

Dear King Students,

There is a well-worn aphorism observing that as long as there are final exams, there will always be prayer in schools. The quip works because it contains no small amount of truth. As students we face material that is unfamiliar to us. We are challenged to think in entirely new ways. We are obliged to absorb, retain, understand and explain what we have been taught. And almost always we are stretched beyond what we assume we can accomplish. Our reflex is indeed to call out for help. Prayer before and during study can help center us, clear our minds, and remind us that God calls us to excellence in all we do, including our academic work. It also reminds us that God (and God alone) can give us the strength, peace, focus,

and confidence to persevere even when the tasks ahead of us are daunting ones. Prayer is not a substitute for diligent study—but neither for the Christian is diligent study a substitute for prayer. We are called to both.

In my own academic work I have found very helpful these four old prayers, which I have here adapted for college students and put into contemporary language. I hope as you integrate prayer into your life as a King University student, you will likewise find them useful—either as they are written or as guides. Know also as you study that you are in the prayers of your King faculty and staff—including your president.

*Alexander Whitaker
President*



Prayers for Use by College and University Students

Adapted for Personal Devotion in Contemporary Language

For Knowledge

Grant, O Lord, that I may love that which is worth loving, know that which is worth knowing, praise that which pleases you most, esteem that which is most precious to you, and dislike whatever is evil in your eyes. Grant that with true judgment I may distinguish things that differ, and, above all, may search out and do what is well-pleasing to you; through Lord Jesus Christ my Lord. *Amen.*

~Thomas á Kempis

For Guidance in Learning

God of truth, who has guided your people in knowledge throughout the ages, and from whom every good thought comes, help me in my study to use your gifts of wisdom and knowledge. Let me read good books carefully, and listen to all wise teaching humbly, that I may be led into all truth, and strengthened in all goodness of life, to the praise of your holy name. *Amen.*

~Rowland Williams

Before Examinations

O God, who knows the secrets of the heart: Be with me as I prepare for examinations. Help me face my task with calmness, confidence, and courage; with wisdom, faithfulness, and honesty; that I may do justice both to myself and to my professors, and set forth your glory, who yourself are wisdom and truth, and the giver of knowledge and of every virtue and good gift in Jesus Christ my Lord. *Amen.*

~S. P. T. Prideaux

For Worthwhile Study

O Lord Jesus Christ, you who are the Eternal Wisdom of the Father: I beseech you to assist me with your heavenly grace, that I may be blessed in my studies this day, and above all things may attain the knowledge of you, whom to know is life eternal; and that, according to the example of your most holy youth, as I grow in years I may grow in wisdom and in favor with God and with others. *Amen.*

~Book of Common Prayer of Ireland (1926)