

1872 Birth of Max Ehrmann – US writer – Desiderata – things desired and 'A prayer' RIP  
Sep 9th 1945)

## "A Prayer"

Let me do my work each day; and if the darkened hours of despair  
overcome me, may I not forget the strength that comforted me in the  
desolation of other times.

May I still remember the bright hours that found me walking over the  
silent hills of my childhood, or dreaming on the margin of a quiet river,  
when a light glowed within me, and I promised my early God to have  
courage amid the tempests of the changing years.

Spare me from bitterness and from the sharp passions of unguarded  
moments. May I not forget that poverty and riches are of the spirit.

Though the world knows me not, may my thoughts and actions be such as  
shall keep me friendly with myself.

Lift up my eyes from the earth, and let me not forget the uses of the  
stars. Forbid that I should judge others lest I condemn myself.

Let me not follow the clamor of the world, but walk calmly in my path.

Give me a few friends who will love me for what I am; and keep ever  
burning before my vagrant steps the kindly light of hope.

And though age and infirmity overtake me, and I come not within sight of  
the castle of my dreams, teach me still to be thankful for life, and for  
time's olden memories that are good and sweet; and may the evening's  
twilight find me gentle still.