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**Title:** Prayer Written by Charles Nisbet

**Date:** April 18, 1759

**Location:** I-McIntoshM-1965-4

## **Contact:**

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Odenburgh 18th april 1759 Omy God if such a sinful and pobleted creature may address the so; several years have now passed over our head, since, by they good hand upon its we dedocated ourselves to thee, to whom we do of right belong and made thee a sacrefice of night hands and right eyes; those Brewest the Succerety of our heart when we ded so, and at the same time what we were not senseble of our weakurs and inability to keep the same and that we would deal treacherously in the covenant of our bod : Thou knowest the we akness and perversily of our mature, averse to all good and prove to all evil and what a world of inigrity with own to ourselies we constantly bear about us alas O Jod we have guend thy holy spirit of promise; we have provoked him to depart from us and to about our us to all the wicke directs of our own heart, we have suned; What shall we say unto the I thou observes of ween? Those compajest us behind and before, and layest there hand upon us thou art ever intimately present with us and art conscious of all our thoughts and mations, there is not a word in our tongue but before we speak, a bord thou knowest it allosether; not with stair day of whech they awful presume we have forgotten thee we have separated the from our very thought, and indeavoured to aluse our mind into a sort of belief Contrary to the word and the light of our conscience that either those wast altogether such an one is variety and wouldst approve our sen that thou could not judge us through the dark cloud, or that thou wast such a bung as thou hast no where neveraled thyself to be, whose laws me might insult with impunity, and yet afterwards obtain they pard on, but thow art wise in heart and mighty in strongth; who hath hardened himself against thee and prostured? Thou liftest up the meek and castest the wicked to the ground; verily there is no Wes down nor counsel, nor poudence against the Lord, we way vainly imagine that we well violate thy laws with imprincing and then take refuge in thy great moreces; but the Lord taketh the worldly wise in their own craftings. We acknowledge the dominion and just authority over us that thou caust easily confound all designs formed without consulting thee Werely there is no darknots nor hed ung place where the workers of inequity can conceal themselves or their purposes from there eyes. Those Knowest the thoughts of men to be vanity. Differed is the man whom thou chastenest and makest to learn the precepts. May we henceforthe undertake nothing without implosing thy blessing and protection, on us and our designs: Without thee we can do nothing but what it were infinitely better for us never to have done! May we ever behave with that decent sense of subjection and Suborden alion to their authority which · becomes the works of think hands, and the sheep of the pasture; may me never adventures to choose for ourselves, while we have infinite mes down to choose for us may we trust in the Lord and not leave to our own understanding; prosper and direct our purposes and disigns formed for they glory and the general good: String then us in every good words and work; presure us from our own decettue and weeked hearts, and may they shirt to Lord which is good quide us into all truth. Dispel the thick cloud which tice has cast over our intellectival faculties abandon us not to that heedlefoness and unmindfulness of bod, in which alas we have too long indulged ourselves and delighted. May we hade the word in our heart, that we may never sin against thee! May thy most boly precepts ever be the subject of our delightful meditation and may we take pleasure to discourse of they doings; Oven our eyes o Lord, and give us to see the wonders that are in thy law: teach us the perfect way of the precepts and incline our hearts to

observe it perfectly to the end: Lord thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts careful

