**If We Just Talk of Thoughts and Prayers**(Sung to the tune of “Though I May Speak")

If we just talk of thoughts and prayers  
And don't live out a faith that dares,  
And don't take on the ways of death,  
Our thoughts and prayers are fleeting breath.

If we just dream of what could be  
And do not build community,  
And do not seek to change our ways,  
Our dreams of change are false displays.

If we just sing of doing good  
And don't walk through our neighborhood  
To learn its hope, to ease its pain,  
Our talk of good is simply vain.

God, may our prayers and dreams and songs  
Lead to a faith that takes on wrongs —  
That works for peace and justice, too.  
Then will our prayers bring joy to you.

Biblical References: Isaiah 58; Matthew 7:21; 1 Corinthians 13:1; James 2:14-26; 1 John 3:18-24  
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**Hymn Note for "If We Just Talk of Thoughts and Prayers"**

We are called to pay attention to what is going on in the world around us and to lift up concerns and tragedies in our prayers to God. God **does** want us to pray and to show concern for victims and their families. Yet we can never let the words, "They are in our thoughts and prayers," be a substitute for seeking laws and policies that bring us a more just and peaceful world. As Christians, we are called to follow the way of Jesus and to work for peace, justice, and nonviolence.

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