

## THE COLLECT

**LORD, we pray thee that thy grace may always prevent and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



1. What is the meaning of the word prevent?
  - A. to come (go) before, to lead
  - B. the prefix *pre* means before, and the Latin root, *venire* means “to come”. (Old English usage)
  - C. Since it is God that worketh in us both to will and to do of his good pleasure, his grace must therefore go before or prevent us in all our good actions, and dispose us to the performance of them. (Ps. 32:8)
2. What do we pray may always prevent and follow us?
  - A. the g\_\_\_\_\_ of God. (2 Cor. 12:9)
3. To what do we pray to be continually given?
  - A. to all good \_\_\_\_\_ (Colossians 1:9-10)
4. How long ought we to be given to all good works?
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Kings 17:37)

## INTRODUCTION.

This is the shortest Collect in the Prayer Book. What is its subject? Grace. We shall think today of what this thing means for which we so often pray, and today pray for it to prevent and follow us.

## I. GRACE HAS TWO MEANINGS.

1. **Its natural meaning.** (i.) simple joy, (ii.) anything which gives joy, as anything beautiful—a gift or present  
**Its spiritual meaning.** God’s gifts to us. His undeserved favor and help. His love to all mankind. The gift of His dear Son to die for us. The helps to be good, which He gives us by the Holy Ghost, and generally through His Church—in the Scriptures, the Sacraments, the Services, &c.  
**All this is part of that “favor and help”** which in this Collect we ask may prevent us and follow us.

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## II. GOD'S GRACE IN FRONT OF US. Going before.

### 1. Illustrations in history.

- (i.) When God “*sent a man before them, even Joseph*” (Ps. 105:16-17)
- (ii.) The *pillar of cloud and fire* in the wilderness (Ex. 13 & 14)
- (iii.) The *Ark of the Covenant* going before them when they crossed the Jordan (Joshua 3)
- (iv.) God’s providence *preparing the way for the spread of the Gospel*, by the scattering of the Jews in the captivity, by the spread of the Greek language in which the New Testament was written and the Gospel first preached everywhere, and by the great Roman roads which made it easier to travel

### Instances in our personal lives.

- (i.) *God’s grace preparing* for us in the past by revealing our redemption by Christ, in the present by bringing us into His Church, and in the future where Christ has prepared a place for us
- (ii.) *God’s grace guiding* (a.) The Father’s guidance in His providence (b.) the Son’s guidance in being the Way, our Example, our Captain, our Shepherd (c.) The Holy Spirit’s guidance in the Bible, in our conscience

## III. GOD'S GRACE BEHIND US. Following.

- 1. (i.) **To protect us** from unlooked for temptations, coming up from behind
- (ii.) **To strengthen us** and “gather us up” when we are tired. He encourages us.
- (iii.) **To guide us** if we turn out of the way, helping us to regain the path
- (iv.) **To correct and cleanse** traces of mistakes and the stains of sins we have left behind, He helps us overcome.



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