

# Prayer Is The Soul's Sincere Desire

**"Men ought always to pray, and not to faint."  
[Luke 18:1]**

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,  
uttered or unexpressed,  
the motion of the hidden fire,  
that trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the burden of a sigh,  
the falling of a tear,  
the upward glancing of an eye,  
when none but God is near.

Prayer is the simplest form of speech  
that infant lips can pray;  
prayer, the sublimest strains that reach  
the Majesty on high.

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,  
the Christian's native air;  
his watchword at the gates of death:  
He enters heav'n with prayer.

O thou by whom we come to God,  
the Life, the Truth, the Way!  
The path of prayer thyself has trod:  
Lord, teach us how to pray!

- James Montgomery, 1771-1854