

A Prayer for the Grace of Devotion

O Lord, my God, You are all my good, and I recall the words of Abraham: *See how I am presuming to speak to my Lord, though I am but dust and ashes.*¹ I am your most poor servant, a wretched being, poorer and more contemptible than I can conceive, or dare express.

Yet, remember, O Lord, that I am nothing, that I have nothing, and can do nothing, however, *I am content with weakness, with mistreatment, with distress, with persecutions, and difficulties for the sake of Christ; for when I am powerless, it is then I am strong.*²

You alone are good, just, and holy, and *I know that You can do all things, and no purpose of yours can be hindered.*³ You give all things and you fill all things, leaving only the sinner empty. *Remember that your compassion, O Lord, and your kindness are from old,*⁴ and fill my heart with your grace so that your works be fruitful. How can I endure this life of suffering and sorrows unless I be strengthened by your mercy and grace?

*Hide not your face from me lest I become like those who go down into the pit.*⁵ Do not delay Your visitation or withdraw Your consolation as *I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for You like parched land.*⁶

O Lord, *teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good spirit guide me on level ground.*⁷ Teach me to live worthily and humbly in Your sight for you are my Wisdom, knowing me in Truth, knowing me before the world was made and before I was born in the world. *You have told me what is required, only to do the right and love goodness and to walk humbly with You.*⁸

Adapted from Book 3, Chapter 3, Imitations of Christ, Thomas of Kempis

<http://melkaplace.com>



¹ Genesis 18:27

² 2 Corinthians 12:10

³ Job 42:2

⁴ Psalm 25:6

⁵ Psalm 143:7b

⁶ Psalm 143:6

⁷ Psalm 143:10

⁸ Micah 7:6