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1. Prayer—Efficacy.

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Broadhurst

Wireless Messages

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Possibilities through Prayer

By
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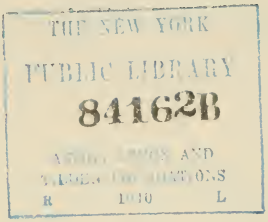

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Preface

IN presenting this volume to the reading public I do so with an earnest prayer that it may accomplish good. It is simply a compilation of thoughts and illustrations that during the twenty-five years of my ministerial life I have used and heard others use. My only claim to originality is in the molding and application of the incident, and in some cases I cannot even appropriate this claim. Hoping and believing that it will increase the faith of the reader in a God that hears and answers prayer and fill some human life with joy and usefulness, it is sent forth by

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Wireless Messages

Across the Atlantic

THE nineteenth day of January, 1903, was a memorable era in the annals of the world of science, for on that day Theodore Roosevelt, president of the United States, and Edward VII, king of England, conversed by the means of the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy across the Atlantic Ocean. The American president sent congratulatory messages to the English people and the English king responded with congratulations to the people of America. That this occurrence actually transpired has never been doubted by a solitary human being. Then why should we doubt for the briefest moment that man can send prayer messages to God and in return receive an answer? For sixty centuries earth has been in constant communication with heaven and "Every one that asketh receiveth" is the encouraging declaration of the Incarnate Son of God.

Prof. S. F. B. Morse

Professor Morse, the inventor of the telegraph, said, "Many a time when I was making my experiments in my laboratory rooms at the university I

would come to a standstill, not knowing what to do next. An obstacle would present itself in my way that seemed to be insurmountable. A mental fog would cloud my mind that would not clear away. But during such times I always locked my doors, knelt down and prayed for light and help. And light and help invariably came. So when flattering honours came to me from Europe and America because of my invention, I felt that I did not deserve them but should give the glory to God. It is true that I had made a valuable application of electricity, but God meant this for mankind and only revealed it to me in answer to prayer and not because I was superior to other men." Then no wonder that on the twenty-fourth day of May, 1844, when he sent the first telegram over that forty miles of wire from the rooms of the United States Supreme Court at Washington to Baltimore, the message was: "See what God hath wrought." So the science of telegraphy was given to the world in answer to prayer.

Sir Isaac Newton

Sir Isaac Newton, the eminent scientist, whose discovery of the law of gravitation and other scientific discoveries made his name immortal, once said: "I can take my telescope and look millions and millions of miles into space, watch the blazing suns and rolling planets in the infinite depths of immensity, but I can lay it aside and go into my room, shut the door, get down upon my knees in

earnest prayer, and see more of heaven and get closer to God than I can assisted by all the telescopes and material agencies of earth." So we can see more of God through a telescope of faith than we can through a telescope of glass. Sir Isaac Newton was a man of prayer and prayed for help and light in his scientific investigations. His discovery of the law of gravitation and the centripetal and centrifugal forces of the universe were revealed to him in answer to prayer.

Lord Kelvin

Lord Kelvin was one of the leading scientists of the nineteenth century. A friend of science once asked him which discovery of his life he considered the most valuable. He replied: "I consider the most valuable discovery of my life the discovery I made when I discovered that Jesus Christ was my Saviour. He has been my constant friend and helper in my life-work and every discovery I have made that has contributed to the benefit of man He has given me in answer to prayer."

Louis Agassiz

Louis Agassiz, the great geologist, educator and scientist, invariably opened his schools of science with prayer. He believed that the Creator of the universe was pleased to reveal His laws to His obedient creatures who sought their revelation in believing supplication. He was confident that he made some of his most valuable discoveries by

utilizing the prayer force. Frequently he stood before his students with uncovered head and reverently prayed to God that he might find in material creation something that would prove beneficial to man.

Thomas A. Edison

Thomas A. Edison, whose wise application of electrical forces surprises, with one scientific miracle after another, the nations of men, believes that wireless telegraphy, wireless telephony, and other facilitated methods of communication are analogies of a similar means of transmission and reception in the spiritual universe. That the spirit of man in obedience to the laws of prayer can communicate with the spirit of God. Jesus said, "God is a spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." Spiritualized devotions transmit power from God to man.

The Plow

An English farmer invented a plow. It was a valuable contribution to agriculture. Queen Victoria visited the inventor and inquired how he came to think of the invention.

"I had it in my head a long time," replied the farmer, "but could not quite complete it, until I took it to God in prayer. Then my head got clear and I could see how to put it together just right."

"And you actually prayed over a plow," the Queen continued.

"Yes, indeed, I did," he answered, "and God answered my prayers."

Then England's great Queen laughed and said: "I believe every word of it, for I know He answers prayer."

McCormick Reaper

When the Civil War carried off so many of our men and boys in death and battle, while at the same time our rich American farms produced their abundant crops and so few men were left to gather them that it looked as though the crops would be lost and the nation would suffer for bread. But not so, for the people prayed to Him who taught the world to say: "Give us this day our daily bread," and immediately the McCormick reaper, the improved mower and the patent hay rake came rolling from our factories to take the place of our men. On these new implements of husbandry, mounted the mothers, wives and daughters and garnered the crops for a suffering people and gave the nation bread. The psalmist truly said that "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and His ears are open unto their cry."

Prayer's Utility

By prayer we take certain causes, crises and problems to God and leave them with Him. Then He takes them up and works them out for us by the powers of His almightiness in a surprisingly successful manner.

Elijah

Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, and it rained not on the earth for three years and six months. He prayed again and the heavens gave rain and the earth brought forth her fruit. Here was a man who utilized prayer as a working force, turned the hearts of his people from the worship of Baal to the worship of Jehovah and inaugurated one of the greatest reformations in the history of the Israelitish nation. So prayer properly utilized will change the character of nations and bring a whole country to God.

Electricity

Prayer like electricity sends its messages silently and swiftly. The man in New York sends a telegram to the man in San Francisco with a silence and swiftness that astonish the human mind. By the science of telegraphy the electrical forces are brought into requisition and the message is sent and the answer received. A man on earth from his office, his store, his bank, his shop, his farm or from any place or at any time can send a message to God and receive an answer with a silence and swiftness that astonish the petitioner himself, as he brings into requisition the prayer force that God commands him to use.

Over Mountain Tops

On March 8, 1909, the steamship *Northwestern*, the property of the Alaska Steamship Company, was

anchored in Fitzhugh Sound, Alaska. The harbour was five miles long and a half mile wide and surrounded by high mountains, but these obstacles and unfavourable conditions could not prevent its wireless operator from sending a message to Honolulu, 2,500 miles away, and immediately receiving an answer. Many a human life on the troubled waters of time surrounded by mountains of calamity, shut in from human aid, has sent the prayer message into the listening ears of God, and in return received an answer that changed his night to day. For God has said: "Call upon Me in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee and thou shalt glorify Me."

Jack Binns

Within an hour after Jack Binns' first click on the key of the wireless instrument of the ill-fated *Republic*, as he sent out the C. Q. D. signal, a number of vessels turned their prows in that direction and rushed with the utmost speed through the blackness, the darkness and the fog to find and if possible help the sinking *Republic*. All the world knows how long they searched and how all but one failed to find and help the sinking wreck. But just let one human wreck, or one of God's children in distress utter the first word of his call for help and instantly, no difference how thick the darkness or how dense the fog, the power of Omnipotency is immediately there to give the necessary relief. For the Bible tells us that "Before they call I will answer and while they are yet speaking I will hear."

Paul and Stephen

I honestly believe that every Christian life that ever blessed the world by its existence was inseparably connected with some other Christian life that caused its production by the exercise of an earnest intercessory prayer. The prayer of the one and the life of the other are closely united in the ratio of cause and effect. I verily believe that the existence of Paul as the greatest gospel preacher and greatest Christian missionary in the day in which he lived was the inevitable product of the dying prayer of a praying Stephen, the first Christian martyr, who, in the awful hour of his martyrdom, prayed for his persecutors, with his face alight and his tongue aflame with the fires of intercession. Your prayer, too, may produce a harvest hand to work in the harvest field of the Master. He said for us to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send forth labourers into the harvest, "For the harvest is plenteous but the labourers are few."

The Sun Power

The sun, the great central orb of our solar system, is a mighty source of power. It pours out eight quintillions of horse-power every day and raises two billions and a half tons of water three miles every minute from the surface of our earth. The power of the sun is everywhere, it blows in the wind, rises in the tide, glows in every furnace, thunders in every cataract and plays in the electrical currents that girdle the planet. Oh, the

mighty power of our solar system's central sun! But Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, is pouring a greater power upon our earth, and radiating a brighter light and lifting the minds and lives of the people of our planet to higher spiritual altitudes than ever before in the history of the universe, for the world is getting better every day and the time will soon come when that Scriptural prophecy will have its fulfillment which declares that the time will come when righteousness will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

Not Mocking

When God told man to speak to Him, He was in earnest. When He invited man to talk to Him He did not intend a mockery by turning a deaf ear. When God said, "Ask and you shall receive," He meant to give man an audience and grant his petitions. God is not mocking us. The spirit of mockery can find no place in God's great heart of love. For God is in earnest. God is sincerity, God is truth, God is love. How dare we doubt for a solitary moment Infinite Veracity Himself?

Pessimism

Prayer is an antidote for pessimism. Communion with God is a remedy for the blues. A petition to the Most High is destruction to despondency. Scientists tell us that our earth is surrounded by a cloak of atmosphere forty-five miles thick and if we should go outside the limitation of this atmospheric wrapper and look at the sun, it would appear blue—that

viewing the sun through forty-five miles of atmosphere makes it appear golden and prevents it from seeming blue. So the trouble with the pessimist, the misanthropist, the skeptic, the despairing, despondent, miserable, tired-of-life person is that he has gone outside of the limitations of the atmosphere of prayer and consequently the whole world looks blue, all men seem rascals and even the golden blessings of the Sun of Righteousness appear blue with the shades of despondency.

"Oh, how praying rests the weary—
Prayer will change the night to day;
So when life seems dark and dreary
Don't forget to pray."

Atmospheric Influences

An invigorating, joyous and elevating influence is continually produced by the exercise of prayer. Prayer brings the richest, rarest and the most unexpected blessings upon human life, until the earnest petitioner and the fortunate object of the petitions, become the recipients and receive a part of the strength, the wisdom and the love of the Most High God Himself. And the poet has declared that "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." Geologists tell us that the calm, quiet and gentle influence of the atmosphere held to the earth's surface by the silent powers of the laws of gravitation, moving in gentle zephyrs or travelling in passing winds, wears down mountains, subdues rocks and is a mightier influence

in changing the earth's material surface than the more noisy and furious forces of nature. So the calm, quiet and gentle influence of prayer, pressing on human life by the silent powers of the law of a spiritual gravitation, moving in the zephyrs of private devotion, or travelling in the life-purifying winds of public worship, wears down the mountains of sin, subdues the rocky hearts of sinful men, and is a mightier influence in changing our earth's moral surface, in changing the character of individual life, national civilization and commercial transaction than the more noisy forces of wars, revolutions and the militarism of the belligerent nations of earth. Oh, for every church to become a school of prayer and every home and every heart an altar where genuine supplication ascends to God—that the modifying influences of human devotion may make grand the destiny of men.

The Ocean Daily

The Cunard line of ocean steamers by the means of the system of wireless telegraphy is publishing a daily newspaper aboard the ships of its line in mid-ocean. The news of the world is received from both Europe and America and printed in a daily paper which is on sale on board the steamer every morning before breakfast. This is certainly the crowning achievement of modern science and is a striking illustration of the utility of wireless telegraphy and shows us how the ingenious and daring hand of man is beginning to control the electric

forces of the universe. It sounds like a twentieth century miracle and adds another victory to the art and ingenuity of our progressive age. Just think of a ship one or two thousand miles from land receiving a correct report of the news occurring on the two continents of Europe and America. It seems to surpass the most extravagant dreams of the wildest visionary the world has ever known. But it is true nevertheless and we stand in a spirit of wonderment before the greatest scientific achievement of our age.

We are out on the sea of human life but in peculiar touch with the shores of time and eternity. We are in strange communication with the celestial and terrestrial. There are four ingredients, which, if placed in human character, will make it a spiritual receiver to receive spiritual forces from its Maker. Those ingredients are faith, obedience, patience and hope. The soul in possession of these is anchored to its God and receives and transmits to men the powers of God, revealing to them the glorious truth that there is a reality in the wonderful religion that we profess.

Wireless Telegraphy

The American fleet circumnavigated the world in 1908. The earth is 25,000 miles in circumference but it was necessary for it to sail 45,000 miles in order to make the circumnavigation. When it was sailing around Cape Horn the squadron that was under the command of Admiral Evans

was connected by a wireless telephonic communication. By this means the admiral was in constant touch with each ship of his flotilla. On clear days the air was the medium of transmission, on stormy days the water of the ocean was utilized. Though one of his vessels was a dozen miles away he could distinctly hear its captain's voice and familiarize himself perfectly with its location, sanitation, and its equipment. Imagine if you can the astonishment of the old navigators of the centuries past, such as Drake, Cabot, Gilbert, Christopher Columbus and others standing by the side of Admiral Evans and listening to him talk to the captains of the different vessels of his armada, miles and miles away. Their exclamation would no doubt be: "Oh, this is a miracle." And it is a miracle—a miracle of science in the twentieth century.

But the wireless telephony of prayer that for 6,000 years has been constantly and efficiently utilized by the human race is as truly a miracle, and is as miraculously true. Many pray to God and God answers their prayers in glorious verification of the truthful declaration of our Lord who said: "All things whatsoever you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive."

