



Prayers on Divine Providence, Human Freedom, and the Permission of Evil

O Lord, You have shown that everyone's god is that which he loves above all things. Help me shun the evils of self-love and the world that these may not have dominion over my life and that I may worship You alone! Amen. (Adapted from *Apocalypse Explained* 935)

Lord, we live in times when it is often difficult for us to have faith. When we look at the world we live in, with its selfishness, its poverty, and its corruption, we find ourselves asking how a loving God can allow these things to happen. It is in times like these that we need our faith the most, and when it is hardest. Help us, Lord, to have faith that You are present in this world, in the life of all people, in all the goodness, honesty, love and charity that does exist. Help us to have faith that in Your Providence You are constantly leading each person toward heaven, and, in doing so are working through them to ameliorate the things of this world. We pray, Lord, that our faith in Your loving presence may grow from day to day. May we find increasing evidence of Your hand wherever we look, for You, O Lord, are our Creator and Savior, Your love and wisdom never cease, and Your care is over the whole of Your creation. Amen. (Rev. Andrew Dibb)

Lord, we know that when we are in the mighty stream of Providence, You are carrying us along continually toward what is happy, no matter what the appearance is. Only those who trust in You and give You the credit for all the good things of their lives, are in this stream. O Lord, help me to grow in my trust. Amen. (See *Arcana Coelestia* 8478:4)

Lord, strengthen me to know that the trials of temptation are permitted only so that my old life may die and a new heavenly life may be implanted in its place. Give me courage to endure temptation that my life may be changed. Amen. (Adapted from *Arcana Coelestia* 8403)

I know, Lord, that the evil and falsity that flow into my thought from hell can be sent back again. I can say to myself, "Although I am thinking about this and intending it, I will not do it because it is a sin." These things cannot defile me if they are sent back. Help me shun evils. Amen. (Adapted from *Arcana Coelestia* 8910:3 and *True Christian Religion* 535)