



ONWARD, CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS

Prayers *for* Those *in* Service

MARK ZIMMERMANN

ONWARD, CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS

*Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before.*

*Christ, the royal master,
Leads against the foe;
Forward into battle
See his banners go!*

*Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before.*

*Crowns and thrones may perish,
Kingdoms rise and wane,
But the Church of Jesus,
Constant will remain.*

*Gates of hell can never
'Gainst that Church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise,
And that cannot fail.*

*Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before.*

A SOLDIER'S PRAYER

Into every battle I go, Lord, be my shield. In each danger I find myself, God, be my safety. In every enemy territory, Savior, be my friend. Within each hidden place, Redeemer, be my refuge. In every operation, be my guide and deliverer. Through every troubled land, be my peace, so I can stand.

YOU ARE FAITHFUL

Help me to remember that you are always faithful in everything you do, O Lord. You have been faithful in your promises to help me. You have been faithful in sending your Son to save me. You have been faithful in caring for me, even in this place. Help me to be always faithful in my commitment to you, to my country and to my fellow service members.



*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end; they are
new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23

FOR SAFETY

Keep me in your care, O Lord. Guard my footsteps and guide my hands. Lead me away from danger and toward places of refuge. Lift me up when I fall, and turn me away from trouble. With you looking out for me, I know I am safe.

FOR GUIDANCE

You have led me to this point, O Guiding Shepherd. Now lead me on from here. Point me in the direction that you would have me go. With your rod and your staff, be my leader throughout my tour of duty here.



For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered.

EZEKIEL 34:11-12

FOR FAITH

My faith is being tested in this place, O Lord, where I see hardship, struggle, suffering and death. Reinforce in me the truth that you are still in charge of the world, and that no matter what is happening now, salvation is still found in the cross of Jesus Christ.

FOR HELP

I can't do this on my own, O Lord. I need your help. Help me to rise to the challenges set before me. Help me to speak the words that you give me to say. Help me to do what you would have me do. For it is no longer I who live, but you who live in me.

FOR STRENGTH

I am feeling weak. But you, O God, are strong. And you give strength to your people. As you gave strength to Abraham, so keep me strong in my faith. As you gave strength to Moses, so keep me strong over the long haul. And as you gave strength to David, so keep me strong in the face of giant obstacles.



Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.

EPHESIANS 6:10

FOR HOPE

Things seem hopeless right now, Lord. But you have said that you have plans for us, plans to give us hope and a future. Transform my hopelessness into hopefulness, by the power of your Word.

FOR PEACE

Grant peace, I pray, in this place, O Lord. Let harmony come to warring nations. Let unity return to those long separated from each other. And may the whole world know that you are truly the Prince of Peace.

ON BEING A SERVANT

Jesus, you served your disciples by washing their feet. May I follow your example by serving the needs of my fellow citizens. Keep me humble in what I do. Keep me compassionate toward others. And keep me committed to giving freely of myself.



Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God. **PSALM 43:5**

IN NEED OF PATIENCE

It's so easy for me to lose my patience in the heat of conflict, in the long hours of inaction, in the press to bring this mission to an end. Fill me with an extra measure of patience, Lord, so that I can make clear and rational decisions. Give me grace to utilize my "down time" wisely. And help me to trust that all things will be accomplished in your time.

WHEN HOMESICK

While my family and friends are miles away from here, Lord, they are never far from my thoughts. Let the happy memories of experiences I have shared with them drown out any sadness I may feel not being together with them now.



Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

*Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. **ROMANS 12:9-12***

WHEN YOU CAN'T SLEEP

I know it is night, Lord, but I cannot sleep. The turmoil of the day still rolls around in my mind, the fighting within me still lingers from all that has happened and all that I have seen. Calm my troubled heart and mind. Bring me the peace that only you can give. And let me find rest in your care.

WHEN AFRAID

You have said to us, Lord, “Do not be afraid!” Yet I am scared in the face of daunting challenges and uncertain circumstances. Soothe my unsettled soul. Instill in me your courage and your strength. Let me know that your power is greater than any other force that may rise up against me.

WHEN BORED

Sometimes, Lord, it can be so boring out here. During times when nothing seems to be happening, help me fill the void with prayer. Let my thoughts turn to you and what you have done for me.



I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. **PSALM 34:4**

WHEN LONELY

It can get so lonely at times, Lord. Right now I need you to say to me, “I am here.” May I get a real sense of your presence with me. And may I also get a sense of the fact that people are thinking of me and are “with me” through their thoughts. Surrounded by your love and their love, I know that I am never alone.



God said, “Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go.” **GENESIS 28:15**

WHILE TRAVELING

We are on our way, O Lord. Travel with us as we go to our appointed destination. Keep us safe. Prepare our minds for what lies ahead. Help us to remember that you alone are the Way, the Truth and the Life, no matter where we may be.



Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

PROVERBS 3:5-6



Those in the armed forces serve and protect their country. But service members also need to be served and protected themselves. That's where this prayer book comes in. These prayers are ways in which you can stay in contact with the God who serves and protects you. Contemporary prayers for such things as safety, courage and guidance from God are here along with prayers for specific times (at mealtimes, preparing for battle, when traveling, etc.) and specific prayers (friends, family, fellow service members, etc.). The Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed and Bible verses are also included.

This book, along with many other
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By Mark Zimmermann. Design by Jeff McCall.

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