Ezra

In the month of March, 458 B. C., Ezra and his little band of 1,700 Israelites were camped on the banks of the Ahava River preparatory to starting on their long journey from Babylon to Jerusalem. From a Babylonian captivity to a Jerusalem eman-

cipation. Sixty-five years before this Haggai, the prophet, had prophesied that the time would come some time in the future when the wealth of the Gentiles would pour into the treasury of the Jews and the prophecy had just had its fulfillment for Artaxerxes, the King of Persia, had not only made Ezra governor of Judea, but had presented to him and his nation $5,000,000 and had them equipped with every necessary convenience to insure them a successful journey, as well as a splendid decoration of their temple and a prosperous administration of their government when they reached their destination. It was 520 miles in a straight line from Babylon to Jerusalem, but in order to avoid the desert it was necessary to travel 900 miles around. Along this road numerous bands of robbers watched and waited to rob and kill the helpless travellers who happened to pass that way. Seldom was there, from a human standpoint, an easier and more valuable prize than Ezra and his caravan with their $5,000,000 in silver and gold. But they travelled this journey in 110 days, in less than four months, leaving in March and arriving in July and the journey was prosperous and happy. Disease, sickness and hardships did not molest them on their way. After arriving at their destination, they rested three days and then reported to the authorities of Jerusalem. Why was this journey so successful? Why this mysterious and providential protection? Why were they brought so safely through to the Holy City of Jerusalem? I will tell you why it was. Because Ezra and his band,

before they started, while they were yet camped on the banks of the Ahava River, spent three days in fasting and praying for God's protecting power to accompany them on their journey and God heard and answered their prayers. Had Ezra requested it the King of Persia would have given him a whole army to have guarded him on his journey, but Ezra did not care so much for human guards as he did for divine protection, so in their three days' prayer-meeting they besought the King of the Universe to take care of them, and He granted them journeying mercies and the militarism of heaven in the form of a whole army of invisible angels who marched with them by day and brought them safely to the city of Jerusalem. "For the angel of the Lord encampeth around about them that fear Him and delivereth them." It would be well for us who camp on the banks of the river of time preparatory to continuing the journey of life towards the Holy City, the heavenly Jerusalem, to be often in prayer. Prayer is a wonderful assistant in freeing men from the Babylonian captivity of sin and helping them on to a glorious emancipation in the wonderful kingdom of God. The robbers of sin continually waylay the road of human life to rob us of our purity, our honesty, our manhood and our womanhood and to drag us back into a spiritual slavery, to prevent us from entering a better condition of life, to keep us out of the Holy City. But if we trust in God, we are assured of the protecting power of His providential care to help us on to a glorious destination. He hears and

answers prayer and if necessary will give us the guardianship of angels.

Photography

If we would retain the beautiful image of Christ in our souls, if we would assimilate the mighty character of God in our lives, we must not neglect the frequency of the splendid exercise of prayer. The mind of man in believing prayer focalizes itself on the character of God and holds it there in devotion, in contemplation, in worship, until the image of Christ is impressed on the soul and the character of God is incorporated in the life and the petitioner receives the nature of the divine. The science of photography in the production of the pictures of the daguerreotype through the lens of the camera imprint the exact features of the material object on the sensitive negative and the picture is produced. The science of prayer is the production of the Christ image on the soul, and the God character in the life through the lens of the camera of a living faith imprinting the exact features of the heavenly Father on the spiritual child until he walks forth on the surface of the earth in the splendid likeness of God. Thank God for the character-changing influences of prayer. Prayer brings the spirit of God into man and lifts man into the image of God.

Hygiene

The hygiene of prayer is at the present time exciting considerable attention in the world of science. The scientific world has reached that

degree of advancement in this progressive age of enlightenment that prayer as a therapeutic agent demands its recognition. At a convention of medical scientists in the city of London not long since, Doctor Theo. Hyslop delivered a lecture that created quite an extensive sensation. Dr. Hyslop is a brain specialist and is supposed to be the leading man in his profession in all Europe. It has even been declared that he knows more about the human brain than any other man in all the world. He took a position which he logically sustained with clear, strong and honest argument, that for a distressed mind, depressed spirits, or mental derangement the best therapeutic agent known to man is just the simple prayer habit. Under the power of his convincing logic, the most skeptical members of the convention were compelled to admit the truth of his conclusions. He said that the best remedy he had ever discovered for insanity was the prayer habit, and by the prayer habit he did not mean merely the repetition of words, the repeating of prayers, nor the counting of beads, but the direct communication of the creature with the Creator, man talking to God. So we have discovered at last that there is a harmonious agreement between the new science and the old Bible, for the Bible has been telling us for 1,900 years that "If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God who giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not and it shall be given him." Insanity is a lack of wisdom. To ask God for it is to pray. Modern science declares that the best ther-

apeutic agent it can find for insanity is prayer. The prayer habit will bring rest to the diseased mind, strength to the weakened faculties, sanity to the crazed brain and place reason on her throne of power that man may again assume the image of his God and sway the sceptre of supremacy over the noble powers of a God-redeemed manhood.

Raindrop

A little raindrop fell from the morning clouds as they swept across the skies. It came down to the dark brown earth and dropped in the city street. Stained, soiled and blackened it was soon pushed and dragged and washed into the mud and mire and slush of the gutter. Displeased with its filthy associates and uncongenial environment, it looked up into the blue heavens and into the pure air and at the bright golden sunbeams and it longed for a nobler, purer and higher life than the life of the gutter. Its longing and hoping and wishing soon crystallized into a prayer and it prayed to be as pure and clean and beautiful as it used to be in the days gone by when it rode on the cloud chariots of heaven. Its prayer was answered, for the God of nature sent the focalized sunbeams with the powers of evaporation to lift the little raindrop from its degradation in the gutter to a higher and grander position on a fleecy white cloud in the sky. To this aerial throne of rolling vapour the wild steeds of the winds were hitched and with the speed of celestial chargers

they dashed along the highroads of the southern firmament until on the tropical gardens of the southland the sparkling raindrop fell. Glittering, glistening, glowing with the light of heaven, it dropped into the fragrant bosom of a beautiful rose. Robed in fragrance, fanned with zephyrs, crowned with the prismatic colours of the rainbow, the little raindrop rejoiced at the potency of the prayer force that lifted it from its degradation in the gutter to its glorification in the rose.

In the early morning of the world's history man fell from the Edenic clouds of his primitive purity into the muddy gutters of sin where stained, soiled and blackened with vice from his degrading associations and uncongenial environment he looked up into the kind, loving and forgiving face of a pardoning God, and prayed to be pure and clean and beautiful like he used to be in the days gone by when he rode on the cloud chariots of a perfect manhood. And his prayer was answered. For the God of the universe sent the focalized sunbeams of salvation's power to lift man up from sin to righteousness. Before man prayed God loved him and promised him a Saviour. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life." And Jesus has said: "If ye ask anything in My name I will do it." And man is lifted from the lowest depths of sin on earth to the highest heights of salvation in heaven and placed in the Elysian gardens of God, where, wrapped in the fragrance of the Rose

of Sharon, fanned with the zephyrs from the mountain tops of glory and crowned with the prismatic colours of the rainbow of eternal peace, he rejoices that the potent power of the prayer force put into operation through the atoning merits of Jesus Christ our Lord has lifted him from terrestrial degradation to celestial glorification where he can live and reign with Christ and God while the eternal ages march.

Ocean

The great ocean is composed of numberless drops of water, still if you take one drop away it will have one drop less. Could you count all the drops of which it is composed, then take one drop away, it would lack one drop of weighing as much as it did before. Although the ocean is very big, its size and weight can be diminished or increased by subtraction and addition. Not so with God because of His Infinity. His being will not permit of diminution or augmentation. Additions do not increase His strength, nor subtractions decrease His power. He is omnipotent and is able to do for us exceeding abundantly above all that we are able to ask or to think. Do you desire a rich and an abiding heritage? If so you will find it in God. Do you desire broad possessions? He is immensity. Do you desire an unchanging estate? He is immutability. Would you have it last forever? He is eternity, for from everlasting to everlasting He is God.

Rope

Prayer is the bell-rope up in the belfry. We pull the rope with the hands of faith. The prayer bells of heaven ring out through the skies. God hears, men are recognized, angels rejoice, and earth is made better. "For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and His ears are open unto their cry."

Daniel

Prayer is a means to the reception of knowledge. If you desire to receive knowledge utilize prayer and knowledge will be received. Prayer is the golden key to the treasure house of wisdom. It unlocks the door so man can enter and obtain the desired information. When all the Chaldean magicians and all the wise men of Babylon had racked their brains to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream and failed, Daniel attempted the interpretation. He went home and made a covenant with his three companions, Hananiah, Azariah and Mishael that they would unite with him in earnest prayer for God to grant to him the gift of interpretation. The gift was granted and the dream was interpreted. So Daniel secured in answer to prayer a wisdom from God which the Chaldean wise men with all the magical arts of Babylon could not secure. God would have answered Daniel's individual prayer, had he prayed alone, but when his three companions united with him in besieging a throne of grace, the strength of the prayer force was multiplied by three, and with greater rapidity and

facility the answer was secured. Individually one person can utilize the prayer force and move the heavens and earth, but collectively a number of persons can utilize the prayer force and shake the very foundations of the universe. Thank God for the mighty power of united prayer!

Seminary

During the early history of the theological seminary at Allegheny, the institution was frequently in financial straits. One time when it was in great need of funds and had reached a very trying monetary extremity, Dr. Herron, the president of the board of directors, called a meeting of the board. There were only three in attendance, including the president himself. Dr. Herron, Dr. Swift, and Dr. Patterson composed the counsel. Dr. Herron expressed it as his opinion that unless immediate financial assistance arrived the further perpetuation of the institution was impossible.

"Oh," he said in a very discouraged tone of voice, "we have no one to help us."

"No one to help us?" repeated Dr. Patterson; "why, I know of a thousand."

"A thousand!" exclaimed Dr. Herron. "I do not understand. I wish you would explain."

"Well, the explanation is this," replied Dr. Patterson. "I am a cipher, Dr. Swift is a cipher and you are a cipher. But Jesus Christ is a unit, and my mathematical education teaches me that a unit and three ciphers, when the ciphers are placed on the right side, make a thousand. So I know of a

thousand who are willing and ready to help. And as man's extremity is God's opportunity, let us pray."

They prayed ; help came. Help remained. The seminary was endowed, and from the directors' prayer-meeting to the present time few financial disturbances have interfered with the prosperity of the institution. Thank God for the power and the utility of prayer.

Telepathy

When Jesus stood at Cana and healed the nobleman's son at Capernaum twenty-five miles away the miracle was considered especially phenomenal, because of its telepathic character. But why should spiritual telepathy excite the wonderment of man any more than physical telepathy ? The sun sways the earth by the powers of physical telepathy although it is many millions of miles away. The earth controls the moon, without physical contact, exclusively by the force of physical telepathy. While the moon affects the ocean tides together with the animal and vegetable creations that grow upon our planet, but at none of these material phenomena are we especially surprised. But that Christ, who made the sun, moon and stars, should by the psychic phenomenon of spiritual telepathy stand at Cana and change the physical condition of a young man at Capernaum, twenty-five miles away, driving a malignant fever from his body, is to some people so great a surprise that it levies on their credulity a tax beyond their ability to endure. Oh, Consistency, thou art a jewel.

Telegraphy

In the city of London there is a very tall building. In its top story there is a newspaper office that receives its news from Edinburgh, Scotland, by private wires. Two young men had charge of this telegraph office. One day one of these young men went about London to collect local news. On his return to the building that evening, he found the door on the ground floor locked so he could not get in. He could not make the man on the top floor hear him. What was he to do? Going to the nearest telegraph office he telegraphed to Edinburgh. The telegraph read: "Wake the man up in the fifth story. Tell him I want to get in." The Edinburgh office woke the man up, and the door was opened. The man was reached by the way of Edinburgh, which was the quickest and most effective way to get the man in the fifth story.

The men from whom we are separated by terrestrial barriers can be reached by the celestial wire, by the way of the throne of grace. If the church of God, by the throne of God, can reach the souls of men by the prayer force it is high time they were bringing it into requisition.

Bishop Janes

Bishop Simpson told the world about the devotional nature of Bishop Janes. He said that Bishop Janes had more faith in the power and efficacy of prayer than any other person he had previously known. Bishop Simpson said: "I was intimately

associated with him for a number of years and was very familiar with the devotional habits of his life. He had a daily custom of not only praying for himself, every member of his family, the church and the whole world, but he would pray especially for all the presiding elders he had appointed during the year, that God would bless them, and make them wise in successfully administering the affairs of their districts, that the greatest good might come to the church. He would also pray for all the preachers he had given appointments during the year, that God would make them instrumental in blessing the people to whom they were sent and of saving those who were lost in sin."

It was a truth well known to those who gave it an investigation, that all the annual conferences over which Bishop Janes presided were invariably blessed with the soul-saving influences of a mighty revival before the termination of the conference year. Thank God for those mighty men of prayer who have done so much for the edification of the church and the salvation of the world by their mighty intercessions for men.

Cyclone

Scientists tell us that several hours before the St. Louis cyclone which occurred several years ago, there existed in the vicinity of St. Louis conditions in the atmosphere conducive to the production of a cyclone. If material conditions in a material atmosphere will produce a material cyclone, causing

it to sweep upon a district of country with all of its indescribable destruction, prayer is the force that will cause conditions to exist in the moral atmosphere conducive to the production of a spiritual cyclone, causing it to sweep over a district of country with all of its indescribable powers of salvation. God has commanded us to bring into requisition the prayer force until the conditions are produced, the cyclone comes and sweeps by a great spiritual revival a multitude into the glorious kingdom of God.

Stanley

Henry M. Stanley, the African explorer, with some members of his party were lost from their companions in the solitudes of the forests of Africa. He tells us that it was midnight and he was lost in the thickest of the woods. "I was suffering from physical fatigue, mental anxiety and spiritual depression. I wanted to see my companions from whom I was separated. Oh, I was so lonesome, so depressed. I realized that I was helpless without the help of God. I knelt, prayed and promised God I would never fail to confess His goodness to me if He would only permit me to again find my companions from whom I had been so long separated. Only nine hours passed by and that prayer was answered. Just nine hours after I offered that prayer our hearts exulted with rapturous joy as we came to where we could see the flag waving on the breezes of Africa and the long-lost rear column standing in plain view. That God hears and answers

prayer has been proven to me a hundred times during my explorations in Africa. For me to doubt would be impossible."

