

“A Prayer for one desiring and seeking after the New-Birth”

(George Whitefield, 1771)

Prayer ¹	Scripture References
“Blessed Jesus, thou hast told us in thy gospel, that unless a man be born again of the Spirit, and his righteousness exceed the outward righteousness of the scribes and pharisees, he cannot in anywise enter into the kingdom of God. Grant me therefore, I beseech thee, this true circumcision of heart; and send down thy blessed Spirit to work in me that inward holiness, which alone can make me meet to partake of the heavenly inheritance with the saints in light.	John 3:5; Matt 5:20; Rom 2:29; Col 1:12.
“Create in me, I beseech thee, a new heart, and renew a right spirit within me. For of whom shall I seek for succour but of thee, O Lord, with whom alone this is possible? Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me whole! O say unto my soul, as thou didst once unto the poor leper, I will, be thou renewed. Have compassion on me, O Lord, as thou once hadst on the blind <i>Bartimeus</i> , who sat by the way-side begging.	Psa 51:10; Heb 2:18; Matt 9:21; Mark 1:40; 10:46-47.
“Lord, thou knowest all things, thou knowest what I would have thee do. Grant, Lord, that I may receive my sight; for I am conceived and born in Sin; my whole head is sick, my whole heart is faint, from the crown of my head to the sole of my feet, I am full of wounds and bruises, and putrifying sores; and yet I see it not. O awaken me, though it be with thunder, to a sensible feeling of the corruptions of my fallen nature; and for thy mercies sake, suffer me no longer to sit in darkness, and the shadow of death.	Mark 10:51; Psa 51:5 Luke 10:34; Psa 104:7; Matt 4:16.
“O prick me, prick me to the heart! Dart down a ray of that all-quickening light, which struck thy servant <i>Saul</i> to the ground; and make me cry out with the trembling jailor, ‘What shall I do to be saved?’	Acts 9:3; Acts 16:29-30.
“Lord, behold I pray, and blush, and am confounded that I never prayed on this wise before.	
“But I have looked upon myself as rich, not considering that I was poor, blind, and naked. I have trusted to my own righteousness. I flattered myself I was whole, and therefore blindly thought I had no need of thee, O great Physician of souls, to heal my sickness.	Rev 3:17; Rom 10:3; John 9:40-41; Matt 9:12.
“But being now convinced of thy free mercy, that my own righteousness is as filthy rags; and that he is only a true Christian who is one inwardly; behold with strong cryings and tears, and groanings that cannot be uttered, I beseech thee to visit me with thy free Spirit, and say unto these dry bones, Live.	Isa 64:6; Rom 2:29; 8:26 Ezek 37:3, 5.
“I confess, O Lord, that thy grace is thy own, and that thy Spirit bloweth where he listeth. And wast thou to deal with me after my deserts, and reward me according to my wickedness, I had long since been given over to a reprobate mind, and had my conscience seared as with a red-hot iron.	John 3:8; Ezek 20:44; Rom 1:28; 1 Tim 4:2.
“But, O Lord, since, by sparing me so long, thou hast shewn that thou wouldst not the death of a sinner; and since thou hast promised, that thou wilt give thy holy Spirit to those that ask, I hope thy goodness and long-suffering is intended to lead me to repentance, and that thou wilt not turn thy face away from me.	2 Pet 3:9; Luke 11:13; Rom 2:4.
“Thou seest, O Lord, thou seest, that with the utmost earnestness and humility of soul, I ask thy holy Spirit of thee, and am resolved in confidence of thy promise, who canst not lye, to seek and knock, till I find a door of mercy opened unto me.	Psa 37:13; Luke 11:13; Tit 1:2; Rev 3:20.
“Lord, save me, or I perish; visit, O visit me with thy salvation. Lighten mine eyes that I sleep not in death. O let me no longer continue a stranger to myself, but quicken me, quicken me with thy free Spirit, that I may know myself, even as I am known.	Acts 26:18; Psa 80:18; 143:11; John 10:14.
“Behold, here I am. Let me do or suffer what seemeth good in thy sight, only renew me by thy Spirit in my mind, and make me a partaker of the divine nature. So shall I praise thee all the days of my life, and give thee thanks for ever in the glories of thy kingdom, O most adorable Redeemer; to whom, with the Father, and the Holy Ghost, be ascribed all honour and praise, now and for evermore. <i>Amen</i> .	Matt 11:26; Psa 51:10; 2 Pet 1:4; Psa 23:6.

¹George Whitefield, “A Prayer for one desiring and seeking after the New-Birth” in *The Works...* (London: Edward and Charles Dilly, 1771), 4:457-59.