

Prayer for Social Action
by Rabbi Jack Riemer

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end war;
For we know You made the world in a way
That we must find our own path of peace
Within ourselves and with our neighbor.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to root out prejudice:
For You have already given us eyes
With which to see the good in all people
If we would only use them rightly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end starvation:
For You have already given us the resources
With which to feed the entire world
If we would only use them wisely.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair:
For You have already given us the power
To clear away slums and to give hope
If we would only use our power justly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end disease:
For You have already given us great minds
With which to search out cures and healing
If we would only use them constructively.

Therefore we pray to You, instead O God,
For strength, determination, and willpower,
To do instead of just to pray
To become instead of merely to wish;
That our world may be safe,
And our lives may be blessed.