Knocking

Some people merely play at prayer and consequently never receive an answer. They are very much like the children playing in the streets, who mischievously run on the door-step of their neighbour's house and knock at the door, then run away and hide before the inmates have had time to open the door to invite them in. So some knock at the door of prayer and then run away in unbelief and hide in doubt before the door is opened and the answer received. Remember that Jesus has said: "Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you, for every one that asketh receiveth, he that seeketh findeth and unto him that knocketh it shall be opened." Knock in faith, wait in hope, stand in patience and the answer will come, for God has promised it and God is true.

Lincoln

During the time when Abraham Lincoln was president of the United States, a man living in a distant state, having important business with him, went to Washington to have a personal interview with him. He was met by a servant in the anteroom of the White House and told that the president was so busy he could not be seen.

"But I must see him," said the man.

"You cannot," replied the servant.

"The business is very important and I must see him," was the reply.

The servant went away and another came in and told the man that it would be impossible for him to see the president.

"But the business is important. Tell him to come out here. I want to see him," the man insisted.

Then this servant went away and another one came telling him that if his business was so important to tell it to him and he would bear it to the president and bring back the answer.

"No, sir," was the reply. "I will bear my own message to the president and hear from his own lips the answer, and I will stay in this anteroom or on the door-step of the White House until I see him."

He got to see him. The president came out and saluted his old time friend with a hearty handshake, heard his message and gave his answer, and the man went away rejoicing. But it is not so hard for us to secure an interview with the President of the Universe. For He has said: "Him that cometh unto Me I will in nowise cast out." And if ten thousand oppositions attempt to prevent the interview, it will be of no avail for He will give an audience, hear your message, grant your request and send you rejoicing along the pathway of human life to a grand and noble destiny. Oh, let us therefore "Come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Cablegram

A few years ago a terrible blizzard swept over the eastern states and so completely knocked down the telegraph wires that connect Philadelphia and Boston, as to entirely prevent between these two cities the least degree of telegraphic communication. Persons living in Philadelphia wishing to communicate by means of the telegraph with the people of Boston would send a cablegram across the Atlantic to London and from London back again to Boston as the cables were in first class working order. Thus they kept up an unbroken communication until the completion of the repairing and there was a reëstablishment of the telegraphic communication between these two continental cities.

The wild blizzards of trouble, sin and separation sometimes destroy all terrestrial communication between us and our dearest friends. To us they are lost and we cannot tell where on the surface of this wide, unfriendly world they exist. So the only thing left for us to do is to send the prayer of faith over the great though invisible cable of communication that connects us to the throne of God, and God will deliver the message with wonderful accuracy by the powers of His Omnipresent Spirit to the object of our petitions, resulting not only in our terrestrial connection but in the immediate and eternal salvation of our lost and absent friends.

Prayer Room

A preacher was visiting a Christian family who had recently built a new home. The man was

showing him through the house and explaining to him the architecture. He said that those two small rooms up-stairs, one on the southwest and the other on the southeast corner of the house, well-lighted, well-heated, furnished with a table, chair, Bible, hymn-book and other devotional publications, were their two prayer rooms. "One is mine and the other one is my wife's. Like old Daniel we occupy them at least three hours a day and turn our faces towards the heavenly Jerusalem. Sometimes when we have great interests at stake we spend a large part of the day and night in our prayer rooms." Our Saviour said: "When thou prayest, enter into thy room, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." A prayer room is a great religious convenience. But any room can be a prayer room, the kitchen, the parlour, the sitting-room, the hall, wherever we are we can commune with God and He will hear our prayers and grant our petitions and make our lives bright with His love.

Weapons

When the Romans were fighting a hard battle and were pressed for instruments of war, they rushed to their temples and seizing the weapons of the gods, they charged forth and won the victory. In the great battle of human life, contending with the hosts of sin, we need to go to the temple of our God and seizing the spiritual weapons

of faith, hope, love and prayer, go forth and win the victory.

Invisible Communication

The son of an English minister spent a year in South America. When his birthday arrived he remembered that his Christian mother always spent each of his birthdays in prayer for his conversion. He was irreligious and as his custom had been to spend each birthday in worldly pleasure, he decided to spend this one after his mother's example in Bible reading and prayer. Before noon he was converted. He wrote his mother a letter telling her that his physical birthday had also become his spiritual birthday, and he was now a child of God. His mother praying the same day, thousands of miles away, received the evidence while praying of her son's conversion. She wrote him a letter, and told him that while she was praying for him on his birthday she was assured of his conversion and had written a letter of congratulation. The letters passed each other on the high seas, one from the son telling of the fact of his conversion, the other from the mother congratulating and rejoicing with him over the evidence of his salvation.

If a system of wireless telegraphy in the material universe can send the news across the ocean why cannot an analogous system of wireless telegraphy in the spiritual universe send a message around the world? Oh, the wonderful and incomprehensible laws of prayer.

Nature's Prayer

All nature seems to kneel and pray to the God of the universe. The sun kneels at the golden altar, the moon at the silver altar, the stars at the bronze altar and the clouds at the blue altar of the heavens and offer their prayer to God. The rivers kneel to the valleys, the valleys to the hills, the hills to the mountains, and the mountains to the clouds, and all nature seems to pray to God and its prayers are answered and the whole world is filled with plenty and joy as it draws with the prayer force its abundance from the storehouse of God.

The Elevator

A city pastor received a letter from a merchant proprietor of a large department store, inviting him to call on him, at his place of business. In response to the invitation the pastor soon entered the mercantile establishment. The porter met him at the door and directed him to the office. In obedience to the directions he went to the elevator and rang the electric bell. Down came the elevator into which he stepped, the pulleys went to work and he began to go up. In a moment he was at the office floor where he stepped from the elevator into the presence of the merchant where a pleasant time was spent conversing with the genial, warm-hearted proprietor.

Touch the electric bell of prayer and the mighty elevator of God's omnipotent power will come down. Then step in with the feet of faith, while the great pulleys of God's love will draw you into the very

presence of the Proprietor of the universe, where you can pleasantly and profitably commune with the Infinite One, who said : "Ask and ye shall receive."

The Highest Authority

"Therefore I say unto you whatsoever things ye desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them."

This Scriptural declaration proceeding from the lips of Jesus addressed to His disciples emanates from the highest authority in the universe. It is either true or it is false. But, coming to us from the lips of God Himself, God who cannot lie, it is therefore stamped indelibly with the divine seal of eternal truth. This Scripture is also susceptible of practical demonstration by the persons to whom it is addressed.

Archimedes

Archimedes, the famous mathematician of antiquity, who lived in the year 287 B. C., in the city of Syracuse, once made the assertion that if he had a lever sufficiently long and a fulcrum on which to rest it, he could take hold of it with his own feeble hands and with the weight of his own light body lift the earth off its foundations. This lever is prayer, the cross of Christ is the fulcrum on which to rest it. For Jesus says: "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." And taking hold of this lever of prayer with the hands of faith, the weight of one immortal soul pulling down with all

its earnestness, fervency and power can lift the mighty earth off its sinful foundations. The power of prayer has not been as fully tested by the inhabitants of this earth as God designed that it should. Prayer has the power to change the whole being of the petitioner, and wonderfully affect the heart and life of the object of the petitions and lift human affections from the low, sordid, sinful things of this world and attach them to God, heaven and the things that are immutable and right. For Jesus said: "If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you." And also: "All things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer believing, ye shall receive."

President Edwards

The whole world is familiar with what transpired in President Edwards' congregation in Enfield, Mass. When he preached his wonderful sermon, "Sinners in the hands of an angry God," many of his auditors clung with their hands to the pillars of the church to prevent themselves from falling into the blackened pits of an awful hell, that their imaginations pictured was opening wide its gaping jaws for their immediate reception. The secret of this manifestation of a strange power in this congregation at this time, that resulted in the regeneration of so many hearts and the reformation of so many lives and the transformation of so many homes from sin to righteousness was this. There were a great many revivals in progress in the vicinity of Enfield and a number of its Christian people,

alarmed lest God in His holy anger because of the wickedness of the majority of its inhabitants would pass them by, assembled in an appointed place and prayed all night long for God to visit them with a great revival of religion. The whole world knows what was the result—the manifestation of the Holy Spirit's power in President Edwards' congregation the next day while he preached his famous sermon, "Sinners in the hands of an angry God." I am sure that the Christians at the present time, members of the modern churches, are not exercising themselves as they should in earnest, agonizing, importunate prayer, for the manifestation of the Holy Spirit, in public religious assemblies. We stand trembling before a Philistine world, Samsons, shorn of our locks of strength, we tremble before the world when the world should tremble before us. For "Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees."

"Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
The Christian's native air;
His watchword at the gates of death,
He enters heaven with prayer."

Sir Walter Raleigh

"Ask and it shall be given you," is the language of Jesus. The command is to ask, and to this command is linked a conditional promise—it shall be given unto you. That if we ask aright and for that which is according to the will of God, the result will inevitably be the reception of the object desired, it shall be given unto you.

Once Sir Walter Raleigh asked a financial favour of Queen Elizabeth, a favour she frequently granted him. The Queen answered him very sharply and said: "Sir Walter Raleigh, when are you going to quit begging?"

"Whenever the Queen quits giving," was his prompt reply.

If some one should inquire of me when I am going to quit praying, I should certainly answer: "Whenever the Lord quits giving." And that will never be this side of mortal death. For He has commanded us to ask, giving us His immutable promise that we shall receive. So we shall continue asking, and God will continue giving, until we have finished our last piece of work for Him on earth and said our last prayer. Then

> "This robe of flesh we'll drop and rise
> To seize the everlasting prize,
> And shout while passing through the air,
> Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer."

Clock Weights

An old preacher once said: "In the home of my childhood I distinctly remember the old Seth Thomas clock that sat on the mantle above the great fireplace. Attached to it were two great weights which constituted the motive power that kept it going. When the weights ran down the clock would stop, so they must be wound up once in twenty-four hours to keep it going. Once a day mother would take the key and wind them up, so the clock never stopped, but the hands went around

continually, telling us every hour in the day and every hour in the night, the correct time exactly."

Oh, how incessantly the cares, the toils, the trials, the business and the anxieties of this old world with its continual taxations on brain, and heart and brawn weigh down the human soul. Then how necessary it is for us to pray. To go to our rooms alone with God in the secrecy of retirement and with the key of prayer wind up our weary souls to Him in earnest supplication. Pray until our hands work right, our feet walk right, our eyes look right, our tongues talk right and our whole lives get in harmony with God, and keep time to the music of heaven. Pray when we are busy, pray when we are at leisure, pray when we are sad, pray when we are happy, pray when we are fresh and rested and pray when we are tired and weary. For

"Oh, how praying rests the weary,
Prayer will change the night to day;
So when life seems dark and dreary,
Don't forget to pray."

The Preacher and Prayer

Some people say that they have no time to pray. The preacher says that he has no time to pray for he has to prepare for the pulpit. He must make sermons and give them thought or he will not be able to entertain, instruct and benefit his audiences. He thinks he will soon be minus a congregation unless he makes the necessary prepara-

tion for the pulpit. Remember that the best preparation that a preacher can possibly make for the pulpit is earnest, wrestling, importunate prayer. The best of sermons begin their existence amid the agonizing energies of wrestling prayer.

Breaking Rock on His Knees

A preacher was walking along the streets one day. He had not been as successful as he desired in breaking the hard hearts of his sinful auditors for sin and from sin. He passed by a man who was on his knees near a heap of stone in the middle of the street. He was wielding his steel hammer and breaking the rocks with a dexterity that astonished the preacher. Stopping and looking at him for a while the preacher said: "I wish I could break the stony hearts of my auditors as easily as you break these stones with your hammer."

"Maybe if you would do your work on your knees like I do you could," replied the stone breaker, as he continued hammering away at the rocks.

If there is anything in the world that can break the stony hearts of unbelievers with sledge-hammer sermons it is a preacher on his knees. A praying preacher makes a pulpit power.

The Locomotive Engine

Look at the engineer who controls the engine that draws the long train of cars over miles and

hundreds of miles of railway track. He stops his engine at the water tank and gets a supply of water. He stops his engine at the coaling station and gets a supply of coal until he has a sufficiency of water and coal to generate steam enough to draw his train to the next station. If he had not taken on water and coal he would have run out of steam and been compelled to stop his engine between stations.

Stop at the station of prayer and then take on grace, strength, love, wisdom, power, enough to run you through the day. Prayer will help the preacher to properly prepare his sermons, the business man to religiously compete with his competitor, and the labouring man to easily provide for his family. Prayer will give us power over men and bring us into favour with Almighty God.

Martin Luther Busy

Away forever with the dangerous doctrine that people can get too busy to pray. The busier we get the more we should pray. Martin Luther once said: "I have now become so very busy that I find it actually necessary to spend three hours every day in earnest prayer to God for His help." The responsibilities of business cause the necessity of prayer. The inseparable entwining of prayer and work is productive of a life so adorned with beauties that even the angels desire its association. Oh, for more earnest, praying, busy lives to adorn the churches of God.

Roundhouse

It is very necessary for us to pray. We work for God, we labour, we toil for Him until at times it seems that we are almost worn out in His service, but even if we are tired we can go to our rooms and lift our hearts to Him in prayer until He gives us more grace, more faith and more power to go forth into the world and work for Him again. Jesus said: "When thou prayest go into thy closet and shut the door and pray to thy Father which is in secret and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward you openly." So that private prayer brings a public reward is the precious teaching of Jesus.

That long engine that draws the train of cars with the speed of the wind over the strong railroad track, the cars, the passengers, the freight, day after day, week after week, month after month, and year after year gets worn after a while and they run it into the roundhouse for repairs. The machinist fixes it up, repairs it and soon has it in splendid condition again. Then they put it on the railroad track again and it draws just as big loads, just as much freight, just as many passengers and just as long trains as it did before the time of its repairing. We sometimes almost wear ourselves out in drawing great loads for God on the railroad of human life, but "Let us not grow weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." If we do get weary and sometimes we do, we have only to run ourselves into the great roundhouse of prayer for spiritual repairs and God will fix us up and repair us and soon will have us in splendid

condition again, and prepare us and so renew our spiritual strength that we can go forth on the railroad of human life again and pull as big loads and do as hard work, and draw as many passengers towards heaven and God as we ever did before. Jesus has given an urgent invitation to the tired masses of humanity to come to Him for rest. He has said: "Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest unto your souls, for My yoke is easy and My burden is light." The Bible also tells us that: "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." Praise God for the strengthening powers of prayer.

