

FOR THOSE WHO ARE HURTING...



Words of hope drawn from
“I Am With You”
“Abide In My Love”
“My Burden Is Light”
“Many Mansions”

Edited and compiled by Peter Woolley

Welcome to this combination of excerpts from the devotional books, **“I Am With You,” “Abide In My Love,” “My Burden Is Light,”** and **“Many Mansions.”**

These inspiring words are ‘heart whispers’ received by Fr. John Woolley in prayer: they have deepened the faith of so many people throughout the world and have revolutionised individual lives.

These pages have been especially selected for those who are anxious and sad.

Our prayer is that the Risen Lord Jesus will minister peace and bring light and courage into life’s dark places.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE HURTING

Treasured words of divine
inspiration for everyone
as given to
Fr. John Woolley

THE "I AM WITH YOU" FOUNDATION
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Tributes

“What a wonderful companion to carry with you on your daily journey.”

*(Dr Jack Hayford, Kings Seminary,
California, USA)*

“I recommend ‘I Am With You’ to all who desire to draw nearer to the heart of God.”

(Jon Bever, author and speaker, USA)

“‘I Am With You’ is a little gem.”

(Authoress Joyce Huggett)

Commendations received for the first book (“I Am With You”) included:

“‘I Am With You’ will bring peace and consolation to all who read it.”

*(Cormac Murphy-O'Connor,
Archbishop of Westminster)*

“A very special book which will bless countless people.”

(Prebendary John Pearce, England)

“‘Many Mansions’ is certainly my favourite because it stresses the heavenly perspective.”

Dom Benedict Heron, OSB London

“A lovely book of devotions. We use it daily.”

*(Dr Donald English, former President,
Methodist Conference)*

I came to bind up
the broken-hearted

(Isaiah 61:1)

My Prayer For You

I know that Our Lord will
speak to you through the pages of this little book.

I have prayed that your many
hurts and burdens be lifted –
including those existing for a long time.

We are coming to the true source
of Peace in an uncertain World.

May the Lord Jesus (God the Father within us)
bless every moment that you spend in His work.

John A. Woolley.

My child, because I in-dwell you by My Spirit, I experience in the closest possible way your conflicts, your longings, all which can cause you distress. Because I have travelled your road, there is, within the Godhead infinite, tender appreciation of what you endure upon earth.

Because you have responded to My call, however imperfectly, I have made you *My* concern ... When I see you in great need, My love and compassion are made most real to you. Each heartache, each struggle can be made to awaken a sense of need of *Me*, to deepen trust, to teach new truths.

It is only because I can see the ultimate blessing to you of pain shared with *Me*, that I can accept (though *never* unmoved by them) your earthly struggles.

Recognise love's transforming work in earth's darkness ... See experiences of darkness melt, under My hand, into experiences (within My love) of security and of hope.

“I am making everything new!”

(Revelation 21:5)

It would be wrong to pretend that maintaining faith in Me will always be easy.

There is the greatest temptation to see earth's calamities and misfortunes as pointing to a universe without soul.

Whenever you are forced to conclude, even momentarily, that you are alone in a materialistic creation, then evil has secured what is always its greatest ambition.

The one *crucial* division in this world is not between fortune and misfortune, but between life based on Me and shared with Me - and life divorced from Me, leading to oblivion.

When events seem to point away from Me and lead you into doubt, that is the *very moment* to summon all your strength and to tell Me that, in spite of all, I am with you and can never fail you.

You cannot know the *power* of such a trusting word - spoken to Me in circumstances which cause you to doubt!

**“I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in Me will live”**

(John 11:25)

My child, let my peace *enfold* you ... not looking at yourself but at Me! Consciously and frequently rest your spirit in that peace; it brings true healing and is all that you need.

Eagerly desire My peace for its *uniqueness*; know that it neutralises long-standing hurts. Unless My peace works upon deep wounds, you are at the mercy of so much from the past - its pain revived.

Firmly refuse unloving ways, wrong ways, which would temporarily destroy my peace in you; refuse them in My strength. Do not 'analyse' whether you have My peace; just *know* that it is there, as you are careful to tread My way ... and it will pass from you to My other children.

