

The Life of God in the Soul of Man
Henry Scougal

"*The Life of God in the Soul of Man* by Henry Scougal is one of the best things you can ever read if you want to understand Evangelicalism as a historical movement. You will find it very hard to read. These people did not make concessions to the reader but it will do your mind good. This is really a magnificent piece. You will see why all the great modern day evangelicals point back to why the book was a landmark in their lives."

Dallas Willard, "Teaching the Teachers of the Nations", Denver Seminary Session - "*Love as Life*"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utvZKFTkq2Q&t=100s>

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Three Prayers of Henry Scougal, *The Life of God in the Soul of Man*, 1678

Prayer #1 - "*Till Christ be Formed in Me*"

"Infinite and eternal Majesty, Author and Fountain of being and blessedness! How little do we poor sinful creatures know of thee, or the way to serve and please thee! We talk of religion, and pretend unto it; but, alas, how few are there that know and consider what it means! How easily do we mistake the affections of our nature, and issues of self-love, for those divine graces which alone can render us acceptable in thy sight! It may justly grieve me to consider, that I should have wandered so long, and contented myself so often with vain shadows and false images of piety and religion; yet I cannot but acknowledge and adore thy goodness, who has been pleased, in some measure, to open mine eyes, and let me see what it is at which I ought to aim. I rejoice to consider what mighty improvements my nature is capable of, and what a divine temper of spirit doth shine in those whom Thou art pleased to choose, and causes to approach unto thee. Blessed be thine infinite mercy, who sent thine own Son to dwell among men, and instruct them by his example as well as his laws, giving them a perfect pattern of what they ought to be. O that the holy life of the blessed Jesus may be always in my thoughts, and before mine eyes, till I receive a deep sense and impression of those excellent graces that shined so eminently in Him! And let me never cease my endeavors, till that new and divine nature prevail in my soul, and Christ be formed within me."

Prayer #2 - "Called to a Mighty Felicity [Joy]"

"Good God! What a mighty felicity is this to which we are called! How graciously You joined our duty and happiness together, and prescribed that for our work, the performance whereof is a great reward! And shall such silly worms be advanced to so great a height? Wilt You allow us to raise our eyes to thee? Wilt You admit and accept our affection? Shall on the Excellency of Religion and Divine Love we receive the impression of thy divine excellencies, by beholding and admiring them, and partake of thy infinite blessedness and glory, by loving thee, and rejoicing in thee? O the happiness of those souls that have broken the fetters of self-love, and disentangled their affection from every narrow and particular good whose understandings are enlightened by thy Holy Spirit, and their wills enlarged to the extent of thine who love thee above all things, and all mankind for thy sake!

I am persuaded, O God, I am persuaded, that I can never be happy, till my carnal and corrupt affections be mortified, and the pride and vanity of my spirit be subdued, and till I come seriously to despise the world, and think nothing of myself. But O when shall it once be? O when wilt You come unto me, and satisfy my soul with thy likeness, making me holy as Thou art holy, even in all manner of conversation? Have You given me a prospect of so great a felicity, and wilt You not bring me unto it? Have You excited these desires in my soul, and wilt You not also satisfy them? O teach me to do thy will, for Thou art my God; thy Spirit is good, lead me unto the land of uprightness. Quicken me, O Lord, for thy name's sake, and perfect that which concerns me: thy mercy, O Lord, endure for ever, forsake not the works of thine own hands."

Prayer #3 - "Rise Toward Thee in Flames of Devoutest Affection"

"And now, O most gracious God, Father and Fountain of mercy and goodness, who has blessed us with the knowledge of our happiness, and the way that leads unto it! Excite in our souls such ardent desires after the one, as may put us forth to the diligent prosecution of the other. Let us neither presume on our own strength, nor distrust thy divine assistance: but while we are doing our utmost endeavors, teach us still to depend on thee for success. Open our eyes, O God, and teach us out of thy law. Bless us with an exact and tender sense of our duty, and a knowledge to discern perverse things. O that our ways were directed to keep thy statutes, then shall we not be ashamed when we have respect unto all thy commandments.

Possess our hearts with a generous and holy disdain of all those poor enjoyments which this world holds out to allure us, that they may never be able to inveigle our affections, or betray us to any sin: turn away our eyes from beholding vanity, and quicken You us in thy law. Fill our souls with such a deep sense, and full persuasion of those great truths which You have revealed in the gospel, as may influence and regulate our whole conversation; and that the life which we henceforth live in the flesh, we may live through faith in the Son of God.

O that the infinite perfections of thy blessed nature, and the astonishing expressions of thy goodness and love, may conquer and overpower our hearts, that they may be constantly rising toward thee in flames of devoutest affection, and enlarging themselves in sincere and cordial love towards all the world for thy sake; and that we may cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in thy fear, without which we can never hope to behold and enjoy thee.

Finally, O God, grant that the consideration of what Thou art, and what we ourselves are, may both humble and lay us low before thee, and also stir up in us the strongest and most ardent aspiration towards thee. We desire to resign and give up ourselves to the conduct of thy Holy Spirit; lead us in thy truth, and teach us, for Thou art the God of our salvation; guide us with thy counsel, and afterwards receive us unto glory, for the merits and intercession of thy blessed Son our Savior." Amen.

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Scribes Notes - The content is public domain. The "titles" to the prayers were my addition.