A Draft

If some one should give you a draft on a reliable bank on Wall Street, New York, for $100,000 and say to you: "Now, whenever you need money you draw on this bank and when this draft is exhausted I will give you another, and another and another and so on as long as you live and I have so arranged things that you will never want for money as long as you live," would you not be glad indeed in consideration of this happy arrangement that would prevent you from ever needing money or coming to financial want, in the realization that poverty, bankruptcy or destitution would never be your portion?

Well, God has given every one of us a draft on the First National Bank of Heaven and invited us to draw power, grace, wisdom, strength and help in every hour of need. Jesus has said: "If ye ask anything in My name, I will do it. All things whatsoever ye ask in prayer believing ye shall receive." And that God is not slack concerning His promises as some men count slackness. And all the promises of God in Christ Jesus are yea, and in Him, Amen.

The Sprinkler of Prayer

A prominent business man who was a leading proprietor of a large business establishment in a busy commercial city, one evening after business hours, picked up a broom and began to sweep the dust from the floor of his big store. He had had a large trade that day and a large quantity of dirt had accumulated on the store floor. A few strokes with the broom made the dust rise so rapidly that it seemed to threaten suffocation.

"Oh," said the man, "this is enough to choke me."

Picking up a water sprinkler that sat near by he soon very thoroughly sprinkled the floor. Then taking his broom he swept away the dirt without experiencing the least degree of inconvenience from the rising, choking and suffocating dust.

So whenever the dust of secular business rises with such rapidity and density as to threaten spiritual suffocation, threaten to choke down every motive, impulse and desire that is pure and good,

then bring into requisition the sprinkler of prayer and bringing down the waters of eternal life upon the rising dust of business it will soon be made to settle beneath the moistening influence of the saving grace of God, so that you can continue the transaction of honest, industrious, legitimate business according to the laws of the Saviour of men. Oh, in this busy world of activity, energy and restlessness how necessary it is for us to live in constant obedience to the apostolic injunction, "Pray without ceasing." Secret prayer, silent prayer, family prayer, importunate prayer, ejaculatory prayer, unceasing prayer and secular business according to the holy laws of God go hand in hand together.

Forgetting God

It is said that General Havelock invariably incorporated in his morning prayer the following petition: "Oh, God, if I become so busy to-day that I forget Thee, wilt Thou not forget me." We should never become so busy that we forget God, but if we do remember that He will never forget us, for "He forgetteth not the cry of the humble." "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and His ears are open unto their cry." He has also said: "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

Dr. Arnold's Daily Prayer

The late Dr. Arnold's daily prayer was certainly a model one for a busy day.

"Oh, Lord, I have a busy day around me. Eye,

ear and thought will be needed for all my work to be done in this busy world. Now before I enter on it I would commit eye, ear and thought to Thee. Do Thou bless them, and keep their work Thine. That as through Thy natural laws my heart beats and my blood flows, without any thought of mine, so may my spiritual life hold on its course at these times when my mind cannot consciously turn to Thee to commit each particular thought to Thy service. Hear my prayer for my Redeemer's sake. Amen."

Oh, that we all might pray and commit ourselves to God with a similar faith.

Fisherman's Prayer

Morning after morning the fishermen of Brittany as they launched their little boats invariably made this beautiful prayer:

"Oh, God, my boat is so small and the ocean is so wide, take care of me to-day." Morning after morning as we launch out our little life-boats on the wide sea of secular business we should make this beautiful prayer:

"Oh, God, the sea is so wide and dangerous and I am so weak and feeble . . . take care of me to-day."

And He will take care of us, for He said He would. He told us in His Book of Truth to cast all of our care upon Him, for He careth for us. And as two sparrows are sold for a farthing and one of them cannot fall on the ground without His recognition, so He will take infinitely more care

of us, for every hair of our heads is numbered by God Himself and He says: "I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not, for I will help thee." Oh, are we not happy in the glorious realization that we have as our never failing protector Almightiness Himself?

Susanna Wesley

Susanna Wesley with the multipled cares of her large household of nineteen children and a husband that constantly needed her help and attention, spent hours every day in secret prayer to God for His help and guidance. Then why is it that we, who are not half so busy, cannot spend one hour each day in secret devotion? If the 6,000,000 Methodists in the United States should, in imitation of their denominational mother, exercise themselves as she did in secret prayer, the Bible prophecy would soon be fulfilled which declares that the time will come when "Righteousness will cover the earth as waters cover the sea."

John Wesley

John Wesley always prayed the most when he was the busiest: that he was always busy is proven by the fact that he arose every morning not later than five o'clock, preached on an average of three times a day, travelled on an average of 6,000 miles every year, while his published works amounted to more than 200 volumes. And he took time among his busy moments to give to the world the first Greek and the first Latin grammars that were ever

given to an English-speaking people. Amid many of his literary and religious duties he lived in the atmosphere of prayer and carefully followed the rule of his life to pray the most when he was the busiest. The Holy Spirit also exhorts us to be "Praying always in all prayer and supplication in the Spirit." God help us to heed and continually obey the exhortations of the Holy Spirit.

The Infidel and the Chapel

In the suburbs of an English town there stands a little white chapel that has quite an interesting history. It was built by a converted infidel. During the days of his infidelity his Christian wife did all that she could to induce him to accept and believe the doctrines of Christianity, but all of her efforts appeared to be in vain. She prayed, she worked, she persuaded, but still he remained firm in his infidelity. At last she decided that every day, just at the noon hour, she would go into the little down-stairs bedroom and spend fifteen minutes in prayer for his salvation. This resolution she put into execution, so every day she put fifteen minutes in earnest, pleading, wrestling prayer at the appointed time, in the appointed place, for God to save her husband. She was faithful in the performance of this one duty day after day, week after week, month after month, until one whole year had passed. Still her husband seemed to be more opposed to Christianity than ever before. This was a great trial to her faith, but she believed in God and believed that He heard and answered

prayer, so she continued her supplications in the behalf of her husband, at the appointed time, in the appointed place, for six months more. Her prayers were unanswered, her husband was still an infidel. What was she to do?

"Oh, God," she cried, "I have reached the limit of my strength. I can do no more. I leave it all with Thee. Save my husband. I believe You can."

She had prepared her noonday meal. It was ready and she was in the dining-room waiting for her husband. She was sure she had seen him return home from his place of business. She knew that she saw him come through the gate into the yard, and that she saw him come through the door into the house. Why did he not come out into the dining-room? Dinner was waiting. It would get cold if he did not come soon. She became impatient and went to look for him. She could not find him in the yard, she could not find him in the house. She had not looked into the little bedroom yet, so she opened the door and looked in. There she found him, kneeling on the very spot where she had knelt once a day and prayed so earnestly for him for one long year and a half. There he was kneeling and confessing his sins and praying for their forgiveness. At first she was startled by the sight. She could hardly believe her eyes. In a moment she recovered her senses and running to him she knelt by him and said: "Oh, husband, for one year and a half I have knelt right here and prayed for your salvation."

"And for one year and a half," he repeated, "every time I passed this room I have felt impressed to come in and pray. To-day it seemed to me that I could not resist the impression but yielded to it, and here I am praying for salvation. Pray for me."

She did and he was converted. The dinner did not spoil, but was the happiest dinner they had ever eaten together. He became a very enthusiastic Christian worker and as a monument to his wife's answered prayer built the White suburban chapel in the town where he was converted. There it stands with its steeple pointing like an index finger to the God who said: "Ask of Me things to come concerning My sons and concerning the works of My hands command ye Me." Oh, for more praying wives to pray their infidel husbands into the kingdom of God.

America

America was discovered in answer to prayer. Christopher Columbus not only prayed the kings and queens of Europe, but the great King of Heaven to help him in financing his expedition of discovery. His prayers were answered when Queen Isabella of Spain expressed her willingness to pawn her jewels in order to furnish equipment for his western voyage. So his prayers were answered and America was discovered. The very last thing he and his 120 men did before they sailed from the European shores was to take the sacrament of the Lord's Supper and invoke the God of the Bible for

providential guidance and ultimate success. The very first thing they did when they caught a glimpse of the new world, after the firing of the guns had announced to the other vessels the new discovery, was to come on deck and sing "Gloria in Excelsis," the song that angel choirs sang over the Judean hills to the shepherds centuries before in annunciation of the birth of our Lord. It was two o'clock Friday afternoon, October 12, 1492, when Christopher Columbus went ashore from the *Santa Maria* and his brother Alonzo from the *Pinta*, and his brother Vincent from the *Nina*, and they took possession of America in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. Falling on his face in prayer he dedicated the land to God. Satan has no more right to this country than a thief has to your pocketbook.

First Settlers and Prayer

The first thing that the Huguenots did when they landed in the Carolinas was to worship God in song and praise for answering their prayers and giving them a home in a land of freedom.

The first thing that the Holland refugees did when they landed in New York was to acknowledge in worship the providential protection of God, who by answering their prayers, had brought them safely to the New Land.

The first thing that the Pilgrim fathers did when they landed in New England was, with bended knee and uplifted face, to take possession of this continent for God.

The first thing that William Penn did when he landed in Philadelphia was to take possession of that part of the New World in the name of the Prince of Peace and worship in true Quaker style, a God that heard and answered his prayers.

The Prayer of 1746

In 1746 the French government fitted out a powerful fleet of forty war vessels; the object was the conquest of New England. The fleet was placed under the command of a French duke, who was a brave and efficient officer in the navy. It was well-manned, thoroughly equipped. At the appointed time it sailed from Nova Scotia for the consummation of its terrible mission. Our New England forefathers were apprised of their danger. They believed that their safety was in the hands of God. They appointed a season of fasting and prayer. This was to be observed by all the churches of New England. During this time while Rev. Mr. Prince was conducting a meeting in Old South Church in Boston, he and his congregation prayed to God to fight their battles for them, and save them from the French. Their prayers were answered, for immediately a wind arose and began to blow a frightful gale. It swept over Boston and over the sea. They prayed to God to use this wind if it was His will to defeat the will of their enemies, to save the country from the conquest of Popery, that Catholic France might not conquer Protestant America. The wind increased to a hurricane and He who "holds the winds in His fists" began to

smite the French fleet, and wrecked it upon the shores of Nova Scotia. Hundreds went down to a watery grave. The French duke and the officer next in command, disappointed and chagrined at their defeat by the elements, committed suicide. The small number who still remained alive returned to France and abandoned the enterprise forever. Thus God saved our country in 1746 in answer to the prayers of our praying forefathers.

Spanish Armada

The 150 ships and 2,650 guns, the 8,000 sailors and the 20,000 soldiers that constituted the Spanish Armada sent out by Philip II of Spain against England in the day of Queen Elizabeth in 1588, was destroyed in answer to prayer. It was sent out for the subjugation of England. In the meanwhile the people of England prayed to God for help. A storm arose such as never before had swept the North Atlantic, or stirred the old blue ocean's wave. It dashed down upon the Spanish Armada and mashed it to splinters on the coast of England, Ireland, Scotland and Norway, and answered the prayers of England's praying people.

"God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform.
He plants His footsteps on the sea,
And rides upon the storm."

George Washington

George Washington was a man of prayer. He prayed when he arose in the morning, when he laid

down at night and amid the rush, whirl and business of his active military and political life. During his military career in the Revolutionary War, at Valley Forge, his patriotic and suffering soldiers were at the depths of their destitution and the prospects of the Americans achieving their independence were to them the most unfavourable. At this time Washington was seen to withdraw from his suffering army for a considerable time, to a secluded spot, and kneeling on the ground he offered up an earnest prayer to God for help in that great hour of need and especially for his country's emancipation from British rule, and for it to be made a great, free and independent nation. That prayer was answered and on the fourth day of the next July we will celebrate the one hundred and thirty-fourth anniversary of our American independence. Yes, God hears and answers prayer, for He said: "Call upon Me in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee and thou shalt glorify Me."

The Constitution of the United States

When the founders of our republic met in that historic federal convention which convened in 1787 for the purpose of framing the Constitution of the United States, George Washington was in the chair. Benjamin Franklin made a motion that was carried. It was that the convention should not only be opened every day with devotional exercises but it should pray daily for providential direction in framing so important a document as the Constitution of the United States. The result was the production

of a constitution that has elicited the astonishment and admiration of the scholarship and statesmanship of the world. No wonder! It was given us in answer to prayer.

Embroidery

The immense contributions that prayer has made to our national welfare and our American civilization the historian will never be able to correctly record. Our country has had the beautiful and strong embroidery of prayer woven and interwoven through the warp and woof of its entire national life from its discovery in 1492 down to the active, throbbing, commercial civilization of the year 1910.

Queen Victoria

When Queen Victoria's father was dying he had his attendants to prop him up in bed and while he was there rapidly sinking into death, he sent for his little babe, Victoria, and taking her in his old arms he prayed: "Oh, God, if this child lives to become queen of England, grant that she may rule this kingdom in the fear of God." When he had finished his prayer the child was taken away. Soon afterwards he died. But his prayer was answered, as every one familiar with the last fifty years of English history can testify. More missionary enterprises were inaugurated and set on firm foundations during the reign of Queen Victoria than during all previous history of the race. English civilization passed through a greater process of purification and exercised a more powerful influence

over the other nations of the earth in the elevation of their civilization during this time than ever before in the history of the kingdom. So the prayer of the dying man dashed through half a century, transforming with its magic powers the nations of the earth.

Mordecai and Esther

"Call upon Me in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee and thou shalt glorify Me." Ahasuerus was king of Persia, 518 B. C. It is the supposition that he is the Xerxes of whom we are told in secular history. Queen Esther, his wife, was a very beautiful woman and a Jewess by nationality. Her cousin Mordecai, who was also her foster-father, was in the employment of the king at this time. He overheard two men plotting to kill the king and sent to Ahasuerus the information concerning the conspiracy. The conspirators were captured and executed and the king's life was saved. Ahasuerus forgot to reward Mordecai for this great act of kindness, although a minute account of the conspiracy, the execution of the conspirators and the fidelity of Mordecai to the king in saving his life, was faithfully recorded in the book of chronicles or the history of the Persian kingdom, and still Mordecai was not rewarded. Oh, how often in this wicked old world of selfishness and sin are the just rewards of true merit too frequently forgotten.

