

O Holy Spirit of God, visit now
this soul of mine, and tarry within
until eventide. Inspire all my thoughts.
Pervade all my imaginations.
Suggest all my decisions.
Be with me in my silence and my speech,
in my haste and in my leisure,
in company and in solitude,
in the freshness of the morning
and in the weariness of the evening;
and give me grace at all times to
rejoice in Thy mysterious companionship.

~ John Baillie

Lodge in my will's most inward citadel and order all my doings

In this petition Baillie takes us into a safe place inside ourselves during a time of tumult in our lives. For protection against whatever assault upon us is underway, we are encouraged to withdraw and regroup. It is a time of temptation when we need to halt, and allow God to become involved with Divine wisdom and strength. Where we have neither the wisdom or inward strength to stand up against temptation or trials, we have reinforcements immediately available. We have the knowledge and wisdom of God at our disposal. We are not alone. God is with us. All that is necessary for our protection and well-being can be dispatched to assist us with every threat we might face.

The idea of the citadel is a mark of strength and power. Where we lack strength to withstand life's threats and struggles, God is our refuge and strength, always available and willing to rescue us if we but turn our woes

over to his command. There is a military flavor to the concept of citadel and the petition suggests God's coming to our rescue. There is an intensity and urgency present. We are encouraged to call upon the mighty fortress of God, a trusty shield and weapon. There is nothing so bad that it cannot be overcome by God in our behalf.