hand on us and say, "Fear not." Perhaps the world is attracting some of us. Come near to kill the influence of the world with Your superior power. Even to worship may not seem easy to some. The Dragon seems to pursue them, and the floods out of his mouth wash away their devotion. Give them great wings like those of an eagle, so that each may fly away into the place prepared for him, and rest in the presence of God today.

Father, come and give rest to Your children. Take the helmet from our brow. Remove from us the weight of our heavy armor for a while. May we have perfect peace and be at rest. Oh, help us now, we pray. As You have already washed Your people in the fountain filled with blood and they are clean, now wash us from defilement in the water. With the basin and with the pitcher, O Master, wash our feet again. Your cleansing will greatly refresh us. It will prepare us for innermost fellowship with You. For this reason, the priests washed themselves before they went into the Holy Place.

Lord Jesus, now take from us everything that would hinder the closest communion with God. Any wish or desire that might hamper us in prayer, please remove it, Lord. Any memory of sorrow or care that might hinder the fixing of our affection wholly on our God, take it away now. What do we have to do with idols any more? You have seen and observed us.

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You know where the difficulty lies. Help us against it, and may we now come boldly, not into the Holy Place only, but into the Holiest of All, where we would not dare come if our great Lord had not rent the veil, sprinkled the mercy seat with His blood, and invited us to enter.

Now we have come close to You, to the light that shines between the wings of the cherubim. We speak with You now as a man speaks with his friend. Our God, we are Yours. You are ours. We are now concerned with one business; we are united together for one battle. Your battle is ours, and our fight is Yours. Help us, we pray. You who strengthened Michael and his angels to cast out the Dragon and his angels, help poor flesh and blood, so that to us also this word may be fulfilled: *"The God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly"* (Romans 16:20).

Our Father, we are very weak. Worst of all, we are very wicked if left to ourselves, and we soon fall prey to the enemy. Therefore, help us. We confess that sometimes in prayer when we are nearest to You, at that very time some evil thought comes in, some wicked desire. Oh, what poor simpletons we are. Lord, help us. We want to come closer to You still and hide *"under the shadow of [Your] wings"* (Psalm 17:8). We wish to be lost in God. We pray that You may live in us, and that it may not be us who live, but Christ in us (Galatians 2:20), showing Himself in and through us. Lord,

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sanctify us. Oh, may Your spirit come and saturate every faculty, subdue every passion, and use every power of our nature for obedience to God!

Come, Holy Spirit. You have often overshadowed us. Come, and more fully take possession of us. As we feel we are standing now right at the mercy seat, our very highest prayer is for perfect holiness, complete consecration, entire cleansing from all evil. Take our hearts, our heads, our hands, our feet, and use all of us for You. Take our substance; let us not hoard it or spend it for ourselves. Take our talents; let us not educate ourselves so that we may have the reputation of being wise, but let every mental gain be for the purpose of serving You better.

May every breath be for You. May every minute be spent for You. Help us to truly live while we live. And while we are busy in the world as we must be, for we are called to be diligent, may we sanctify the world for Your service. May we be lumps of salt in the midst of society. May our spirits and dispositions, as well as our conversations, be heavenly. May there be an influence about us that will make the world better before we leave it. Lord, hear us in this thing.

And now that we have Your ear, we pray for this poor world in which we live. We are often horrified by it. Lord, for our own comfort, we wish that we did not know anything about

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it. We have said, "Oh, for a cabin in some wilderness." We hear of oppression, robbery, and murder, and men seem to be let loose against each other. Lord, have mercy on this great and wicked world. What is to be done with these billions? What can we do? At least help every child of Yours to do his utmost. May none of us contribute to the evil directly or indirectly, but may we contribute to the good that is in it.

When Your servant Abraham stood before You and spoke with such wonderful familiarity to You, he pleaded for Sodom. We want to follow the example of the Father of the Faithful; we plead for our city, for all great cities, and indeed for all nations. Lord, let Your kingdom come. Send forth Your light and Your truth. Chase the old Dragon from his throne, with all his hellish crew. Oh, that the day would come when even on earth the Son of the woman, the Man-child, will rule the nations, not with a broken staff of wood, but with an enduring scepter of iron, full of mercy, but full of power, full of grace, and irresistible! Oh, that the advent of our Lord would soon come! We long for the millennial triumph of His Word.

Until then, O Lord, gird us for the fight, and make us to be among those who overcome through the blood of the Lamb and through the word of our testimony, who do not love their lives to the death (Revelation 12:11).

We also lift our voices to You in prayer for all our dear ones. Lord, bless the sick, and

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make them well as soon as it is the right time for them to be well. Sanctify to them all that they have to bear. There are also dear friends who are very weak, some who are even trembling. God, bless them. While the tent is being taken down, may the inhabitant within look on with calm joy, for before long we will *"be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven"* (2 Corinthians 5:2).

Lord, help us to be very loosely attached to all these things here below. May we live here like strangers and make the world not a house, but an inn in which we dine and lodge, expecting to be on our journey tomorrow.

Lord, save the unconverted, and bring out from among them those who are converted but who have not confessed Christ. May the church be built up by many who, having believed, are baptized in the sacred name. We pray that You will multiply the faithful in the land. Turn the hearts of men to the Gospel again! Your servant is often very heavy in heart because of the departures from the faith. Bring the wandering back. Do not let Satan take away any more stars with his tail, but may the lamps of God shine brightly. You who walk among the seven golden candlesticks (Revelation 1:12-18), trim the flame, pour forth the oil, and let Your light shine brightly and steadily.

We leave a broken prayer at the mercy seat with this at the end of it: we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.