

THE SOUTHWELL LITANY

George Ridding

(March 16, 1828 - August 30, 1904),

English headmaster and 1st Bishop of Southwell, England,

Lord, open our minds to see ourselves as you see us, or even as others see us and we see others;

And from all unwillingness to know our infirmities,

SAVE US AND HELP US, O LORD.

From moral weakness, from hesitation, from fear of men and dread of responsibility:

Strengthen us with courage to speak the truth in love and self-control;

And alike from the weakness of hasty violence and from the weakness of moral cowardice

SAVE US AND HELP US, O LORD

From weariness in containing struggles, from despondency in failure and disappointment, from an overburdened sense of unworthiness, from morbid *fancies* of imaginary back slidings:

Raise us to a lively hope in your mercy and in the power of faith;

And from all exaggerated fears and vexations,

SAVE US AND HELP US, O LORD.

From self-conceit, vanity, and boasting, from delight in supposed success and superiority:

Raise us to the modesty and humility of true sense and taste and reality;

And from all the harms and hindrances of offensive manners and self-assertion,

SAVE US AND HELP US, O LORD.

From affectation and untruth, conscious and unconscious, from pretense and hypocrisy, from impulsive self-adaptation to the

moment to please persons or make circumstances easy;
Strengthen us to true simplicity;
And from all false appearances,
SAVE US AND HELP US, O LORD.

From love of flattery, from an over-ready belief in praise, from
dislike of criticism, and from the comfort of self-deception in
persuading ourselves that others think better of us than we are,
SAVE US AND HELP US, O LORD.

From all love of display and sacrifice to popularity, from thinking
of ourselves and forgetting you in our worship:
Hold our minds in spiritual reverence;
And from self-glorification in all our words and works,
SAVE US AND HELP US, O LORD.

From pride and self-will, from the desire to have our own way in
all things, from an overweening love of our own ideas and
blindness to the value of others, from resentment against
opposition and contempt for the claims of others:
Enlarge the generosity of our hearts and enlighten the fairness of
our judgments;
And from all selfish arbitrariness of temper,
SAVE US AND HELP US, O LORD.

From jealousy, whether of equals or superiors, from grudging
others success, from impatience of submission and eagerness for
authority:
Give us the spirit of community to share loyally with fellow-
workers in all true proportions;
And from all insubordination to just law and proper authority.
SAVE US AND HELP US, O LORD.

From all hasty utterances of impatience, from the retort of irritation
and the taunt of sarcasm, from all infirmity of temper in provoking

or being provoked, and from all idle words that may do hurt,

SAVE US AND HELP US, O LORD.

In all times of temptation to follow pleasure. to leave duty for amusement, to indulge in distraction, dissipation, dishonesty, or debt, or to degrade our high calling and forget our solemn vows; And in all times of frailty in our flesh,

SAVE US AND HELP US, O LORD.

In all times of ignorance and perplexity as to what is right and best to do.

Direct us with wisdom to judge aright, and order our ways and overrule our circumstances by your good providence; And in our mistakes and misunderstandings,

SAVE US AND HELP US, O LORD.

In times of doubt and questioning, when our belief is perplexed by new learning, and our faith is strained by doctrines and mysteries beyond our understanding:

Give us the faithfulness of learners, and the courage of believers in your truth;

And alike from stubborn rejection of new revelations from hasty assurance that we are wiser than our parents,

SAVE US AND HELP US, O LORD.

From strife, partisanship, and division, from magnifying our certainties to condemn all differences, from building our systems to exclude all challenges, and from all arrogance in our dealings with others,

SAVE US AND HELP US. O LORD.

Give us knowledge of ourselves; our power and weakness, our spirit, our sympathy, our imagination, our truth;

Teach us by the standard of your Word, by the judgments of

others, by examination of ourselves;
Give us an earnest desire to strengthen ourselves continually by
study, by diligence, by prayer and meditation;
And from all fancies, delusions, and prejudices of habit, or temper,
or society,

SAVE US AND HELP US, O LORD.

Give us true knowledge of others, in their difference from us and
in their likeness to us, that we may deal with their real selves-not
measuring their feelings by our own, but patiently considering their
varied lives and thoughts and circumstances;
And in our dealings with them, from false judgments of our own,
from misplaced trust and distrust, from misplaced giving and refus-
ing, from misplaced praise and rebuke,

SAVE US AND HELP US, O LORD.

Chiefly we pray that we may know you and see you in all your
works, always feel your presence near, hear you and know your
call:

Let your Spirit be our will, your will our word;
And in all our shortcomings and infirmities, may we have sure
faith in your mercy.

SAVE US AND HELP US, O LORD.

Finally, we pray, blot out our past transgressions, heal the evils of
our past negligences and ignorances, and help us to amend our past
mistakes and misunderstandings:

Uplift our hearts to new love, new energy and new devotion, that
we may be unburdened from the grief and shame of past
unfaithfulness, and go forth in your strength to persevere through
success and failure, through good report and evil report, even to
the end; And in all time of our tribulation, and in all time of our
prosperity,

SAVE US AND HELP US, O LORD.