

Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire

WORDS: James Montgomery, 1818

**1. Prayer is the
soul's sincere desire,
unuttered or expressed,
the motion of a hidden fire
that trembles in the breast.**

**2. Prayer is the
burden of a sigh,
the falling of a tear,
the upward glancing
of an eye,
when none but God is near.**

**3. Prayer is the
simplest form of speech
that infants lips can try;
prayer the sublimest
strains that reach
the Majesty on high.**

**4. Prayer is the
contrite sinners' voice,
returning from their way,
while angels in their
songs rejoice and cry,
“Behold, they pray!”**

**5. Prayer is the
Christians' vital breath,
the Christians' native air;
their watchword at the
gates of death;
they enter heaven with prayer.**

**6. O Thou, by whom
we come to God,
the Life, the Truth, the Way:
the path of prayer
thyself hast trod;
Lord, teach us how to pray!**