

# The Servant's Prayer

The Christian Minister [servant], as some have pointed out, is a descendent not of the Greek orator but of the Hebrew prophet. The differences between the orator and the prophet are many, the chief being that the orator speaks for himself while the prophet speaks for God.

**The orator originates his message and is responsible to himself for its content.**

**The prophet originates nothing but delivers the message he has received from God who alone is responsible for it, the prophet being responsible to God for its delivery only.**

The true preacher is a man of God speaking to men, he is a man of heaven giving God's witness on earth.

Because the true preacher is a man of God, he can decode the heavenly message and deliver it in earthly language.

The response men give to the message from heaven varies with the moral condition of those to whom it is addressed.

**The true messenger of God is not always successful as men judge success.**

**A powerfully presented message can sometimes return to destroy the messenger; we can read of many examples of this happening to God's prophets in the Old Testament and we have the example of Stephen in the New Testament as the first Christian martyr.**

**A true minister is not one by his own choice but by sovereign commission of God.**

From examples in scripture of those whom God called to be His servants all were considerably reluctant to surrender to the calling.

**The call to witness and serve comes to every Christian, but the call to be God's Voice to mankind comes only to the man who has the Holy Spirit's gift and the special enabling from God.**

**The covenant and prayer of the minor prophet and preacher of God's Word, on the day of his ordination:**

*"O Lord, I have heard your call and I am afraid. For you have called me to an awesome task.*

*You have stooped to honour me to be your servant. No man can take this honour upon himself only those you have called as you did your servants in the past.*

*You have ordained me to be your messenger to those that are "stubborn of heart and hard of hearing". They have rejected You, the Master, and I cannot expect them then to accept me Your servant.*

*My God, I will not waste time deploring my weakness or my unfittedness for the work you have given me.*

*The responsibility is not mine, but Yours. You have said, "I knew you, I ordained you and sanctified you", and You have also said, "you will go to all that I will send you and whatsoever I command you, you will speak."*

*Who am I to argue with You or call into question Your sovereign choice?*

*The decision is not mine but Yours.*

*So be it, my Lord, Your will; not mine be done. I know well, God of the prophets and apostles, that as long as I honour You, You will honour me. Help me therefore to take this solemn vow to honour You in all my future life and labours, whether in gain or in loss, and keep this vow unbroken while I live.*

*It is time, O God, for You to work, for the enemy has entered into Your pastures and the sheep are torn and scattered.*

*False shepherds abound who deny the danger and laugh at the perils which surround Your flock.*

*The sheep are deceived by these hirelings and follow them with touching loyalty while the wolf closes in to kill and destroy.*

*I beseech You, give me sharp eyes to detect the presence of the enemy; and give me understanding to see and the courage to report faithfully what I see in Your flock.*

*Make my voice so like Yours that even the sick sheep will recognise it and follow You.*

*Lord Jesus, I come to You for spiritual preparation.*

*Lay Your hand upon me and anoint me with the oil of the New Testament prophet.*

*Forbid that I should become a religious scribe and so lose my prophetic calling.*

*Save me from the curse of compromise, imitation or professionalism.*

*Save me from the error of judging a church by its size, popularity or amount of its yearly offering.*

*Help me to remember I am a prophet, not a promoter or a religious manager.*

*Let me never become a slave to crowds, or carnal ambitions and publicity.*

*Save me from the bondage to things and let me not waste my time puttering around.*

*Lay Your terror on me, O God, and drive me to the place of prayer for I wrestle with principles, powers and rulers of the darkness of this world.*

*Deliver me from over-eating and late sleeping. Teach me self-discipline that I am be a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

*I accept hard work and small rewards in this life and ask for no easy place, trying to be blind to the little ways they could make life easier but make me a less effective servant.*

*I shall expect opposition and try to take it quietly when it comes.*

*If at some time I should be given grateful gifts by Your kindly people, stand by me then and save me from the blight that often follows.*

*Teach me to use whatever I receive in such a manner that it will not diminish my total dependency on Your provision for all my needs.*

*If in Your permissive providence honour should come on me from Your church, let me not forget in that hour that I am unworthy of the least of Your mercies, and if men knew me as intimately as You do they would withhold their honours or bestow them upon others more worthy to receive them.*

*And now, O Lord of heaven and earth, I consecrate my remaining days to You, let them be many or few, as You will.*

*Let me stand before the great or minister to the poor and lowly, that choice is not mine, and I would not influence it if I could, for I am Your servant to do Your will.*

*Though I am chosen by You and honoured by a high and holy calling, let me never forget that I am but a man of dust and ashes, a man with all the natural faults and passions that plague the race of men.*

*I pray therefore, my Lord and Redeemer, save me from myself and from all the injuries I may do to myself while trying to be a blessing to others.*

*Fill me with Your power by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and I will go in Your strength to tell of Your righteousness.*

*I will spread abroad the message of Your redeeming love while my life endures. Then dear Lord, when I am old and too weary and weak to go on, have a place ready for me numbered with Your saints in glory everlasting. Amen.”*