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J.M.J.

**PRAYER FOR
ALL VIRTUES NEEDFUL
TO A CHRISTIAN MAN**

—*St. Thomas Aquinas*



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O merciful God, grant that
I may eagerly desire,
carefully search out,
truthfully acknowledge,
and ever perfectly fulfil
all things which are pleasing
unto Thee.

Order all my state
for the glory and honour
of Thy Name alone;
and grant me to know
what Thou dost require
me to do,
and give me to do it
as is fitting, and profitable
to my salvation.

Grant that I may not
fail or swerve
either in prosperity
or in adversity:
that I be not lifted up
by the one,
nor cast down
by the other.

Let me joy in nothing
but what leads to Thee,
nor grieve for any thing
but what leads
away from Thee;
let me neither seek to please,
nor fear to displease,
any but Thee alone.

May all transitory
things grow vile in my eyes,
O Lord, and may all
that is Thine
be dear to me for Thy sake,
and Thou, O my God,
dear above them all.
May all joy be irksome to me
that is without Thee,
nor may I desire any thing
that is apart from Thee.

May all labour and toil
delight me
which is for Thee,
and all rest be weariness
which is not in Thee.

Grant me, O Lord,
continually to lift up
my heart towards Thee,
and to bring
sorrowfully to my mind
my many shortcomings,
with full purpose
of amendment.

Make me, O Lord,
obedient without demur,
poor without repining,
chaste without stain,
patient without murmur,
humble without pretence,
joyous without frivolity,
fearful without abjectness,
truthful without disguise,
given to good works
without presumption,
faithful to rebuke my
neighbour without arrogance,
and ever careful to edify him
both by word and example
without pretension.

Give me, O Lord God,
an ever-watchful heart,
which no subtle speculation
may lure from Thee;
a noble heart,
which no unworthy affection
can draw downwards
to the earth;
an upright heart,
which no insincere intention
can warp aside;
an unconquerable heart,
which no tribulation
can crush or quell;
a free heart,
which no perverted
or impetuous affection
can claim for its own.

Bestow on me,
O Lord, my God,
understanding to know Thee,
diligence to seek Thee,
wisdom to find Thee,
a life and conversation

which may please Thee,
perseverance in waiting
patiently for Thee,
and a hope which may
embrace Thee
at the last.

Grant me to be pierced with
compunction by Thy sorrows
through true repentance,
to improve all Thy gifts
and benefits during
this my pilgrimage
through Thy grace,
and so at length
to enter into Thy full
and consummate
joy in Thy glory.

Through our Lord Jesus
Christ, who liveth and
reigneth, with Thee, in the
unity of the Holy Ghost,
one God, world without end.
Amen.