I that thou wouldst bekeinese direct our mays, so that we may observe they statutes! his by these above that the just man's politics are ordered aright and that he greatly delighteth in thy way. Ford direct and strong then us by the Spirit to do those things that are pleasure in the societ. Our surs have been great and inormous, aggravated by many circumstances that increase their quilt, and own ill desert: Lord auntthe punishment we have justly discoved for them and apply the intinite ments of I esus threst to our souls that impacty may not be our final run, I bord we are weak and faille; undertake for us: Be surely to us for good for in the there is no help nor strong in at all our strongest resolutions cannot slaved the slightest allack of templa tow, and all our string the is weakings on an abault. hant that the we are weak in ourselves we may be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might: may we lift our eyes to the Excelasting Hells, from whence cometh our and : may our help be in the name of the Lord, who hathe made Heaven and earth. Lord, may no be constant, delivent and assiduous in our applications to thee for that hel's which we so much need. Mos the humility and reverence of our addresses be un some measure pronor tioned to thy infinite greatives; and our own meanings, man our fervince be answerable to the danger and need we are in and may the frequency of them be in a degree conform, to the multitude of our wants. Conduct us O God, by they have und spirit through all the threateners and more dangerous afterements of a present world unto that ever lasting peace which shall be the portion of all them that want on the . He are indeed most unworthy of this everlasting this, and most unfit for it, Lird ancest of us for the wortherests of I sees thrust, who fulfelled the ban and suffered its pureshwent for the sake of summers like us of justily, wash and sanctify us by the powerful spirit and by the blood of thresto that the auseth from all mignite. Deliver us from the power as well as the quelt of them grant that we may we no longer after the flesh, lest we die but enable us by thy spiret to mostily sheet deeds of the body, that we may live unto thee, that we may live forever. Lord for sale not the work of there own hands : leave us not in the hand of our enemies, may we walk all day in the light of thy Counterrance; may by song be with us by might, and our prayer unto the soil of our life. Lord give us ever so much of the light of they counter ance, as may support us amidst all the treals or sleasures of this world, May nothing ever be able to pervert as from our form allege ance to thee: May goodness, and mercy follow us all our lefe, and may our eternal dwelling place be in the house above. He blifs thee, Cour God, for the bounty of the providence, the weekes of the grace, and the means of salvation We thank thee for our Creation, our preservation and protection hithirto, for thy good hand upon us at present, and the hopes thou quest us to entirtain for the feeture. We thank thee that those hast not cut us off in the midst of our sins, nor sealed us up under judicial hardwell and final impenitioney We bles there for they sport which hath hitherto strove with us, and endured our manners, Lord may it never cease to do so; nor suffer us to be at ease in any thing but thee; the bles thee for the light of reason and understanding of conscience and education. May we never sin against nor disgrace our light We thank thee for thy holy scriptures the words of everlasting life, but above all adore and bless their for desus christ thy son on whom all our hopes of sauctipication and salvations are founded, may he to made of god unto us wisdom nighteousniss, sanctification and redemption. We dedicate austices wholly,

to the service: We are there of God, therefore our lyes 3 hall shew forth they praise. accept of our offering for christs sake and make us fet for thy server . May we were for ake thy precepts, and for this purpose may thy grace and sperit never forsake us, but strong themed by it may we fulfil all they good pleasure and at bast enter into theme inheritance all that we ask is for the miret and intercession of Jesus Christ they sow our sarrow, for whom we blis thee, and to whom with the father and holy sperch, be all praces and however as arebed now worth our themore

## Edinburgh 18th April 1759-

O my God! If such a sinful and polluted creature may address the so; several years have now passed over our head, since, by thy good hand upon us we dedicated ourselves to thee, to whom we do of right belong and made thee a sacrifice of right hands and right eyes; thou knowest the sincerity of our heart when we did so, and at the same time (what we were not sensible of) our weakness and inability to keep the same and that we would deal treacherously in the covenant of our God. Thou knowest the weakness and perversity of our nature, averse to all good and prone to all evil and what a world of iniquity (unknown to ourselves) we constantly bear about us. Alas O God! We have grieved thy holy spirit of promise; we have provoked him to depart from us and to abandon us to all the wickedness of our own heart; we have sinned, what shall we say unto thee O thou observer of men? Thou compassest us behind and before, and layest thine hand upon us, thou art ever intimately present with us and art conscious of all our thought and motions, there is not a word in our tongue but before we speak, O Lord thou knowest it altogether, notwithstanding of which thy awful presence we have forgotten thee, we have separated thee from our very thought, and endeavoured to abuse our mind into a sort of belief (contrary to thy record and the light of our conscience) that either thou wast altogether such an one as ourself and wouldst approve our sin. Being as thou hast no where revealed thyself to be, whose laws we might insult with impunity and yet afterwards obtain thy pardon, but thou art wise in heart and mighty in strength. Who hath hardened himself against thee and prospered? Thou liftest up the meek and castes the wicked to the ground. Verily there is no wisdom nor cousel, nor prudence against the Lord, we may vainly imagine that we will violate thy laws with impunity and then take refuge in thy great mercies; but the Lord taketh the worldly wise in their own craftiness. We acknowledge thy dominion and just authority over us, that thou canst easily confound all designs formed without consulting thee. Verily there is no darkness nor hiding place where the workers of iniquity can conceal themselves or their purposes from thine eyes. Thou knowest the thoughts of men to be vanity. Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest and makest to learn thy precepts. May we henceforth undertake nothing without imploring thy blessing and protection on us and our designs. Without thee we can do nothing but what it were infinitely better for us never to have done! May we ever behave with that decent sense of subjection and subordination to thine authority which becomes the works of thine hands, and the sheep of thy pasture; may we never adventure to chuse for ourselves, while we have infinite wisdom to choose for us. Direct our purposes and designs formed for thy glory and the general good. Sthrenghten us in every good word and work; preserve us from out own deceitful and wicked hearts, and may thy spirit, O Lord which is good, guide us into all truth. Dispel the thick cloud which vice has cast over out Intellectual facilities; abandon us not to that heedlessness and unmindfulness of God, in which alas! we have too long indulged ourselves and delighted. May we hide thy word in our heart, that we may never sin against thee. May thy most holy precepts ever be the subject of our delightful meditation and may we take pleasure to discourse of thy doings; open our eyes O Lord, and give us to see the wonders that are in thy law. Teach us the perfect way of thy precepts, and incline our hearts to observe it perfectly to the end. Lord, thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts carefully,