My Name - the Name of JESUS - brings peace; say it to Me - in love; say it to yourself - to comfort your heart, unflinchingly.

“Do not let your heart be troubled, or afraid”

(John 14:27)

My child, try to see in the midst of life's trials not merely the calmer waters which you feel must be beyond them but try also to see those trials as actually serving to throw into sharper relief the period of sunshine and gratitude to Me which must follow.

The agonising periods of existence, which would almost make you lose your hold on Me, can serve a very relevant purpose for you .. otherwise I would not permit them. Pain is the raw material from which can be made a soul increasingly sensitive to My love's existence.

Life's pain and sorrows, allowed within My purposes of love, are constantly used to create what is ultimately noble and strong and of the heavenly sphere; they thus give deeper meaning to the great miracle of existence itself ... the miracle that I am, and that is a universe in which My Love will triumph.

“Your sadness will be turned into joy”

(John 16:20)

My child, come ...

Come ... with that sense of helplessness or
insecurity ...

Come... when things are overwhelming ...

Come ... to find all your needs met ...

Come ... simply to let My love *feed* you ...

The look to My love! ...

dispersing fear;
dispersing that needless sense of guilt;
dispersing all turbulence of the spirit;
dispersing loneliness;
dispersing dread of the future;
dispersing regret;
dispersing sorrow;
dispersing any sense of rejection;

Is it not a wonderful thought that I can fulfil
any need for you? Keeping the sense of My
Love is the secret!

“I am He who comforts you”

(Isaiah 51:12)

If you have never felt an ache in your spirit, an inward tear, then you have not entered into My own consciousness of life's pain.

The world has its own often-harsh descriptions for the sad-at-heart, but wistfulness and sorrow are *natural* in your perception of what life could be, and what it is, in reality.

Sharing My existence does not mean a brittle optimism, one lacking in sensitivity; it means weeping with Me over My world.

Such sadness finds a place alongside the times of joy and hope which inevitably accompany your recognition of My working in your life.

“Sorrow has filled your heart”

(John 16:6)

The almost instinctive speaking of My Name when life is dark and uncertain the cry of a child for the one who can draw close; the cry of a child when reasoning ceases to function, when all is threatening, when human help is absent, when confidence is lost.

The speaking of My Name brings into the foreground of your situation the one vital factor. My Name can be said in helplessness ... but said in joy and thankfulness only seconds later! Thankfulness at being brought through that state of helplessness.

The speaking of My Name ensures immediately the retreat of evil forces ... acknowledging that they are defeated in their aim for your life which is destruction.

My child, the whispering of My Name ... On waking ... On surrendering to sleep ... And very frequently during each day!

**“When you pass through the deep waters,
I will be with you”**
(Isaiah 43:2)

In life's most frightening places, you so often will find yourself sure of only one thing in the whole of existence – My love for you. But that will be enough! As a child, you rest in My love as the one thing which you can take for granted; yes, you can let me *caress* you!

With the strength absorbed in dark places, you can anticipate many victories. Keep in the *brightness* of My love.

When you are conscious of evil's influence threatening to break you down, know that it cannot do so. Keeping hold of Me when things are dark, when tempted to doubt Me and to doubt My word, are your times of *genuine* trust. My promises *must* be realised; this is your stability in uncertainty.

Who but Myself could make something of the situations in which My children find themselves?

“It is I; do not be afraid”

(Mark 6:50)

Hope placed elsewhere than in Me - and there are many false beckonings upon earth - will always prove futile.

You may experience, at times, conflict which is unbearable. The world will be seen as an alien place ... even, at times, bringing the desire to pass from that world. In those dark periods, let the hope which lies over your future *project itself* into your present. Discipline yourself to see life against the background of My eternity, enabling you to endure (joyfully) the inevitable intrusions of darkness.

My child, life can be progressively more difficult, especially for those who do not know Me. Your privilege is knowing that, with Me, that pattern is reversed. I save the good wine until later!

