

## Prayers with “Spirit of God! descend upon my heart”

No. 502, *Hymnal: A Worship Book*

[Verse 1]

We confess, our God, that our hearts do need to be weaned from so much that is of little importance. Our own strength, our own calculations, even our own loving, are all insufficient. Stoop to our weakness; help us fulfill your purpose for our lives.

[Silence]

[Verse 2]

Our God, sometimes we desire more than we have of spiritual gifts. If only we could hear your voice loud and unmistakable, or receive a visit from an angel, or be blessed with an undeniable vision of truth. But we do not ask for that. We ask only that you help us to see you more clearly than we have, love you more dearly, follow you more nearly, day by day.

[Silence]

[Verse 3]

Our God, we thank you for Jesus who urges us to love you with heart, soul, mind, and strength. In his cross we see the sacrificial nature of that love. Help us to love as he did, to extend that love to those who are lonely, sad, and fearful. We remember especially . . . .

[Silence]

[Verse 4]

Our God, not all our prayers receive the answers we desire. Teach us that even unanswered prayers can be your answer—to go with the strength you have already given us. Give us renewed faith in your unfailing love for us.

[Silence]

[Verse 5]

Our God, for some of us, the waters of baptism are a memory of many years ago. For some of us, that memory is more recent. For still others, baptism is something we have yet to experience. Pour your grace into the lives of each of us, no matter where we are on our spiritual journey. May our hearts be an altar for the bright flame of your love. Amen.

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