

The meaning of the Serenity Prayer

This prayer is most commonly attributed to the American theologian and writer Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971). The prayer appears in print form in 1950, although [Reinhold's wife recounts](#) that it may have been in existence as early as 1934.

The first four lines of the prayer are an adaption of the original text; the next section appears to have been added later by an unknown author.

The Serenity Prayer

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.

The Serenity Prayer

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.

Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did, this sinful world
as it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His Will;
That I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with Him
Forever in the next.

Amen.