With Me - and *only* with Me - the best is yet to be.

“Whoever has the Son has life”

(John 5.21)

My child, although the Cross may be seen as a place of shame, the light of My love burned brightly for all who, in the succeeding years, would receive Me.

“In Spite of the agony there, the Cross becomes the place of hope”... even before My victory over death.

The Cross is saying that the pain of life cannot be avoided, but it is also saying that such pain can be transformed when the Divine love is given an entrance.

As your pain is shot through by My love, heights of endurance and a patience undreamed of can be reached.

“Made His light to shine in our hearts”

(2 Corinthians 4:6)

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My child, I can already see the day
of your complete release from
worldly suffering!

Share this vision with Me and let it help you to
endure.

God will wipe away every tear
(Revelation 7:17)

When circumstances seem beyond
your control, remember My
control so that you can relinquish yours!

See every present 'adverse' factor in its
reality ... as able to contribute to My purposes for
you, as you give it to Me.

As your duty, constantly thank Me that all is in My
hands, and that I will bring everything right for you.

“He will not let your foot slip”
(Psalm 121:3)

If, in dark places, your dutiful expression of thanks to Me seems unreal, remember that *your* gratitude is not restricted to life experiences; your gratitude extends to mercies yet unrealised!

Nothing brings more joy to My heart than your fundamental trust in My activity, when you can see very little cause for thanksgiving. You are then sharing in My own *anticipation* of what is in store for you. When thanking Me that I cannot fail you, you have entered the dimension where plans are constantly made for your greatest good ... the dimension where present darkness is seen as scattered.

My child, a life of thanksgiving and worship in the midst of what, at times, is totally discouraging, is something to which you are called. Thanksgiving reveals a human heart which understands, deeply, the *faithfulness* of the divine love.

**“It is your faith which has saved you;
go in peace”**
(Mark 5:34)

As you wait upon Me, picture My *reaching out* to you; this is the true way to see our relationship.

Reaching out to bring you, increasingly, into Myself, to be more firmly established within My love.

Reaching out to lift you from danger; reaching out to welcome you back after failing Me.

Reaching out to encourage you to leave the past (even the immediate past) behind; reaching out to encourage you to feed upon the thought of Me; reaching out to supply you ... knowing that nothing which is for your ultimate good is withheld from you.

Reaching out to share the attributes which are My own ... lending you a vision of the truth which is Mine, giving you courage, peace, and a heart which truly can love.

The reaching out is one of support *now*, that you may live in a completely new way, and leave behind, permanently, whatever has obscured your vision of Me.

“The water I give you is a well, springing up into eternal life”

(John 4:13)

My Incarnation transformed
knowledge of your suffering into
an eternal *sharing* of that suffering.

Such sharing will continue until you are released
from all earth bondages, because I have taken your
humanity into the heavenly places.

**“Made Himself poor that we
might become rich”**
(2 Corinthians 8:9)

When fear is strong ... Let there be
an earnest looking to My love.

If the sense of My love is strong, your mind cannot
simultaneously hold a strong sense of fear.

Therefore, let My love’s protecting arms *lift* you
above the fear which darkens your mind.

Still looking earnestly to My love, express your
thanks for victory over fear, and you will see that
victory realised.

“Perfect love casts out fear”
(1 John 4:18)

I go ahead of you into life's bewildering, and often frightening, places.

How foolish it is to be apprehensive about what the future holds.

Into those occasions which you dread I have gone ... to prepare a way for My trusting child.

Into those occasions still beyond your anticipation I have gone ... to make them fit into My purpose for you.

Transcending time, I can be so close to you *now*, and yet influence that which still awaits you. My child, is your trust still utterly in Myself as your guide? Rejoice if this is so, because you are among the few who have found the narrow way which leads to life ... You can journey with even more courage ... and even more joy!

“I will receive you”
(John 14:3)

My child, consider the privilege of living in My secret place. The very human self shrinks from the assaults of evil and the world upon it, but in My secret place, all that threatens you (seemingly from within you or around you), breaks down as you use the realm of My love as your fortress.

