

## Prayers in time of Death

Excerpts from "HEAR OUR PRAYER" by Kevin Mayhew Publications

Hold our hands, Lord,  
walk us through the loneliness  
and the valley of our sorrows.  
Hold on to us when we're too afraid  
to think about the future.  
Let us lean on you, Lord,  
when we're too weary to continue.  
Hold our hands, Lord, through the night  
until we see the light of dawn.  
*(Author unknown)*

Lord Jesus,  
in your agony in the garden you said,  
'My soul is sorrowful  
to the point of death.'  
We too are now feeling sad and despondent.  
You know the cause.  
The power of your Spirit can give us the remedy.  
Heal us, Lord, of this depression.  
Give us the joy and peace of knowing  
that nothing in our life or death  
can separate us from you.  
*(Author unknown)*

*They made the grave secure; sealed with a stone, and guarded. (Matthew 27:66)*

When all hope is gone, Lord,  
you are born.  
When the darkness is complete,  
you come.  
When things are beyond despair,  
we find you.  
You roll back the stone  
and are there to greet us.  
*(Graham Jeffery (b. 1935))*



### **Lord, a Friend Has Died**

Today, Lord, our hearts are heavy because someone we know has died.  
We don't understand it fully and find ourselves asking "Why?"

But we know that death is a part of life and not an end in itself.  
We know that your promise of everlasting love offers us much help.

Death just seems so final, Lord and we'll miss the life of .....  
We'll miss the times we spent together – times that have come to an end.  
Lift up our spirits with words of comfort, remind us of your promises, Lord.  
Remind us that peace and joy await ..... - that this is your word, Lord.

Help us to celebrate the gift and gift that our friend..... has been to us,  
To be thankful for the days we were able to share – for the loyalty and trust.  
We give our friend ..... back to you today even though it is so hard to do; because God, we  
know that he/she will be eternally happy with you.

*From Prayers at Your Fingertips by Barbara Ann Bretherton*

**At The End of the Day (Psalm 141: 1-2)**

At the end of the day,  
we call upon you Lord.  
Come and listen to us.  
Let our prayers  
rise before you like incense  
in your sight  
And may the lifting up of our hands  
be an evening offering to you.  
Amen.

*Adapted*



A Prayer of Reassurance

Let nothing trouble you,  
Let nothing frighten you,  
Those who seek God  
Shall never go wanting,

Let nothing trouble you,  
Let nothing frighten you,  
God alone fills us.

*(Adapted by the Taizé community from a Prayer by St. Teresa of Avila)*

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A Prayer of Comfort

As the rain hides the stars,  
as the autumn mist hides the hills,  
as the clouds veil the blue of the sky,  
so the dark happenings of my lot  
hide the shining of your face from me.

Yet, if I may hold your hand in the darkness,  
it is enough.

Since I know that,  
though I may stumble in my going,  
You do not fall.

*(Gaelic prayer, translated by Alistair Maclean)*

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A Prayer of Trust

Do not be afraid – I will save you.  
I have called you by name – you are mine.  
When you pass through deep waters, I will be with you;  
Your troubles will not overwhelm you.

*(from Isaiah 43)*

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A Prayer to Conquer Fear

When fear comes, pause.....

Say what you are afraid of.....

Feel the fear.....

Take time.....

then the barrier to trust will be lower,  
the jump to be taken no longer paralyzing.

Have courage.....

The Presence is very close and loving.

*(From Prayer at Night)*

A Prayer to Cope with Suffering

If I had not suffered

I would not have known the love of God.

If many people had not suffered,

God's love would not have been passed on.

If Jesus had not suffered,

God's love would not have been made visible.

*(Mizuno Genzo, Japan)*

A Prayer for AIDS Victims

Loving God,

you show yourself to those who are vulnerable

and you make your home

with the poor and weak of this world.

Warm our hearts with the fire of your Spirit.

Help us to accept the challenge of AIDS.

Protect the healthy, calm the frightened,

give courage to those in pain,

comfort the dying and give the dead eternal life.

Console the bereaved,

strengthen those who care for the sick.

May we, your people, use our energy and imagination, and trusting in your steadfast love,

be united with one another in conquering all disease and fear.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

*(Prayer by the Interfaith Group)*

The Prisoner's Lantern  
Lead us from death to life,  
from falsehood to truth.  
Lead us from despair to hope,  
from fear to trust.  
Lead us from hate to love,  
from war to peace.  
Let peace fill our hearts,  
our world, our universe.  
Amen.

*(Prayer placed on the peace table in Durham Cathedral during the Gulf War 1990-91)*

#### A Prayer for the Sick

Lord Jesus, for our sake you became human. You showed your love for children by taking them in your arms and blessing them; we ask you to bless those who are ill. Your love for them is greater than ours can ever be; therefore we trust them to your care and keeping.

*(From Prayers and Hymns for Junior Schools)*

#### A Prayer for Loss and Bereavement

Jesus said: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms....."

I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me so that you also may be where I am.

I am the Way and the Truth and the Life."

*(From the Gospel of John 14:1-4, 6.)*

#### A Prayer for Those Who Have Died

Dear Lord Jesus, you cried when your friend Lazarus died, so you understand how we are feeling today. Comfort us as we are sad and lonely without the one we loved so much. Help to be glad that our friend is happy with you and free forever from sadness and pain. Teach us to trust and love you so that we too may live with you forever. Amen.



#### **Grief, Loss & Healing**

**The light of God surrounds me  
The love of God enfolds me  
The power of God protects me  
The presence of God watches over me wherever I am  
Until we meet again.....**

