

Prayer attributed to Sir Francis Drake



Prayer of Sir Francis Drake



13 Jul 1540 - 28 Jan 1596 (age 55)

- **Francis Drake**, an adventurer and essentially a legal pirate (What else is a second son supposed to do to make a living?), wrote this prayer as he departed Portsmouth on the Golden Hind to raid Spanish gold on the west coast of South America.
- He ventured at least as far north as the non-Spanish parts of California, claiming it as “New Albion” – New England - and returned to his Queen (the long way – via circumnavigation) with loot worth over a half million pounds sterling, and received his Knighthood for it.



Prayer of Sir Francis Drake ~ 1



Prayer of Sir Francis Drake

- **Disturb us, Lord, when
We are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the
shore.**



Prayer of Sir Francis Drake ~ 2



Prayer of Sir Francis Drake

- **Disturb us, Lord, when
With the abundance of things we
possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.**



Prayer of Sir Francis Drake ~ 3



Prayer of Sir Francis Drake

- **Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.
We ask You to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.
AMEN**



Background ~ 1



- **Sir Francis Drake was an English explorer, sea captain, privateer, slave trader, naval officer, and politician.**
- **Drake is best known for his circumnavigation of the world in a single expedition, from 1577 to 1580. This included his incursion into the Pacific Ocean, until then an area of exclusive Spanish interest, and his claim to New Albion for England, an area in what is now the American state of California.**
- **His expedition inaugurated an era of conflict with the Spanish on the western coast of the Americas, an area that had previously been largely unexplored by Western shipping.**



Background ~ 2



- 1. Drake's exact birth has not been recorded. He was born in a city in Devon, England known as Tavistock. Historians speculate that he was born between 1540 to 1544.**
 - 2. He was introduced to ships from a young age. Drake's father apprenticed Drake to the master of a barque (a specific type of sailing vessel) that was used for ...**
 - 3. His voyages into sea started when he was 18 and he was one of the first slave traders. Drake began his seafaring by sailing into the Bay of Biscay. ...**
 - 4. He was recognized as a Privateer by the Queen. Following the West Indies expedition, Queen Elizabeth I granted Drake a commission as a Privateer. ...**
 - 5. Sir Francis Drake carried out the second circumnavigation of the globe through a single expedition. ...**
- Reference: factsking.com/historical-people/sir-francis-drake-facts/