Here, you find *real* security; here, you can, at times of great difficulty, surrender to My enveloping love, and let everything else just slip away.

In My secret place, you absorb the strength needed to go on ... you receive enlightenment - or the patience which you need until new light is given to you.

For you, I am Shield, Saviour, Lover, Renewer of your spirit.

“... alone with your Father”

(Matthew 6:6)

My child, each night, deliberately hand over *everything* to My control. Let Me guard those deep places in you; permit My good influence to work.

I shield your inmost being. Rest, as a child, in My love and My greatness. Thank Me that, as you rest in Me, I will deal with all that would spoil your peace ... harmful memories, disturbed feelings.

Do not strive. Do not watch yourself anxiously ... just keep your attention upon your Friend! Be concerned about others' needs and trust Me, naturally, concerning yours.

Secure in My love, this and every night, let your thoughts centre, always, on My almighty power. You realise how precious is your assurance of My love for you ... rest in that assurance.

“I will give you rest for your soul”
(Matthew 11:28)

Life will hold so many disappointments for you.

Your first thought, following a disappointment, must be that I have allowed it. Then you must realise that I allowed it, *knowing what the future holds for you*. Give to Me all the hurt, the sense of being at the mercy of fate. Surrender, too, fear about how you are going to live with the disappointment. I will heal this for you. See life's reverses as obstacles put in your path by evil, to divert you from My way. React by showing your trust in My victory, by remaining calm and hopeful in My love.

Instead of being shattered by disappointments, remember what I frequently save you from. This is no mere false consolation, but My permitting only what I see is best for you. Therefore, accept present circumstances as the answer to your prayers of surrender to My will, and thank Me for them. Refuse *all* disturbed feelings when dissappointments come and ambitions fail. Instead, *use* them to win, with Me, a wonderful victory.

“Your heart will be where your treasure is!”

(Matthew 6:21)

The sense of continuity is one of the priceless gifts of life shared with Me.

You have found the great blessing, and the great stability for your character, of My unchanging presence, in a bewildering succession of circumstances. This may not be fully appreciated until, perhaps, a sense of that presence is temporarily lost, during a painful period of doubt.

Life can rob you, in a moment, of every familiar support, and of all your sources of being sustained. You then look for any fixed point, anything resembling what once sustained you. You look in vain until it dawns upon you that there I am ... still loving you, still guarding you.

How much the world loses in a sense of identity and of stability if I am not there at every turn of the road ... you know that the closer you are to Me the safer will be your walk!

“I do not change!”

(Malachi 3:6)

Even in sorrow, My world must still
be seen as one which can *give*
to you.

Those agencies of beauty, with power to
uplift, are not robbed of their power when life
becomes shadowed.

As you allow My love to heal the spirit in life's
almost unbearable misfortunes, allow it, also, to
reach you through the untarnished aspects of My
creation.

Let nature's beauty mingle with dejection within; let
many things which you may have enjoyed when
life was relatively good *still* play their part in
conveying My strengthening presence.

Let nature's beauty, and all its gifts, speak to you
the eternal message of hope ... the life which is to
be enjoyed with Me when present darkness has
passed.

**"I will create a pathway in the wilderness and rivers
in the desert"**

(Isaiah 43:19)

My child, the love behind the creation in which you are set is a place of *welcome*, shining around the hardest road, and enabling you to see that, in the end, all *must* be well.

Remember to rest, as a child, in that love:
whatever the events ...
whatever the problems ...

**“His goodness and mercy will
follow Me all My life”**

(Psalm 23:6)

My child, if only you were able to see the road ahead which you have chosen to tread with me!

You would see how that road differs from all the other roads of life. My road has far fewer obstacles compared with others because many of them (temptations, discouragements, opposition), have already been removed for you.

The obstacles remaining are there to prove your trust in overcoming, and are in no way wasteful, as are so many of the hazards on earth.

I am the Way

(John 14:6)

As you look towards the future, resolve to be true to Me; true to yourself; sensitive to the needs of those whose lives may be linked with yours.

