

## St. Nephon of Constantiana: Prayer for One About to Die



*St. Nephon the Wonderworker of Constantia  
(Eastern province of Cyprus) (4th century), celebrated Dec 23.*

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### **Prayer of St. Nephon of Constantia for One About to Die**

O Lord, the God of powers, great and awesome,  
abundant in might and transcendent in goodness,  
full of mercy and compassion,  
incline and hear me who am vile and sinful.

O my Christ, Who saved Jonah out of the belly of the whale  
and Daniel from the mouths of lions,  
deliver me at the time of death  
from the dreadful darkness of the prince of evil.

Do not let the devil come over the deathbed of Your servant.  
May my soul, O Lord, never see the darkness of the demons,  
neither in this life, nor in the future one,  
neither in the agony of death,  
nor at my ascent to heaven.

May not the accursed dragon deride my miserable soul  
when it abandons this depraved body.

Do not let the filthy spirit of fetor and stench snatch it,  
O my Lord, my Christ, my Jesus, my God, my Light,  
and carry it away to perdition.

O my Master, God of Heaven and earth,  
may my eyes never see his hideous and darksome face.

But at the time of my end,  
O my holy, thrice holy and glorified King,  
send me Your mercy and Truth.

O My God, at that time send Michael,  
the commander-in-chief,  
over Your servant.

Send me Gabriel, Uriel, Raphael,  
the great and bright generals,  
with all their immaculate and thrice-blessed army,  
to crush the insatiable dragon of Hades

who gnashes his teeth and wants to snatch  
and devour anyone living piously.

O my God, at the time of my departure,  
sink him and all his filthy army into the abyss,  
into Tartarus,  
into outer darkness  
and the *gnashing of teeth*.

At that time, O my Lord Jesus Christ,  
my delight, my Resurrection,  
send the merciful and philanthropic Comforter,  
the Spirit of Truth,  
to receive my own spirit

in His incomparable sweetness and immortal holiness.

Send Him to strengthen me with a flaming sword  
preceding me and crushing the evil rulers of darkness.  
For, if these abominations of iniquity plunge into the fire,  
into darkness, into the abyss, into Hades,

I will be able without pain to cross the ethereal spheres  
to come close to You, the Triune Sun,  
to fall before Your compassion,  
to Kiss Your immaculate feet,  
to be filled with the Deity,  
with Your Holy Spirit,

and confess the countless wonders You did for my sake;

How You brought me to repentance, gave me life *and*  
*out of the depths of the earth again Thou broughtest me up!*

I will enumerate them all before the holy angels,  
that I may be overcome by the effulgence  
of the sweetest and most delightful divine pleasure.

And transported by your ineffable fragrance,  
grace, and divine beauty,

I shall chant to You then the great Song of Songs!...

Hear me, O my God,

even though I may transgress Your law before You every day.

Hear me, my King, My Redeemer,

and make me worthy to enter Your glory,

just as I beseech You night and day, and pray to You,

and supplicate Your immortal and life-giving majesty.

O my Lord Jesus Christ,

I ardently beg You again and always:

at the time of my departure,

send me the resplendent Virgin,

the most pure temple,

the sacred treasury of Your wealth,

O my Christ, to strengthen me.

Send me at that time

the holy Forerunner and Baptist John,

the luminous stars -- the Apostles --

the prophets and the martyrs,

the preachers and evangelists,

confessors, ascetics, and righteous,

that Your creature may be glorified.