Haman was a wicked, proud, ambitious man, who at this time occupied a high official position in the Persian kingdom, next to the king. He required

the king's employees to bow down to him as he passed by and to do him a peculiar reverence. This Mordecai refused to do because he knew it was wrong. Haman became so angry on account of this that he not only desired to kill Mordecai but to kill every Jew in Persia. In order to accomplish this he must get the king's permission and induce him to sign a decree to this effect. This he managed to do by making the king believe that the Jews were enemies to him and to his kingdom. The king and the Persian kingdom received a large revenue from their Jewish subjects, so to destroy them would be a great financial detriment to Persia. Haman, being a very rich man, a multi-millionaire, proposed to remedy any financial injury that might come to the kingdom in the destruction of the Jews, by giving it from his own treasury the large sum of $20,000,000. Ahasuerus refused to receive the $20,000,000 and without it readily signed the death-warrant of the Jews and the day was appointed for their destruction, the king not knowing or realizing when he signed it that his wife belonged to the Jewish nation.

Mordecai, Esther and the rest of the Jews who lived in Shushan, the Persian capital, observed a three days' fast during which they prayed earnestly to God for deliverance in this, their time of trouble. And God has said: "Call upon Me in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee and thou shalt glorify Me." "God is not slack concerning His promises as some men count slackness." He heard and answered their prayers and it was just as true

then as it was five centuries afterwards when Jesus clothed the truth in human language by saying: "If two of you shall agree on earth touching anything they shall ask it shall be done for them, of My Father which art in heaven." Mordecai and Esther, two persons on earth, were praying to God for the salvation of their people and God was answering their prayers.

One night during this season of fasting and prayer, the king Ahasuerus had a severe attack of insomnia. He could not sleep. To find relief during those hours of sleeplessness and restlessness, he had read to him the chronicles of his kingdom, especially, no doubt, the many occurrences that had transpired during his own eventful reign. While reading to him the history of the conspiracy, the execution of the conspirators, and the faithfulness of the brave Mordecai, who in its discovery and destruction had thereby become chiefly instrumental in saving the king's life, the king inquired if, for this noble act, Mordecai had ever been rewarded. They told him that he had received no reward whatever. The king immediately decided to reward him, and to confer upon him such honours as one would naturally expect a king of Ahasuerus' rank and standing would confer on a man who had been instrumental in saving his life. What was the cause of the king's wakefulness that night? What was it that caused him at this time to have read in his hearing the chronicles of his kingdom? What was it that caused him to become so strangely impressed while listening to the reading of the con-

spiracy and made him immediately form the decision that the man who had saved his life should so certainly be rewarded? It was none other than the spirit of the living God moving on his heart and mind in answer to the earnest prayers of Esther and Mordecai. They were in trouble and were praying to Him for deliverance, for He has said: "Call upon Me in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me." And He has also said that "The king's heart is in the hands of the Lord, as the rivers of water He turneth it whithersoever He will." They were praying and God was turning the heart of the king in the direction of right, in the way He would have it to go.

Haman's hatred for Mordecai was so bitter and his desire to kill him so intense that he planned for him to be executed even before the day arrived for the destruction of the Jews. He had constructed a gallows seventy-five feet high on which to hang Mordecai, and had hastened on to the palace to secure the king's consent to his execution. He arrived there just as the king decided to reward Mordecai for saving his life. Ahasuerus, learning that Haman desired to come into his presence, immediately gave him an audience and requested him to suggest the kind of honour the king should confer upon the one he desired to greatly favour. Haman, supposing himself to be the one to be honoured, suggested honours of the highest character. He was then told by the king that Mordecai was the favoured one upon whom these honours would

be conferred and that Haman in conferring them upon him was to be the chief participant. Nothing could have more chagrined, humiliated and injured the pride of the proud and wicked Haman than such startling and unpleasant news, coming to him, too, from the king himself and concerning the very man he was planning to hang. Queen Esther, having an opportunity a few hours afterwards, improved it by telling the king of the great calamity that was so soon to befall her and her nation—how they were to be cruelly massacred and wickedly murdered by the people of Persia and how he himself had been deceived by the wicked Haman into signing their death-warrant. This so surprised and angered the king that he ordered the immediate execution of Haman. He was hung on the very gallows that he had just constructed for the hanging of Mordecai. This is certainly a splendid exegesis of the language of Jesus when He said: "With what measure ye mete it shall be measured to you again." On the very gallows where he intended to hang the innocent Mordecai he was himself hung. The very evil that you would do another shall be done to you and the very good you would do another you shall yourself receive. "Give and it shall be given you." You reap what you sow in the unchangeable laws of the universe of God. So the Jewish people, instead of being exterminated, were exonerated—instead of suffering persecution, adversity and death, they were given joy, prosperity and life. Mordecai was elevated to a high official position in the Persian government. King Ahasuerus

presented to Queen Esther the large and wealthy estate of the wicked Haman, and over the estate Mordecai was given the position of chief superintendent. The Persian Jews became so honoured, prosperous and respected that a great many Persian Gentiles became Jews through the system of proselyting that they might be numbered with this peculiarly favoured people. Surely "All things work together for good to them that love God," and "All things whatsoever ye ask in prayer believing ye shall receive," and "Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is and that which is to come." Remember it. It will do you good. God is just as able, anxious and willing, now, as He was then, to verify His promise, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee and thou shalt glorify Me."

King Frederick William III

Secular as well as sacred history furnishes us many remarkable examples of the wonderful answers of God to the earnest prayers of men. King Frederick William III of Prussia, for the crime of treason, imprisoned Count M—— in the prison dungeons of Glatz. The guilty count's only companion was his Bible, a book he seldom read, for he was not a Christian and did not believe its truths. He had been a prisoner a long time. One night when he was unusually lonesome he remembered having heard some one say in the days gone by that the Bible was a book of comfort, so,

picking it up, he began turning over its leaves and looked at its pages by the dim light of the dungeon lamp, to see if he could find in it anywhere a solitary word of consolation. His eye fell upon the fifteenth verse of the fiftieth Psalm: "Call upon Me in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee and thou shalt glorify Me."

"Well," he said, "that certainly applies to my case, for I am in trouble, in double trouble; in spiritual trouble in that I am a sinner—in temporal trouble in that I am a prisoner."

So for the first time since the days of his childhood the proud count knelt and prayed to God for help. While he prayed the peace of God came into his heart and dwelt there, and he knew that he was a Christian. He was delivered from spiritual bondage and he was happier than he had ever been before in all his life. That same night like King Ahasuerus of old, King Frederick William III could not sleep. He was tired, weary, worn and restless. He prayed to God for one hour's rest in sleep from weariness, restlessness and pain. His prayer was granted and he awoke refreshed, rested and grateful to God. Then he said to his queen, Louise, "Who in all my kingdom has wronged me most? Tell me who he is and I will forgive him."

"It is Count M—— in the prison of Glatz," she replied.

"Send word for his immediate release," commanded the king.

His orders were obeyed and the count's prayers were answered, and he glorified God for a double

deliverance—an emancipation from the bondage of sin and the emancipation from the prisons of Glatz. "Call upon Me in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee and thou shalt glorify Me," was a promise he had tested and found to be true. Oh, do we not too frequently underrate the value of the promises of God? They were made to us and we should trust them, for they are as true as the God by whom they were made.

"Standing on the promises of Christ, my King,
Through eternal ages let His praises ring.
Glory in the highest I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God."

The New York Bank Cashier

A certain New York bank cashier who was noted for his honesty, integrity and his trueness to what was right in the transaction of business, discovered one day that his books would not balance. They showed a financial deficiency of several thousand dollars for which he could not account. He alone had charge of the books. No one else ever touched them. He had posted them with mathematical accuracy. Of this he was sure. He knew that he had made no mistakes with his figures, but still the books unmistakably showed a large financial deficit. What was the matter? He knew that he had been very honest and that he had not misappropriated one dollar of the bank's money. But there it was; the books would not balance, and to all appearances he was a defaulter. It was during

the era of embezzlements, bank swindles and defalcations. The world was suspicious and would readily and willingly brand him as a thief. What was he to do? On the morrow the bank examiner would visit his bank, examine his accounts, and proclaim him a defaulter. As his books now stood this result was inevitable. After a sleepless night, he arose early the next morning, in an agony of spirit, went into the directors' room and there on his knees for one long hour he pled his case before God. At last a delightful calm came to his troubled mind, a sweet peace came into his very heart, and his entire being rejoiced with a strange satisfaction that he had never before experienced. Arising from his knees and going to the money safe, as if guided by an invisible hand, he took out an old blotter that had not been used for some time which opened on pages of accounts that had evidently not been copied, pages of unposted accounts. This providential discovery made the accounts balance, cancelled the financial deficit, vindicated the cashier, showed the faithfulness of God and the veracity of His promise: "Call upon Me in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee and thou shalt glorify Me." There would be less trouble in this old world of sin if we trusted continually and faithfully in the promises of God.

'Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living word of God we shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God."

The Firefly and the Lost Receipts

A poor man with a large family whose house rent was to him a considerable financial expense, purchased a home, for which he was to pay $1,000 in yearly installments. During his lifetime he managed to pay $900, leaving at his death a balance of $100 for his widow to pay. After paying his funeral expenses and settling other debts against the estate, she managed by practicing great industry and rigid economy to accumulate the $100. With it she went to the creditor to make the last payment and secure a deed to her home. But she was informed that unless the receipts for the $900 previously paid could be produced she could not receive a deed and that her home would also be sold for debt. She returned home in great distress of mind for she was not sure that she could find the receipts, and what in the world would she and her children do if they should be so cruelly robbed of their home that they so much needed? The distressed woman searched the house through and through for them but they could not be found. They seemed to be entirely lost. What was she to do? Her little boy suggested that God could help them find the receipts, so he thought the best thing for them to do would be to pray. She called her children around her and kneeling with them in her home that she was, it seemed to her, to so soon unjustly lose, she prayed to God for help in this her day of trouble. Just as they arose from their prayers a brilliant firefly darted into the house through the open window, and, flying around

the room several times, settled down at last under an old chest. The children were anxious to catch the fly, and as they moved the chest to catch it, out fell the lost receipts. An angel from heaven could not have more successfully and opportunely shown them their whereabouts than this straying firefly. The following day the receipts for the $900 with the additional $100 were delivered to the plutarch creditor who reluctantly gave them a warranty deed to their home and sent them back to it with hearts of rejoicing. Every one of that fatherless family believes and will always believe that God hears and answers prayer, and that He is especially true to His promise: "Call upon Me in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee and thou shalt glorify Me."

Atmosphere of Prayer

Among the many elegant forms of insect life known to the science of entomology is a little creature with which naturalists are perfectly familiar. It has the peculiar power of instantaneously collecting about it a sufficiency of atmosphere as to make for it a substantial armour of protection. Thoroughly clothed in this transparent vesture of safety it plunges into a pool of water and dives to its very bottom. It can be easily seen swimming here and there, sometimes near the top, sometimes near the bottom of the pool, thoroughly dry, entirely safe, perfectly protected from any destructive influences of the liquid body by which it is

surrounded. The waters of the pool may be stagnant, poisonous, and death to all forms of insect life with which it comes in contact, but this little creature arrayed in its life-saving garments of atmosphere defies death and laughs at destruction amid its life-destroying environments.

Among the many elegant forms of terrestrial life known to the scientists of biology is a strange little creature with which we are all perfectly familiar, whom God has named man. He has the peculiar power of instantaneously collecting about him a sufficiency of the atmosphere of prayer to make for him a substantial armour of protection. Thoroughly clothed in this transparent vesture of safety he plunges into the whirlpools of secular business and dives to the very bottom of the dangers of the world. He can easily be seen going here and there, to and fro, in the world. Sometimes at the golden top of prosperity, sometimes at the darkened depths of adversity, thoroughly pure, entirely safe, perfectly protected, from any and all of the destructive influences of the wicked world by which he is surrounded. The world about him may be stagnant with sin, poisonous with vice, and death itself, to all forms of prayerless spiritual life, with which it comes in contact, still this little creature, man, arrayed in his life-saving garments of prayer, defies death, and laughs at destruction amid his many life-destroying environments. Prayer brings the omnipotent powers of the omnipresent God into requisition for man's protection. Praise God for the privilege of prayer!

The Christian Lawyer

An eminent Christian lawyer discovered one day that he had lost some very valuable legal papers and that he had lost them at a very critical time, as they would be necessary in the just decision of a very important case to be tried at the court-house the next morning at nine o'clock. He searched his office through and through but they could not be found. Secretary and money safe, waste-basket and old files and every place and every corner where they could be possibly concealed were thoroughly searched but no trace of the missing papers could by any means be discovered. He slept very little that night. The next morning upon entering his office he threw himself upon his knees and in earnest prayer called on the Infinite One to help him if possible in finding the lost papers, so that the innocent, the persecuted and the oppressed might receive justice in the argument of the trial and final decision of the important case so soon to be called by the judge. He arose from his knees with a strange faith, fearlessness and satisfaction filling his heart. At exactly a quarter before nine a stranger entered his office and handed him a parcel which he opened and found to contain the lost papers. Consequently the case was called, tried and decided according to the laws of justice and right, as determined by the evidence contained in the strangely lost but opportunely found legal papers, and God was glorified. This lawyer frequently declared that men too often make the sinful mistake of not praying over the minute affairs of every-day life.

"I know from experience," he emphatically declared, "that God hears and answers prayer. That His promises are true, and especially the one which says: 'Call upon Me in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee and thou shalt glorify Me.'"

The Asbestos Robe of Prayer

Asbestos is an incombustible material, a material that cannot be set on fire. Firemen, members of the city fire companies, frequently wear gloves and garments manufactured from asbestos, so that in coming in contact with firebrands, flames and blazing fagots of burning buildings they do not run the risk of danger that would naturally result from wearing clothing manufactured from combustible materials.