There are aspects of the days which I have in My hand for you that you cannot know. Here it will be the simple following-out of My way. Just lay good foundations: your walk with Me, your *prayerful* contacts with others.

Your future is safety in My love, for ever ... see everything which happens on earth in relation to this. A partial appreciation of that ultimate experience is each day granted to you. My most solemn promise is that you will come to be with Me where I am, in glory ... even though by a thorny road.

Joy, *always* ... because I will let nothing take you astray from Me.

My child, I bless you. Completely rest your spirit, now, in My love.

**“To be with Me where I am, and
to see My glory”**

(John 17:24)

My child, there are many roads to My friendship, but the *royal* road is that of being rescued from complete darkness ... brought into a realm of light and hope - and with a sense of being cared for.

No experience is quite like the recognition of one's helplessness - and then to find a way through, with Me. Never lose an opportunity of telling what I have done for you and what I mean to you. I will send those opportunities! Speak of the friend who cannot be defeated; speak of the *hugeness* of My mercy and My patience.

I am already, in love, reaching out to rescue that child who turns helplessly, and only half-believing, to Me; as that child does so, I can *already experience* the thankfulness of that child at having found the Lord of all history.

“Return to Me I have bought your freedom!”
(Isaiah 44:22)

At all costs, cultivate that longing
for heaven ...

As one who has committed your life to Me, you can be sure of that longing being fulfilled. Yes, heaven is your destiny.

The chances and bitter disappointments of the material world will so often produce that longing in your heart - a longing for the realm of love and peace.

The thought of heaven is no idle dream; it is the logical expectation of the wonderful promise by Him whom you have come to trust being realised.

“We have this hope as an anchor”

(Hebrews 6:19)

Be constantly receptive to the intimations of heaven; see them as coming to you from My hand, as you look to Me. Looking steadfastly to Me, heaven has touched you in these ways ...

When a peace suddenly descends on you in a jarring environment ...

When you begin to hope again after a period of facing only darkness ...

When you feel a confidence which once deserted you, and you can now bravely face the world again ...

Yes, My child, I constantly seek opportunities to bring the heavenly into earth's complexities.

“The Lord God will give them light”

(Revelation 22:5)

My child, I give you a small but very important part in My plan for mankind.

The triumph of love in My universe owes more to your simple trust than you could at present imagine.

My creative purposes will always go forward when, in a life such as yours, there is a dependency upon Myself. Your faithfulness and restraint help to ensure that spoliation of My designs by the powers of evil in your life is brought to nothing.

Yes, in spite of temporary opposition, *all* My purposes will be fulfilled.

**“Be faithful unto death, and I will
give you the crown of life”**

(Revelation 2:10)

My child, are you remembering to let My love be the environment in which you walk without fear? Fear can cripple your life, preventing the full work of sanctification, compelling you to act with disastrous consequences, both for yourself and for others.

Do not tolerate another day in which fear rules, or even partially rules. I long to see you leave fear behind permanently ... as a response to My love. Trust Me, with absolute abandon, in defying evil's pressure to act fearfully. Do not let misgivings, or dread of consequences, cause you to retreat, after your fearless choice.

Let the dominant sense of My Love and your actions against fear go together. If fear is followed, it will always dim My light. Courageous choices (if you are careful that there is no hurt to Me) will be seen to be wise choices.

Be courageous and strong

(Joshua 1:6)

It will make all the difference - especially in those sudden crises - if you have learned to see Me accompanying you, supporting you ... *My light* around you on the road!

Sometimes the effort of another step will seem impossible; you will shrink from what lies ahead of you. At those times make it a rule to affirm that I am there with you. Look into the glorious sufficiency of My presence. Let your companion lift you forward ... not letting you go for one instant! When courage fails, and you feel impelled to act defeatedly, turn to love's light and go forward.

The realisation of your spiritual hopes would, of course, be impossible without Me. *With Me*, you can feel the exhilaration of rising above obstacles and all earth's disappointments. Journey with Me ... along the way only to Me.

I am with you ... always.

(Matthew 28:20)

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