

Prayers for Guidance and Discernment

Prayer by Thomas Merton

O 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 that fact that I think
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 to please You.
And I know that if I do this
You will lead me by the right road,
Though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore I will 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 make my journey alone.

Source: Thomas Merton, Pax Christi, Benet Press, Erie, PA.

Prayer of St Francis

All Highest and Glorious God,
Cast your light into the darkness of my heart.
Grant me right faith, firm hope, perfect charity, profound humility,
with wisdom and perception, O Lord, so that I may always
and everywhere seek to know and do what is truly your holy will,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A Memo to Myself

I have a vocation from God. If I already know what it is, I pray to be faithful.
If I am still searching, I pray to hear God's voice and to respond generously.
Amen.

Discernment Prayer (Sisters of Notre Dame)

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.

Prayer for Discernment (Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus)

God our Father,
You have a plan for each one of us,
You hold out to us a future full of hope.
Give us the wisdom of Your Spirit
So that we can see the shape of Your plan
In the gifts You have given us,
And in the circumstances of our daily lives.
Give us the freedom of Your Spirit,
To seek You with all our hearts,
And to choose Your will above all else.
We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of St. Therese of Lisieux

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.

Prayer for Discernment

Lord I know that You love me and that You have great plans for me.

But sometimes I am overwhelmed by the thought of my future.

Show me how to walk forward one day at a time.

As I explore the various options which lie before me, help me to listen openly to others, and to pay attention to what is in the depth of my own heart.

In this way, may I hear Your call to a way of life which will allow me to love as only I can, and allow me to serve others with the special gifts You have given me. Amen.