The asbestos robe of prayer is an incombustible robe of righteousness that cannot be set on fire with sin. Christians, earnest and faithful followers of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, continually wear the asbestos robe of prayer, so that coming in contact with the fiery trials, the flaming temptations and blazing fagots of sin in this old wicked world of Christian antagonisms, they do not run the risk of religious danger and spiritual death that would naturally result from wearing the flimsy clothing of a prayerless human life. For

> "Restraining prayer we cease to fight,
> Prayer makes the Christian's armour bright,
> And Satan trembles when he sees
> The weakest saint upon his knees."

The Temple on Fire

A magnificent Protestant church was built in a large eastern city after that peculiar style of architecture that caused the people to call it the temple. One day the fire-alarms sounded out to the different fire companies the startling news that the temple was on fire. In a very short time, the firemen, clothed in gloves and garments of asbestos, were climbing their ladders to the top of the temple and bringing into requisition the water power, extinguished the flames that in a few moments would have destroyed this beautiful temple forever.

Every human body in this world was created to be the temple of the Holy Ghost, in which He was to continually dwell with mighty power. The alarms have sounded through the length and breadth of this world the startling news that many of these temples are on fire with the consuming conflagrations of sin. Let every Christian, man, woman and child in this world, clothed in the asbestos paraphernalia of prayer, climb the ladder of supplication to the very throne of God and linger there in importunate petition until the waters of eternal life fall in extinguishing powers upon the flames of sin that will inevitably, unless we come to the rescue, destroy these temples forever.

> **" Prayer makes the darkened cloud withdraw ;**
> **Prayer climbed the ladder Jacob saw,**
> **Gives exercise to faith and love**
> **And brings every blessing from above."**

The Young Lady Missionary

Several years ago in Chicago a Christian young lady taught an interesting Sunday-school class in one of the large churches of that city. She had been instrumental in the conversion of most all of her scholars and was deeply anxious for their spiritual welfare. She became the wife of a foreign missionary and was soon to go with her husband to engage in foreign missionary work in China. She was anxious to secure a competent successor to teach her class. Her brother was not a Christian. She asked him to give his heart to Christ and then to take charge of her Sunday-school class, but he positively refused to become a Christian or to be identified in any way with the Sunday-school. This drove her to earnest prayer, and, going to her room, she knelt before God and prayed earnestly for her brother's salvation, and for a teacher for her class. Several days went by and to all appearances she was not to receive an answer to her prayers. At last the very day arrived when she and her husband were to take their departure for China. They were all very sad that morning for they did not know that they would ever see one another again. Her father conducted the family worship that morning as usual, but during the prayer he broke down and wept. Her brother got up from his place at the family altar and went up-stairs to his room. She was soon ready to go and the carriage was at the door to drive her to the railway station. She had told them all good-bye except her brother.

"Where is my brother?" she asked. "I want to tell him good-bye."

Just then the stair door opened and he entered the room. Putting his arms around his sister's neck he kissed her and said:

"Sister, five minutes ago, up-stairs in my room, I was converted. I am a Christian now and I will take charge of your Sunday-school class."

Those who are familiar with the incident say that if it was possible he became a better teacher than his noble predecessor. Surely God hears and answers the prayers of His praying children. "All things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer believing ye shall receive," is the wonderful language of the Son of God.

One Great Doctrine

"The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth." The Bible teaches us in the above language the great doctrine of God's omnipresence, that He is everywhere. And it also teaches us that He is especially near to those who pray to Him, to those who pray to Him in earnest. For it says: "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth."

Spurgeon's Experience

A few years before his death Mr. Spurgeon said:

"I am constantly witnessing the most unmistakable instances of answers to prayer. My whole life is made up of them. To me they are so

familiar as to cease to excite my surprise, but to many they would seem marvellous indeed. Why, I could no more doubt the efficacy of prayer than I could doubt the law of gravitation. The one is as much of a fact to me as the other, constantly verified every day I live."

Muller's Testimonial

A few years before George Muller went to heaven, he gave us this very truthful and comforting testimonial concerning prayer. He said: "I have had so many prayers answered, so very, very, very many, that I not only could reckon them by the hundreds and the thousands, but by the tens of thousands. And if I should say that during the fifty-four years and nine months that I have been a Christian that I have had 30,000 prayers answered in the same hour or day that the requests were made, I would state nothing more or less than an honest truth in the sight of God. Very often before leaving my room in the morning I have had prayers answered that were offered that same morning, besides receiving five or six more answers to additional prayers offered during the same day. So I am sure that I can safely say that during the several years of my Christian life I have had at least 30,000 prayers answered in the identical day they were offered."

Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln once said: "There have been many times in my life when I have been driven to

my knees in prayer to God, with the overwhelming conviction that there was nowhere else in all the wide world for me to go for help. My own wisdom and the wisdom of all about me seemed absolutely insufficient to assist me, even in the smallest degree, in the correct solution of the different problems of those dark and dismal days of trial. But I remembered that the good Lord has said in the Bible that: 'If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God who giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not and it shall be given him.' And I knelt down and asked of God and my prayers were answered, for some invisible power outside of me helped me in solving the problems of the day.

"Oh, yes," he said, "I know that God answers prayer, for He has answered mine a great many different times during the eventful years of my life."

John Quincy Adams

It is said of good old John Quincy Adams, the sixth president of the United States, that he would never go to sleep at night until he had repeated that very simple prayer, learned in the days of his early childhood, the old familiar

> "Now I lay me down to sleep,
> I pray Thee, Lord, my soul to keep.
> If I should die before I wake,
> I pray Thee, Lord, my soul to take."

Some way or another he attributed his political

promotions to his religious devotions. He actually believed that he would never have been president if he had not been a firm believer in the power of prayer. The apostle has said: "He that spared not His own Son, but delivereth Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things." I do believe that if God loved us enough once to give His only begotten Son for our salvation, He certainly loves us enough yet to give us that salvation to-day with all its accompanying blessings.

Stonewall Jackson

Some one inquired of one of Stonewall Jackson's soldiers the secret of the general's power over his men.

"How does he manage to induce them to make such long marches, and to do such fighting and keep them so completely under his control? Does he abuse them, punish them, swear at them, or what does he do?"

"No, sir," replied the soldier, "Stonewall Jackson does not swear, he does not abuse. He is the kindest commander to his soldiers you ever saw."

"Well, what does he do then?" asked the inquirer.

"He just prays, that's all. We always know when we are to have a long march or a hard battle, because Stonewall always does such long hard praying."

Then is it not true that the reason he had such an influence with men was because he had such an

influence with God? And if we would have an influence over men to do them good, we must have an influence over God in earnest prayer. If, like the Confederate general, we do a great deal of long, hard praying, the long marches over the roads of time will seem shorter, and the hard battles of human life will seem easier, for God will help us march and God will fight our battles. For has He not invited us to "come boldly to a throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need"? And He also said that: "He is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth."

Keep on Praying

The *Wesleyan Methodist*, an English paper, tells us of James Smith, a dissipated man, who worked in a navy-yard in England. He had a good wife and little boy who lived with him and loved him regardless of his dissipations. They had clung to him in his continual drunkenness and done the best they could, amid the awful surroundings of a drunkard's home. But the wife and mother, being a frail, delicate woman, soon broke down with sickness and grief. She was sick but a short time when death came and took her away. The little boy was left alone without the much-needed care of his precious mother, to endure the neglect and cruel treatment of a drunkard father. After the death of his wife, sorrow kept him sober for several weeks, but he soon took to drink again and seemed to get worse than he had ever been before. More blas-

phemous, more cruel to his little boy, more beastly in his dissipations, until he appeared to be changed by the infernal powers of strong drink from a human father to a heartless demon. One night he awoke from his drunken slumbers, a very unusual thing for him to do at such an hour. He heard a strange noise and lay perfectly still and listened. It was the voice of his motherless boy praying by his bedside. He was saying: "Oh, God, please save my papa and make him a good man. Don't let him get drunk any more, for Jesus' sake." He did not let his little boy know that he had heard his prayer. He could not sleep any more that night but arose early in the morning and went to his work. He worked hard all day and came home early that night perfectly sober, without having touched a drop of liquor while away. He looked at his poor little motherless boy and his heart melted. He called the little fellow to him and said: "Johnnie, what put it into your head last night to pray for your worthless old father? How did you come to pray for me?"

"I prayed for you, papa," Johnnie replied, "because I love you. Besides I have been going to Sunday-school this month and my Sunday-school teacher told me that God said in the Bible 'Honour thy father and thy mother.'"

"Then keep on praying, my boy, keep on praying," said the old drunkard; "your dead mother taught you to pray, and she is in heaven to-day and you are down here with your miserable old father, and, my boy, you need to pray, and since I

heard you pray last night, I have been praying myself that God would make me a better man."

Well, the prayer was answered, and from that time on James Smith became a steady, sober, kind, Christian man, a blessing to his little boy and a useful member of the church. Have you been praying for the salvation of some one, or for something to transpire that would advance the kingdom of God in the world? If you have, keep on praying and God will answer your prayers. Then the object of your petitions will be saved and the thing you desired to have transpire will surely occur, for God hears and answers prayer. For "All things whatsoever ye ask in prayer believing ye shall receive."

A Ship on the Ice

One season several years ago a captain, with his splendid ship, sailed out from the city of Buffalo quite early in the spring, while there was yet considerable ice on Lake Erie. He had a large cargo of passengers on board and the ship moved nicely until it was a long distance from the shore. Suddenly the captain discovered to his great horror that they were completely surrounded by ice that was rapidly closing in upon them on all sides and that the only thing they could now possibly expect, if this continued, was death and destruction. He called all the passengers and as many of the sailors as could be spared from their posts into the cabin and told them that the ship would certainly be lost unless God came to their rescue. He said: "I am

not a Christian man myself, but I do believe that God will answer prayer."

So they all knelt down and prayed that God would come to their aid and save them from the death and disaster by which they were threatened. They finished their prayers and went back on deck to look at the leagues and leagues of ice that the wind had driven upon them, when the man at the wheel shouted: "It's all right, captain. The wind is blowing north by northwest now."

While they were praying in the cabin, the wind had changed in another direction and had blown the ice out of the way.

"Shall I put on more sail, captain?" asked the mate.

"No, sir, don't touch her," responded the captain. "Some one else is managing this ship. Don't touch her. He is managing her just right."

God did manage the ship and He managed her exactly right to save them all, for He anchored her safe in her destination harbour and no one's life was lost. Oh, man, woman, child, surrounded on all sides by the freezing ice of trouble, misfortune and sin, lift your hearts to God in earnest prayer for help and God will not fail you for He will come and save. He will bring you out all right. And after many days you will eventually cast anchor in the destination harbour of the land of Eternal Light. While you are praying the wild winds of fortune will suddenly change and God will manage the ship, for "The Lord is nigh to all that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth."

Prayer in Chest

Sometimes the prayers of a parent are answered for the child long after the parent's death; long after the father or mother who prayed so earnestly for their child's salvation has gone away to heaven the child is converted. A Christian father prayed earnestly for the salvation of his only son. The father was preparing to take a long journey to a distant city. He wrote the prayer, that he had so frequently made for his boy, on a piece of paper and locked it in an old oaken chest that had its place in an upper room. After locking the prayer with some other valuable papers in the old oaken chest, he gave the key to his Christian wife and started on his journey. He never returned. While absent he was taken suddenly ill and died. Several years after the death of her husband, the wife and mother also died. While on her dying bed she gave the key of the old chest to her boy. The years went by, and, arriving at the state of manhood, he soon became so occupied with the things of this world that he forgot the God and the religion of his parents. He went far into sin and became a wicked, licentious, dissolute man. He still occupied the old homestead, and one day through mere curiosity, he opened the old chest and examined its contents. He found his father's written prayer, the prayer that had been so frequently offered for him so many years ago. He read it carefully, then threw it into the chest and locked it up. But he could not lock it out of his heart, for it burned there like a coal of fire, and the more he tried to dis-

miss it from his mind the more it clung to his memory and disturbed his troubled heart. Before the sun arose the next morning and poured its light upon the old homestead, he was a converted man and his father's prayers were answered. Pray for the children. Tell God about them. Call them by name. Your prayers will be answered and by praying for them you will have done for them a greater benefit than to have left them a financial fortune of a million dollar legacy. You will have left them a spiritual legacy that will enrich their lives through the trials of time and the ages of eternity. Don't neglect to pray for the children.

The Gambler

God does hear and answer prayer, the prayer of faith, when it is offered in behalf of the reformation and the regeneration of our old sin-benighted world.

A converted gambler arose in the Fulton Street prayer-meeting in New York and said:

"I have been a very wicked man. I have led a rough, sinful, dissipated life. My Sabbaths have been spent in drinking, gambling and engaging in such demoralizing amusements as were known to me to be the worst kind of Sabbath desecration. My companions have been the vilest, lowest and most disreputable characters. Still it is a truth, as true as life, that there has not been a day during the last ten years that I have not remembered my mother's prayers, which she offered for me at my bedside when I was a little boy. And these prayers

have not only followed me and reformed me, but have made me a Christian."

Oh, the power, perpetuity and the reformatory influence of a mother's prayer. A mother by means of an earnest prayer can reach her prodigal, wandering boy, no difference in what part of this wide, unfriendly world he may be, and bring him back to home, to mother and to Christ. She does not know where her boy is but God does and reaching up with the hands of faith she can touch the eternal throne and God reaches down with the power of His spirit and touches that boy's heart and brings him back to his mother and to a better life. He may be alone, on the wide plains of the distant frontier, or mining for gold in the mines of the great West, or immersed in care and business in the heart of the rushing commercial cities of the busy East, or on board a ship in mid-Atlantic pursuing a life of sin, but no difference where he is, or the occupation engaging his life, you can reach him by means of earnest prayer and bring that boy to Christ. Hear me now, and don't forget it, that a mother's prayers are akin to Omnipotence Itself.

