

A Prayer for Wisdom

St. John Henry Newman

Come, O my dear Lord, and teach me. I need you to teach me day by day, according to each day's opportunities and needs. I need that understanding of the truths about yourself which prepare me for all your other truths. I need the mind of the Spirit, which is the mind of the holy Fathers, and of the Church, by which I may not only say what they say on definite points, but think what they think; in all I need to be saved from an originality of thought, which is not true if it leads away from you. Give me the gift of discriminating between true and false in all discourse of mind.

And, for that end, give me, O my Lord, that purity of conscience which alone can receive your inspirations. My ears are dull, so that I cannot hear your voice. My eyes are dim, so that I cannot see your tokens. You alone can quicken my hearing, and purge my sight, and cleanse and renew my heart. Teach me, like Mary, to sit at your feet, and to hear your word. Give me that true wisdom, which seeks your will by prayer and meditation, by direct intercourse with you, more than by reading and reasoning. Give me the discernment to know your voice from the voice of strangers, and to rest upon it and to seek it in the first place, as something external to myself; and answer me through my own mind, if I worship and rely on you as above and beyond it.

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