O that thou wouldest likewise direct our ways so that we may observe thy statutes! 'Tis by thee alone that just man's footsteps are ordered aright and that he greatly delighteth in thy way. Lord direct and strengthen us by thy spirit to do those things that are pleasing to thy sight. Our sins have been great and enormous, aggravated by many circumstances that increase their guilt and our ill desert. Lord avert the punishment we have justly deserved for them and apply the infinite merits of Jesus Christ to our souls that iniquity may not be our final ruin, O Lord we are weak and feeble; undertake for us. Be surety to us for good, for us tho there is no help nor strength at all, our strongest resolutions cannot stand the slightest attack of temptation and all our strength is on an assault. Grant that tho we are weak in ourselves we may be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. May we lift our eyes to the everlasting Hills, from whence cometh our aid. May our help be in the name of the Lord, who hath made Heaven and earth. Lord may we be constant, diligent and assiduous in our appreciations to thee for that help which we so much need. May the humility and reverence of our addresses be in some measure proportioned to thy infinite greatness; and our own weakness, may our fervency be answerable to the danger and need we are in and may the frequency of them be in a degree conformable to the multitude of our wants. Conduct us O God by thy Grace and spirit through all the threatenings and more dangerous allurements of a present world into that everlasting peace which shall be the portion of all them that wait on thee. We are indeed most unworthy of this everlasting bliss, and most unfit for it, Lord accept of us for the worthiness of Jesus Christ, who fulfilled the law, and suffered its punishment for the sake of sinners like us, O justify, wash and sanctify us by thy powerful spirit and by the blood of Christ that cleanseth from all iniquity. Deliver us from the power as well as the guilt of them grant that we may live no longer after the flesh, lest we die but enable us by thy spirit to mortify thee. Deeds of the body, that we may live unto thee, that we may live forever. Lord forsake not the work of thine own hands. Leave us not in the hand of our enemies, may we walk all day in the light of thy countenance; may thy song be with us by night, and out prayer unto the God of our life. Lord, give us ever so much of the light of thy countenance as may support us amidst all the trials or pleasures of this world, may nothing ever be able to prevent us from our firm allegiance to thee. May goodness, and mercy follow us all our life, and may our eternal dwelling place be in thy house above. We bless thee, O our God, for the bounty of thy Providence, the tiches of thy grace, and the means of salvation. we thank thee for our creation, our preservation and protection hitherto, for thy good hand upon us at present, and the hopes thou givest us to entertain for the future. We thank thee that thou hast not cut us off in the midst of our sins, nor sealed us up under judicial hardness and final impenitency. We bless thee for thy spirit which hath hitherto strove with us. and indured our manners; Lord may it never cease to do so; nor suffer us to be at ease in any thing but thee; we bless thee for the light of reason and understanding of conscience and education. May we never sin against nor disgrace their light. We thank thee for thy holy scriptures the words of everlasting life, but above all adore and bless thee for Jesus Christ thy son, on whom all our hopes of sanctification and salvation are founded, may he be made of God into us, wisdom righteousness, sanctification and redemption. We dedicated ourselves wholly;

soul body and spirit, all that we have or are to thee our God, and to thy service. We are thine O God, therefore our lips shall show forth thy praise. Accept our offering for Christ's sake, and make us fit for thy service. May we never forsake thy precepts; and for this purpose may thy grace and spirit never forsake us, but strengthened by it, may we fulfill all thy good pleasure and at last enter into thine inheritance all that we ask is for the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ thy son our saviour, for whom wwe bless the, and to whom with the father and holy spirit, be all praise and hounour, ascribed now and ever. Amen