Yes, Immortal Lord, hear me, the sinner,  
and enable me to attain Your inexpressible,  
never aging and thrice blessed glory  
But, my Lord, give rest also to every servant of Yours  
in the throes of death,  
wherever this prayer will be heard,  
that the foul demons be disgraced.  
Crush them, O Mighty One, with Your flaming sword.  
Burn them with the lightning of Your fire-breathing power  
O You Who are the plenitude of greatness, loftiness and awe.  
My God, may this prayer be for refreshment and comfort,  
repose and tranquility,  
sweet fragrance and joy,  
support and refuge,  
courage and help  
to all those who are on their deathbeds.  
Yea, Lord, God of my holy Fathers,  
who pleased You from the beginning of time to the present,  
do not scorn my petition, O Holy One.  
Do not turn away from my supplication, O Compassionate One,  
But implant within my prayer a double-edged sword,  
divine, heavenly, deadly to the demons  
and vengeful against the spirits of wickedness;  
yet filled with sympathy, forgiveness,  
compassion and goodness.  
If by chance the one dying has many sins

and this prayer is read over him,  
may you lighted his burden at that time, O Lord,  
have mercy on his soul, O Holy One,  
and sanctify his ascent toward You.  
Crown him with your compassions,  
inscribe him in the book of Your mercy,  
grant him the bliss of Paradise.

Overlook his iniquities  
with the immensity of the wealth of Your loving-kindness.  
Forgive him, have mercy on his miserable soul and save it.

Have pity on him, help him, have mercy on him,  
shield and protect him according to Your great mercy.

Show him Your love for man.

Send him angels of peace.

Send him Your immaculate love

Open to him Your glorious embrace,  
flood him with all the immaterial fragrances, that  
the loathsome and deceitful demons  
may flee from him in shame.

O Lord, let this take place

wherever my poor supplication is heard.

Yea, O Master, Jesus Christ, Light of light,

hear me, O Good One,

and impart grace and mercy to my prayer.

Be a helper and protector for salvation to everyone  
who invokes the name of vile Nephon.

Hear me, O Lord;  
Hear me, O lover of mankind,  
Holy One,  
and grant my request beseeching Your mighty Name.  
Amen!...

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When he finished this prayer, suddenly an extraordinary light flashed around him and in it the Lord Jesus Christ appeared filling his heart with delight, because He embraced him three times with a holy kiss, while the saint with each kiss joyfully cried out, “Amen! Amen! Amen!...” Then the Lord spoke to him:

“Good and faithful servant! I heard your supplication and I will grant liberally what you ask for the salvation of Christians! To anyone who commemorates your name, in his prayer or in church, I shall stand by him a helper in all his temptations, dangers and sorrows, particularly in the last moments of his life. I shall have bountiful mercy on all those who will glorify Me by your name. I shall strengthen and fortify all those who call upon Me in your name, and with My divine authority I shall crush every demonic battalion under their feet.

“And when the hour will come for you to abandon this life, too,

I, Myself, shall come to you with My holy army of angels. I shall receive your spirit in My hands and give you ‘rest in peace’ in the bosom of Abraham.”

With these words the Lord blessed him flooding all his senses with His truth and divine Grace.

Filled with joy and delight, Nephon began to glorify God, saying:

“Sweet and beautiful Jesus, You came to the least of Your creatures! The life, joy, and fragrance of the immaculate angels, You came to delight Your vile servant. Welcome, You Who fill all things and transcend every delight! Blessed and glorified be He Who comes. Remember me in Your glory, in the beauty of Paradise. Remember me in heaven, in the songs of the angels. Remember me, O blessed by the Cherubim and the Seraphim, full of grandeur and light, divine reflection and perfect imprint of the Father. Remember me, O endless sea of immortal philanthropy. My Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me as long as I breathe. Never depart from my side. Shield me and show me the way to eternity.”

When the saint finished this outburst of doxology, the Lord looked at him with divine affection and bid him farewell: “Peace be to you, Nephon, My child!” and ascended into



heaven.

The saint had finally finished his prayer and came out to me. He was filled with sweetness and goodness, and his face sparkled. He disseminated the fragrance of the Holy Spirit all around him, and I thought I was in Paradise.

Then hastily I tried to write down this great and marvelous prayers as he was saying it, that all sinners may find comfort and relief when it is read over them on their deathbed. He, himself, used to say that the prayers of the saints give much strength in every danger, sorrow, or need, if one says them with unhesitating faith, because they are filled with the Holy Spirit and with the knowledge and wisdom of God.

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