

*Fr. Perozich comments —*

*Many ask why God permits the atrocities in the world: killing of children in the womb, sex trafficking, war, poverty, violence, rape, tyranny, theft, and whatever else you can think of, particularly to the innocent.*

*Reinhold Nieburhr, an American Evangelical theologian, composed this prayer as part of a sermon when a world war II was raging.*

*It “unpacks the message of relying on God's strength for decision-making even more powerfully.”*

*Nieburhr's daughter, Elisabeth Sifton, wrote about the prayer's impact in her 2005 book [The Serenity Prayer: Faith and Politics in Times of Peace and War](#):*

"Although it has been adopted by 'our self-help culture,' [Alcoholics Anonymous most famously] it also addresses the inconsolable pain, loss, and guilt that war inflicts on the communities that wage it; it goes ... to the heart of the possibilities for peace."

Human beings are in a sinful world as was Jesus. Bad things happened then, and bad things will happen because of free will given to men to follow God or to follow Satan by giving in to perverse human desires. Each person suffers the consequences of personal sins and of the sins of others.

God intervenes many times to prevent evil, but allows it at other times, and humans suffer for it because we are all connected.

The final part of the prayer turned on the light for me, that if I surrender to God's will, I may be **REASONABLY** happy in this life, but that the supreme happiness will only be granted to me in the next life, IF I follow God's will.

*God, give us grace to accept with serenity  
the things that cannot be changed,  
Courage to change the things  
which should be changed,  
and the Wisdom to distinguish  
the one from the other.*

*Living one day at a time,  
Enjoying one moment at a time,  
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,  
Taking, as Jesus did,  
This sinful world as it is,  
Not as I would have it,  
Trusting that You will make all things right,  
If I surrender to Your will,  
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life,  
And supremely happy with You forever in the next.*

*Amen.*

The article from Aleteia follows below

*Amen. Stressed out? Say the full-length Serenity Prayer*



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Sarah Robsdottir - published on 08/09/24

*Composed during World War II, the message of this prayer resonates powerfully today. "Trusting that You will make all things right ..."*

It's easily one of the most popular prayers of the last century:

*God grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change;  
courage to change the things I can;  
and wisdom to know the difference.*

Written by the American Evangelical theologian Reinhold Nieburhr during WWII as part of a sermon, he first shared it with the New York Times when the well-known preacher and author spoke with the outlet in an interview.

The prayer then grew in popularity when Alcoholics Anonymous adopted it in the 1950s as a keystone of their 12-step program. Since then, the inspirational, timeless words have been framed in countless homes and quoted by a wide variety of political leaders and artists from Jimmy Carter to the rapper 50 Cent.

It's even been said that the Serenity Prayer -- one I've seen tattooed on several friends -- rivals in recognizability only the Lord's Prayer. But did you know there's a full-length version that unpacks the message of relying on God's strength for decision-making even more powerfully? Neither did I -- until an awesome priest-friend shared it with me the other day. He urged me to meditate on it in order to deal with some challenges I'd been facing. Check it out ...

### **The Serenity Prayer, full version:**

*God, give us grace to accept with serenity  
the things that cannot be changed,*

*Courage to change the things  
which should be changed,  
and the Wisdom to distinguish  
the one from the other.  
Living one day at a time,  
Enjoying one moment at a time,  
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,  
Taking, as Jesus did,  
This sinful world as it is,  
Not as I would have it,  
Trusting that You will make all things right,  
If I surrender to Your will,  
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life,  
And supremely happy with You forever in the next.  
Amen.*

Nieburhr's daughter, Elisabeth Sifton, wrote about the prayer's impact in her 2005 book *The Serenity Prayer: Faith and Politics in Times of Peace and War*:

"Although it has been adopted by 'our self-help culture,' it also addresses the inconsolable pain, loss, and guilt that war inflicts on the communities that wage it; it goes ... to the heart of the possibilities for peace."

It's no wonder the prayer's message is especially appropriate during our present times of political and social turmoil. And while the shortened, well-known version certainly hits home in a powerful way, I'm grateful to now rely on the full-length one too.

The second half of the prayer -- the part most of us had been missing out on -- cannot be emphasized enough. The first two lines of this stanza are especially profound when one considers that a world war was raging while they were written:

***...Living one day at a time,  
Enjoying one moment at a time,  
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,  
Taking, as Jesus did,  
This sinful world as it is,  
Not as I would have it,  
Trusting that You will make all things right,  
If I surrender to Your will,  
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life,  
And supremely happy with You forever in the next.  
Amen.***

*Aleteia*