

A New Year's Prayer

by Rev Cleland B. McAfee (19th C Presbyterian)

May God make your year a happy one.

Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain,
but by strengthening you to bear it when it comes.

Not by making your path easy,
but by making you sturdy enough to tread any path,

not by taking hardships from you,
but by taking all cowardice and fear from your heart.

Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
but by keeping your face bright even in the shadows.

Not by making your life always pleasant,
but by showing you where man and His cause need you most
and by making you zealous and concerned to be there and help.

Not by keeping you from battle,
but by bringing you off every field more than conquerors
through Him who loves us.

A Covenant Prayer

(from *Uniting In Worship*)

O Lord,
I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will,
Rank me with whom you will;

Put me to doing, put me to suffering;
Let me be employed for you
or laid aside for you;
Exalted for you or brought low for you;

Let me be full, let me be empty;
Let me have all things, let me have nothing;
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
You are mine and I am yours,
To the glory and praise of your name.
Amen.