Jacob's Importunity

Jacob, the supplanter, having swindled his brother Esau out of his birthright, and robbed him of his blessing, so incurred the displeasure of his brother that the revengeful threats of Esau were indicative of danger and Jacob was induced to leave his native land for a country of safety. After an absence of several years, he had married, become

rich and God had given him a large family. With his flocks and his herds, his servants and his family, he was now returning to the land of his nativity. One day he was notified that his brother Esau was coming to meet him with 400 men. He felt sure that his brother was now certainly coming after the long lapse of a generation to satisfy a cruel revenge, to, no doubt, kill him and his innocent family, to capture his herds, rob him of his wealth and to repay him with the pent-up anger of many years for the cruel wrongs of long ago. Jacob was greatly afraid and disturbed. He sent his family and all that he possessed over the river Jabbok, while he himself remained alone on the other side of the river to pray. He prayed all night. He wrestled with God. And his importunity was rewarded, for just as the day was breaking and the sun was streaking with light the skies of the Orient, God gave him the assurance that his prayer was answered. So lifting up his eyes he saw Esau coming with 400 men, sweeping down upon them like a band of modern Bedouins, but when they drew near the warriors stopped, while Esau ran to meet his brother Jacob and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. So the prayer force was efficient and Jacob not only conquered himself, but Esau, his warrior brother, by a night of importunate prayer and fraternal greetings became the blessed substitute for fratricidal blood. God has delegated to you and to me the glorious privilege of utilizing the prayer force in making enmity friendship and converting destructive antagonisms into constructive

allies. For the Psalmist says: "When I cry unto Thee, then will my enemies turn back; this I know, for God is with me."

The Omnipotency of Prayer

Oh, the omnipotency of prayer. What is it that prayer will not do? All things, everything, anything, whatsoever it will. It can throw open the windows of heaven, swing shut the gates of hell, and accomplish results in the universe of God akin to Infinity Himself. It can put a holy restraint upon God, detain an angel from heaven's heights until it leaves its blessing, and defeat the adversary of God and man in his battle for human souls. Prayer can unlock the treasures of rain, soften the iron ribs of rock until they melt into flowing rivers, and stop the earth in its circling orbit from spinning around the sun. It can stop the sun in its course, hold the moon in its place, the stars in the sky, and arrest the wild, unbridled winds and make them go with lightning speed to do God's holy will. Prayer has divided seas, rolled back rivers, quenched fires, muzzled lions, disarmed vipers, antidoted poisons and marshalled the stars of heaven against earth's most wicked man. It has unlocked prison doors, brought souls from eternity, thrown open iron gates, and commanded a legion of mighty angels from heaven's towering heights. It has bridled and chained the raging passions of wicked men, routed and defeated great armies of vice and sin, and driven to confusion the atheistic thinkers, with all their learning, philosophy and art. Prayer has brought

one man from the bottom of the sea, sent another man to heaven in a chariot of fire, and assisted the only begotten Son of God in redeeming our fallen race. Oh, what is it that prayer cannot do? Then why do we not more often pray? But

"What various hindrances we meet,
In coming to the mercy seat;
Yet, who that knows the worth of prayer,
But wishes to be often there.

"Prayer makes the darkened cloud withdraw,
Prayer climbed the ladder Jacob saw;
Gives exercise to faith and love
Brings every blessing from above.

"Restraining prayer we cease to fight,
Prayer makes the Christian's armour bright;
And Satan trembles when he sees
The weakest saint upon his knees."

Prayer as Force

Prayer as a force in this great universe is not even approximately appreciated by all who engage in the performance of this necessary Christian duty. Especially to those persons who do not know God as a father and a friend, is prayer a force in the universe far beyond the powers of their conception.

The Materialist

The materialist would teach us to believe that the universe is a universe of law and that all that transpires in connection with it transpires in accordance with unvarying laws and that the very

idea that God will change the order of the universe for the purpose of answering the prayer of a mere mortal is in his estimation absolutely preposterous.

The Partial Believer

But the partial believer in the power of prayer, attempting to answer the materialists would say that the value of prayer is in its reflex influence, therefore it is well for us to pray because by so doing we bring ourselves into a more perfect harmony to God's loving plans concerning us. And the performance of the duty of prayer is a preparation of ourselves in the production of submission to the perfect and holy will of God. But there is a great deal more than this in prayer as the Scriptures so plainly teach us, and every true Christian who has thoroughly tested the power of prayer can abundantly testify.

The Magnet

It is one of God's eternal laws that a magnet held over a bit of steel will act with potency against the law of gravity, causing the bit of steel to jump upward to the magnet in obedience to the law of attraction instead of going downward in obedience to the law of gravitation. In this case there is no confliction or suspension of laws, but a harmonious coworking of the two laws, both attractive and operative in their own peculiar time and sphere. It is another eternal law of God that the prayer of faith shall be a force in the universe to cowork beneficently with all the other laws of

the universe in the production of results and the accomplishment of objects that without the exercise and enforcement of this law it is absolutely impossible to accomplish.

A Storm at Sea

A storm rages violently on the sea according to the eternal laws of God, and the angry waves of the raging sea lift themselves aloft, and in obedience to these same eternal laws would prove destructive to the frail vessels that by those waves are tossed, were it not that oil from the deck of the imperilled ship is poured out on the restless waves and makes them calm and still in accordance to another one of the eternal laws of the universe. No one is sufficiently silly to suppose for a solitary moment that in this case there has been a suspension or confliction of any of God's laws, but only a harmoniously coworking of them together in the production of necessary results. And the prayer of faith is also a potent force in the laws of God and the government of His universe, not in the destruction and suspension of other laws but in a harmonious coworking together with them in the accomplishment of results that without the exercise of this force would never have had an existence. The prayer of faith as a force in the universe may result in the staying of the tempest, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, guiding the ignorant, and the accomplishment of ten thousand other results if it is only brought into requisition by the finite powers of man. And illustrations of this truth are

so real, so vivid and so frequent in the experiences of millions and millions of reverent believers in God, as the God of nature, who governs according to His eternal laws, that it may be truthfully said God pity the praying Christian who doubts God's power or readiness to make good His promises to answer prayer, which promises are a law unto Himself and His children as long as time shall last. For "God is not slack concerning His promises as some men count slackness."

Throw Rock—Throw Prayer

I can pick up a rock from the surface of the earth and hurl it towards the heavens with all the powers of my physical being, and as certain as I throw it it will fall back again to the surface of the earth in conformity to the eternal law of gravitation. I can pick up one of God's promises from His precious word of truth, and assisted by it hurl the prayer of faith towards the heaven of my hopes into the ears of a prayer-hearing and a prayer-answering God, with all the faith, power and fervency of a trusting soul, and as certain as I hurl it, its answer will fall back again to the surface of this earth on the object of my petitions, granting my requests and performing results beyond the most extravagant expectations of the petitioner in conformity to the eternal law of prayer, so forceful, so powerful, so prominent, so active on this planet earth where God permits us to exist. For He has said: "All things whatsoever ye ask in prayer believing ye shall receive."

Prayer Changes God

We sometimes hear it said that prayer does not change God. In a remote sense it is true, but in a more important sense it is false. Let us remember that God sent Isaiah to tell Hezekiah to put his house in order because it was decreed that he should die. But Hezekiah prayed and wept and God sent Isaiah back to tell him that his prayer was heard and his tears were seen and God added fifteen years to his life. God in all of His plans has promised to answer prayer. Prayer in one sense changes God's purposes, or the results of His purposes, because to answer prayer is God's greatest plan, His highest wish, His strongest decree.

God's Laws

God has not tied His hands with material laws so that He cannot hear and answer prayer, so that He cannot reach forth and help His children when they call to Him for help. Material laws are the laws that control the material universe. God made them and He can control them. He is above them for He is their master. He can enact new laws or suspend old laws and control them as He pleases and execute them at His will. The laws of the universe or the laws of nature are only God's way of running the universe or God's way of managing nature. The law of prayer is superior to all the physical laws that help to control the universe. And God has told us that because of its superiority all other laws will be temporarily suspended if

necessary, in order to its execution. We can then very easily arrive at the very rational conclusion that God from the very beginning deliberately, wisely and intentionally made prayer a part of the wise plan of His great universe. Instead of prayer being an interruption of God's plan, it is only its fulfillment. Instead of prayer changing the divine will, it is only its execution. Instead of prayer being a violation of God's law, it is only its observance in the highest sense, for prayer is the highest law in the lofty spiritual realm, subordinating all other laws as obedient and harmonious lower laws of the God-created realm. And do not forget it that the greatest of harmony exists in the universe when the prayer law is in command. Analogically speaking, every day we behold chemical law overruling mechanical law, and vital law overruling chemical law, and moral law overruling all the other laws of the material creation. So let us rejoice that the prayer law is master and God designs that we should utilize it in the promotion of our welfare and the advancement of His glorious kingdom in the world. For "Ask and ye shall receive" is the command of our Saviour.

The Sun-Dial of Ahaz

When King Hezekiah was sick, the prophet Isaiah put the great law of prayer into execution, and the high spiritual law of prayer, controlling the inferior laws of the material universe, the shadow on the sun-dial of Ahaz went back ten degrees and his earnest prayer was miraculously answered. As-

tronomy chronologically agrees with bibliology that at the very time when King Hezekiah was sick, that the sun was in an eclipse or that there was some other kind of solar disturbance that affected the sun's shadow on the earth. So science as well as Scripture furnishes us the best of evidence that the prophet's prayer received a miraculous answer. Thank God for the law of prayer that can do so much for us. And the Bible commands us to observe it, saying: "Be careful for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God."

Joshua—Sun—Moon

When Joshua and his army were fighting a battle and winning a victory for the Lord, the sun was going down and the day was nearly spent, but the victory was not yet won. They needed additional daylight in which to do their fighting. The sun was in the west, the moon was in the east, the day was nearly gone. "What shall we do?" was the question that confronted the armies of Israel. Joshua put the law of prayer into execution and the sun stood still on Gibeon and the moon in the valley of Ajalon, while he conquered his enemies and won a victory for the Lord. When General Joshua executed the law of prayer the Hand Omnipotent seized the sun by its golden bits and stopped him in his rapid race along the roads of heaven, and He put the brakes on her silver chariot, and the Queen of Heaven stood still. Our heavenly

Father invites us to pray telling us to "Come boldly to a throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." "All things are possible to him that believeth," and the things that are impossible with men are possible with God for with God all things are possible.

Marcus Aurelius

Marcus Aurelius was a Roman emperor who lived in the second century. In the second volume of the Anti-Nicene Christian library we read a very startling description of a miraculous deliverance of his army from destruction, in answer to the prayers of his Christian soldiers. He with his men were in the very heart of Germany, surrounded by the army of the enemy, which numbered nearly a million of soldiers. There had been a five days' water famine and his army was perishing with thirst. The emperor, being a stoical heathen, who despised the religion of Christ, frequently persecuted the Christians. In his awful dilemma he called upon the heathen gods for help, but no help came. Then he called into his presence his Christian soldiers and said many cruel and unkind things to them because they believed in Christ. He commanded them to fight the enemy. They obeyed, but did not fight with material weapons, but prostrated themselves on the ground in earnest prayer. They prayed for the emperor, for the salvation of the army, and for the immediate discomfiture of the enemy. Their prayers were answered. They had scarcely begun

to pray when rain fell in refreshing showers upon the Romans while a storm of hailstones so fell upon the enemy as to put them to rout and give the victory to Marcus Aurelius. He was so deeply impressed by this miraculous deliverance that he always believed that the Christian's God heard and answered prayer. He issued a proclamation and sent it to every province in his empire requesting his subjects to respect and honour the Christian's God. Marcus Aurelius was born in the year 121 A. D. and died in the year 180 A. D., being fifty-nine years of age. He firmly believed to the day of his death that the Christian prayer had the power to control and even change material creation and especially to call the clouds together and make it rain. It has been gloriously demonstrated in every century since that the prayer force controls with a mighty superiority the laws that control the material universe.

Elijah Prayed for a Drouth

Have we an example furnished us in the Scriptures where a Biblical character ever prayed for a drouth? We read in the fifth chapter of James where it says that "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain and it rained not on the earth for a space of three years and six months." God sent a drouth of three years and six months' duration in answer to Elijah's prayer. Why did Elijah desire a drouth? The people had

gone away from God into Baalism and sin and he believed that a drouth calamity would bring them to repentance and back to God again. And his belief was justified and his prayers were answered, when by public exhibition, the power and omnipotency of God and the weakness and impotency of Baal were so strikingly demonstrated to the people that they all cried out: "The Lord, He is God; the Lord, He is God."

Elijah Prays for Rain

When did Elijah pray for rain? After they cried out: "The Lord, He is God; the Lord, He is God," and turned their hearts from the worship of Baal to the worship of Jehovah. Then Elijah went to the top of Carmel and cast himself upon the ground, and placed his face between his knees and prayed to God for rain. He sent his servant to look towards the sea and watch for an approaching rain-cloud. He returned and reported to Elijah that he saw no indication of rain whatever. Possibly such a report would have discouraged us and we would have quit praying, but Elijah knew the value of importunity in prayer and told his servant to go up and look seven times more. And at the seventh time he returned and reported that he saw a small cloud arising out of the sea like a man's hand. This small cloud was the harbinger of a great rain that soon fell upon the earth and terminated that long, destructive, devastating drouth. So God sends rain in answer to prayer, for here we have a Scriptural truth, and in Zechariah we

are commanded to "Ask ye of the Lord rain." Then to pray for rain is the will of God according to the Scriptures.

Governor Hardin's Proclamation

In the year 1875 the grasshoppers and the drouth devastated Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri. The governors of these states met in Omaha to consult in reference to the best methods of meeting the conditions confronting the people. Gov. Charles C. Hardin returned home on the seventeenth day of May and issued his famous proclamation to the people of Missouri to observe the third day of June as a day of fasting and prayer. The proclamation was generally observed and on the next day, June 4th, it began raining and the heavy downpours were like torrents, which continued until the earth was thoroughly saturated with water. By the eleventh day of June the grasshoppers had entirely disappeared from the state and have never returned. The farmers replanted their corn and one of the heaviest yields in the history of the state was the result. The two previous replantings had been totally destroyed by the grasshoppers and only eighteen inches of rain had fallen in the eighteen months previous to this time. Surely God hears and answers prayer. He that heard the prayers of Elijah on Carmel's top and brought an end to the drouth 3,000 years ago heard the prayers of the people of Missouri and broke up the drouth and drove away the grasshoppers on the third day of June, 1875.

