

**SEVEN PRAYERS FOR
CONTENTMENT
AND RESIGNATION
TO THE WILL OF GOD**

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Seven prayers for contentment and resignation to the will of God by Simon Patrick

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SIMON PATRICK

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Leaven Leaves.

"A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump."

GALATIANS v. 9.

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By BISHOP PATRICK.



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SEVEN PRAYERS
FOR
CONTENTMENT & RESIGNATION.



I.

O LORD, the fountain of all good; whose blessings are derived in several channels to us, especially to our souls: Unto which all things minister, and help to promote their eternal welfare. I see the large and abundant provision which thou hast made for them in Christ Jesus. Thou hast opened the heavens, and let down eternal life unto us. Thou hast set before us the glory of another world, and called us to thy kingdom, and promised to make us heirs with thy only-begotten Son, and to give us an everlasting inheritance. I thank thee, that thou hast brought the word of thy gospel so nigh me, and put it even into my mouth, and into my heart; and that I have felt thy

Holy Spirit in my soul, so often disposing my mind and affections to seek that blessed immortality. Every good thing in this world bids me love thee, and rejoice in thee, who art the giver of it: And all the crosses likewise and afflictions of this life tend to make me happy, by teaching me moderation and sobriety, humility and heavenly-mindedness, faith in thee, and absolute resignation to thee, with fervent devotion, and passionate desires after a better life.

O God, how excellent is thy loving-kindness! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. How inexcusable shall I be, if I should starve in the midst of such abundance, and perish, when thou hast sent me such great salvation? How shall I escape, if, after thou hast done so much without my thought or labour, I should take no pains to attain the end of thy extraordinary grace towards me? Excite in me, I beseech thee, a greater sense of thy love, and endue me with a greater care to improve everything to the enriching of my

soul with spiritual wisdom, and all divine virtues; that so I may be the better able to bear all the troubles of this life; and neither the infirmities and pains of this body, nor the poverty and meanness of my outward estate, nor the loss and unkindness of friends, nor any other sad accident, may throw me into discontent and impatience of spirit: But I may still remember, that, as I suffer nothing but what I deserve, so my soul may be a gainer by all my sufferings. Help me, therefore, instead of murmuring and repining at my present condition, to apply myself to make the best use of it, whatsoever it may be, to my everlasting advantage. Purify and refine my spirit more perfectly from all unreasonable opinions, and purge out of my heart all inordinate affections. Settle my will in an immoveable submission to thine. And, considering both that I am thy creature, and that I am an offender, enable me always to rest satisfied with thy proceedings, and acknowledge that I am less than the least of thy mercies.

Pardon, good Lord, all my ingratitude, and indecent complaints; pity my infirmities; accept my holy desires; confirm all my good purposes; strengthen and empower my endeavours, that I may mortify every bad disposition in me, faithfully discharge my duty, rightly use thy various blessings, patiently bear the heaviest afflictions, and make for my soul most certain provision; by all the means of grace, by the good counsels of others, the inspirations of the Holy Ghost, thy many remarkable providences about me, and whatsoever courses thou takest with me, to bring me safe through this life, to a happy eternity.
Amen.

11.

I prostrate myself before thee, O Lord of heaven and earth, the eternal God; who art all that can possibly be, and whose goodness designs to make us happy both here and for ever. I acknowledge that it is only of thy infinite goodness that I am not as miserable as any in the world are.