

**The word serenity can mean being in a state of tranquility. It is like the calm after a storm in which there was no more wind and no more storms. It's like a state of peacefulness, stillness, or quietness. The purpose of this prayer was to bring the Christian into a state of peace amidst the storms of life and to have the wisdom to accept those things that were unchangeable and to know which things a believer could change and to know the difference between the two.**

## **The Serenity Prayer with Biblical Application**

**God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change...**

**Numbers 23:19 “God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?”**

God is Spirit and Spirit doesn't change but mankind being physical is constantly changing. When everything around us is changing, it is comforting to know that **“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever”** (Heb 13:8). This prayer is asking God to grant to us the peace, assurance, or serenity to accept those things that we, as finite human beings, cannot change. There is wisdom in recognizing which things we can change and those which we cannot.

**Courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.**

As relating to a person's life, some things can be changed and some things cannot be changed and so there is wisdom in knowing the difference between the two. Clearly, **“the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding”** (Prov 2:6) and **“Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding”** (Prov 3:13). We cannot change a neighbor who is difficult to get along with because its next to impossible to change another person, even so **“He who is devoid of wisdom despises his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his peace”** (Prov 11:12).

**Conclusion**

Those who have made peace with God through the blood of Christ have the assurance of having had the wrath of God removed from them or as Paul writes, **“since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom 5:1)** because **“He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation” (Eph 2:14)**. We can have peace or serenity with God because **“having made peace through the blood of His cross” (Col 1:20b)** we will be found **“blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess 5:23c)**. How is this possible? It is because **“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor 5:21)**. For those who have refused to recognize that they are sinners there is no serenity because **“the wrath of God [will be] revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness” (Rom 1:18)** and for them, **“There is no peace” (Isaiah 48:22a)**.

### 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;  
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life  
And supremely happy with Him  
Forever and ever in the next.  
Amen.