Governor Dockery's Proclamation

Governor Dockery issued a proclamation requesting the people of the state of Missouri to observe the twenty-first day of July, 1901, as a day of fasting and prayer, that the rain might fall and the drouth be broken and the people saved from suffering. The day was universally observed. It was the driest, clearest and most intensely hot of any previous day of the drouthy season and seemed to mock the people who were so earnestly praying for rain. The heavens appeared to be locked against them, but before five days had elapsed rain fell in refreshing showers, making the people to rejoice, teaching them that God hears and answers the earnest prayers of His faithful, praying children.

Governor Savage

Governor Savage of Nebraska issued a proclamation requesting the people of his state to observe Friday, July 26, 1901, as a day of fasting and prayer that rain might fall on their state and avert the awful drouth calamity that threatened its people. The day was appropriately observed, and the people prayed to God for rain. The forenoon of the appointed day was dry, hot and cloudless, without the slightest indication of rain; but during the afternoon the clouds began to gather and the rain began to fall and the most refreshing showers terminated that hot, protracted drouth that had so seriously injured the crops of the state. Surely God hears and answers prayer, and He that

instructed us to pray for our daily bread will answer our prayers when we pray for the rain that will bring our daily bread. He has also said: "Be careful for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

Hydrogen—Oxygen—Electric Spark

Man can produce rain by mixing hydrogen and oxygen in certain proportions and passing an electric spark through them. Cannot God do the same thing, the God who made hydrogen, oxygen and electricity and keeps them continually in existence by His power, can He not make it rain when He wills? Certainly He can. He said He would in answer to the prayers of repenting, believing, trusting men. Man fills a vessel with the two elements of rain, then fuses them with an electric spark, which precipitates the rain-drops, and we say man has made it rain. Then is it impossible for God to fill the sky with these identical elements and fuse them with the lightning bolt and water a state, a continent, or a world? No, indeed, for the things that are impossible with men are possible with God and with God all things are possible.

A Commandment

"Pray without ceasing." This is one of God's commandments and it deserves to be as highly esteemed, as strictly obeyed, and as seriously considered as any other divine commandment between the two lids of the blessed Book of Truth.

When God commanded us and said, "Thou shalt not kill," His whole church on earth agreed that this injunction was perfectly right and also said, "We must not kill for if we do we will commit a sin by willfully violating the holy laws of God. Therefore we must not kill."

God has also commanded us not to steal, and we hear the endorsing voice of His universal church on earth agreeing that this injunction is also perfectly right, that we must not steal, for if we do we will commit a sin by willfully violating the holy laws of God. Therefore we must not steal.

And so with all the commandments of the decalogue. God's church on earth believes in observing them with a perfect obedience. But when God commanded it "to pray without ceasing," it shook its head incredulously and declared that it could not do this, that the task was too difficult, and that God was requiring of it an impossibility. But when the church made this declaration it made a great mistake, for God has never, since the beginning of the world, and never will, until the ending of the world, or at any other time, require of any person anything that approximates an impossibility. "For He knoweth our frame, He remembereth that we are dust."

The Origin of Prayer

Man must have prayed from the beginning. He must have been taught to pray by his Creator immediately after his creation or immediately after his fall. At any rate we have records of man's praying in the early ages of the world. Abraham

prayed, Job prayed, Jacob wrestled with God, and it is recorded where many other ancients were frequently engaged in prayer. There are no directions given in the Mosaic law concerning prayer, but there is a form of prayer recorded in the twenty-sixth chapter of Deuteronomy that the Jewish people frequently used in connection with their offerings. So the church of God during the Patriarchal and Mosaic dispensations was evidently a praying church.

The Chief Objection to Prayer

The chief objection that is usually urged against prayer by the majority of its opposers is the immutability of God. That God is unchangeable and anything that we can do cannot possibly change Him, consequently the uselessness of prayer. They say that we cannot change God. Then what is the use of praying to Him? But the absurdity of this objection is easily recognized when we take into consideration the object of prayer. The object is not to change God, prayer never was designed to change God. We do not want to change Him and would not change Him if we could. The object of prayer is to change man. Man is the one that needs changing, and prayer will change him and assist him in very rapidly assimilating the nature of God.

The sun is represented as being unchangeable as regards the relation it sustains to our earth. Therefore it is the revolution of the earth that exposes almost every part of the earth's surface to the sun's light once in twenty-four hours. Should the earth

stop its revolving only one part of its surface would receive the benefit of the sun's light and heat and that would be the part next to the sun. The opposite side of the earth would be in darkness.

God, being the Sun of Righteousness, is represented as being unchangeable, so it is man's exercising himself towards God in prayer, it is his praying without ceasing that causes every part of his being to become the happy recipient of the warmth and light of God's richest blessings. And should he cease to pray, only one part of his being would become the fortunate receiver and that would be his physical man; the spiritual man, like the side of the earth opposite the sun, would be in total spiritual darkness.

The Steamboat

A big steamboat was running down the Missouri River. A little boy on board wandered into the pilot house and stood there watching the pilot turn the wheel for some time, and then the little fellow inquired:

"Why do you keep turning that wheel that way all the time? Why don't you let it stop a little while?"

"Well, my little man," replied the pilot, "I turn this wheel to make the current help carry the boat down the river."

"And can you," inquired the boy, "by turning that wheel, make the current of this great river run under the boat?"

"Oh, no," replied the pilot, "but I can, by turn-

ing the wheel, make the boat run in the current and then I keep on turning it to make it stay there and keep it from floating out again."

Christian man, Christian woman, why is it that you pray without ceasing? Why is it that you keep the great wheel of prayer continually turning on its axis? Why don't you stop a little while? You reply by saying that you pray without ceasing, that you keep the great wheel of prayer continually performing its revolutions in order to keep the mighty current of God's grace continually pouring upon your soul and sweeping through your inmost being, that you may with greater facility and power, move in the direction that God would have you go. Do you expect that by praying without ceasing, by continually turning the wheel of prayer, you can change the immutable God? No, you say, but have the immutable God change me, and place me in the mighty current of His omnipotent grace and then I continue to pray that I may stay there and not drift out again into the dangerous regions of weakness and sin.

Definition of Prayer

Now as we are discussing the subject of prayer it is very necessary to know what prayer is. What is prayer? Our wisest and most popular lexicographers tell us that prayer is a petition, a supplication, an earnest asking for aid, favour and assistance, from a power sufficiently able to supply our demands. This, however, is the general definition of the word prayer. The theological definition of

the word prayer is an earnest, humble, heartfelt petition sent by the creature to the Creator, returning thanks for blessings received, confessing sins and asking for their forgiveness, acknowledging the reception of mercies and desiring their continuation, together with an asking for a bestowal of blessings not only upon ourselves but upon every individual on earth for whom it is our duty to pray. This, briefly speaking, is the theological definition of the word prayer.

A Difficult Problem

Some one has said that praying "will make you quit sinning and sinning will make you quit praying," therefore we are commanded to "pray without ceasing."

Now to the majority of the professing Christians obedience to this commandment appears to be a difficult undertaking. "How are we to pray without ceasing?" is their anxious inquiry. This can very easily be done by permitting nothing but holy and loving feelings to inhabit our hearts, nothing but pure and noble thoughts to circulate in our minds, and to permit the Holy Spirit of God unrestrained to so reform our fallen nature as to fill us with thanksgiving and joy. When we behold the kind and loving hand of our gracious heavenly Father continually supplying our many physical and spiritual wants and needs, this is the way to pray without ceasing.

"How can I pray without ceasing," anxiously inquires the busy, careful and constantly occupied

housewife, "with the multiplicity of household cares pressing upon my mind and making their necessary demands upon my time? How can I possibly live in obedience to this holy command of God?"

"How can I pray without ceasing," anxiously inquires the busy merchant, "and work, and think, and buy, and sell, and measure, and weigh my various articles of merchandise, and attend as I should to my customers, constantly demanding my attention? Is it possible for me to properly, honestly and legitimately conduct a mercantile establishment and live in obedience to this holy command of God?"

"How can I pray without ceasing," inquires the successful agriculturist, "and plow, and plant, and rake, and sow, and reap, and mow and look after the various interests of the farm, so as to make the honest occupation of farming a success, and live in obedience to this holy command of God?"

"How can I pray without ceasing?" inquires the lawyer, the teacher, the banker, the bookkeeper.

"How can I add up the long column of figures and simultaneously offer an acceptable prayer to God? Is this not an impossibility?"

No, indeed, for God is infinitely merciful and does not require impossibilities of any of His creatures. But has He not commanded us to pray without ceasing? Are we not under obligations to obey this command of God, and if we do not, and willfully disregard it, are we not committing a sin? Then how can this great mystery be explained?

The whole explanation is easily discovered in the definition of the word prayer. What is prayer? It is not the attitude of the human body, it is not the utterance of human words, it is not the movement of human lips, it is not the articulation of human speech, but the old poet many years ago gave us a correct definition of the word prayer, when he said:

> "Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
> Uttered or unexpressed,
> The motion of a hidden fire
> That trembles in each breast."

So prayer is the soul's sincere desire. And you can keep that there and perform the duties of the household, the store, the farm, the shop, the schoolroom, the bank, the ledger. For remember that prayer is a spiritual force as invisible and more powerful than the electrical currents that girdle the earth.

A Young Lady's Exegesis

It is said that several years ago a number of ministers, famous for their theological learning, met in a ministerial alliance for the purpose of the discussion and solution of certain difficult problems. Most important among these was "Pray without ceasing." None of them had ever been able to pray without ceasing, and they seemed to doubt to a certain extent the possibility of such a thing. One of the wisest members of the alliance was appointed to write an essay on this Scripture, the

ministers hoping by this to secure its proper exposition. A young lady was present in the audience and arising timidly requested the president of the convention to give her the privilege of telling the preachers how she managed to live in obedience to this Scriptural injunction. Her request was granted and she said:

"When I wake up in the morning as soon as I open my eyes, I pray God to open my eyes of understanding that I may understand my duty and properly discharge it all the day long. Then when I dress my body, I pray God to dress my soul in the robe of righteousness. When I kindle the fire in the stove I pray God to kindle the fire of His love in my heart and that those fires may shine forth in every word, thought and action, lighting, warming and blessing the lives of any and all with whom I come in contact. When I sweep a room I pray God to sweep the dust of sin from my soul. When I wash my face and hands, I pray God to wash me in the cleansing blood of Jesus and make me whiter than snow. When I eat a meal I pray God to feed my soul on the bread of eternal life. When I see the sun rise and pour his light on the physical world without, I pray God to permit the Sun of Righteousness to rise in my heart and shed His splendours through the very depths of my soul and arouse to action holy feelings, desires and motives I have never before experienced. So you see I have a particular prayer to offer in connection with everything that I do and every important thing that I see. And the more I see and the more

I do, the more I pray, and this is the way I pray without ceasing."

This is certainly a very practical exegesis of this Scripture.

Peter Released

We have a variety of examples furnished us in the Scriptures of prominent Biblical characters who have fully illustrated and tested the power and efficacy of prayer on many different occasions. When the Apostle Peter was captured by his enemies, thrown into prison and every precaution taken to prevent his escape, he was released by an angel sent from God, and as he walked through the streets and byways of the city of Jerusalem in search of his friends, he found them assembled in another part of the city in the capacity of a cottage prayer-meeting, at the home of Mark's mother, while he himself was the object of their petitions. "For prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him." Though they were surprised and delighted at the speedy answer to their prayers, they were all the more thoroughly convinced of the ability and willingness of a gracious God to hear and grant the prayers of His faithful and obedient children. They had actually prayed him out of prison and prayed him completely into their little prayer-meeting.

Like the fragrant perfumes of a sweet-scented incense, the earnest prayers of the infant church arose, a beautiful cloud of glory encircling the throne. God listened, heard and answered. For,

calling to Him an angel of mercy, and throwing back the gates of heaven, He starts the angel on a mission of emancipation to the Jerusalem prison, and with a velocity greater than that of light, the angelic messenger flies. A light shines in the prison, he smites Peter on the side, the chains fall from his hands, while the soldiers, between whom he was sleeping, continue their unconscious slumbers. The bolts fly back, the locks unfasten, the doors swing open and they pass out, unseen by the vigilant guards, who, before the door, in the faithful discharge of their duty, kept the prison. On and on they go. Coming to the great iron gate, the omnipotent key of prayer unlocks it, and passing through, they go one street, when the angel wings his way back to heaven. Peter, in the swift, rapid, rushing current of intercessory prayer, is swept with a mighty momentum on to the cottage prayer-meeting, where prayer is wont to be made.

Oh, the same gracious, merciful and almighty God, that heard and answered the prayers of Peter and his friends, is reigning and ruling over us to-day, and He has not changed a particle, for He is the same, yesterday, to-day and forever. He is just as able, willing and anxious now as He was then to hear and answer the prayers of His faithful, obedient, praying children. What encouragement is this for us to pray not only for ourselves, but for others, for we are here shown the power and efficacy of intercessory prayer. How many of us to-day have friends who are captured by the enemy of their souls, bound down by the chains

and shackles of sin, locked and bolted in the prison houses of vice, continually held captive by the fascinations and temptations of a wicked world, when if we would only offer an earnest, humble, heartfelt prayer to God in their behalf, the chains and shackles of sin would be broken, the locks and bolts would be unfastened, the prison doors of vice would be thrown open while the fascinations and temptations of this wicked world would lose their influence, and sooner, yes, sooner than you would imagine, you would see them walking in the streets and byways of a new and happy life, and like the rescued Peter, searching for our whereabouts only to tell us of the miraculous love and all-protecting powers of a prayer-hearing and a prayer-answering God. We can actually pray them out of the prisons of sin into our places of prayer. That irreligious husband or wife, father or mother, brother or sister, that irreligious boy of yours can actually be prayed from the places of sin into places of holiness where he will arise and publicly declare how that strange miraculous power, in answer to your prayer, found him, blessed him and did that for him which has resulted in his heart's regeneration, his life's reformation, God's glorification and his own inexpressible joy.

The Richmond Wireless

Mr. D. C. Elliot, professor of science in the high school at Richmond, Missouri, made a wireless telegraph instrument for the purpose of instructing his students. When not in use it was placed in the

basement of the high school building. On May 21, 1908, a clicking noise attracted his attention, which investigation discovered to be the wireless machine receiving a message from Santa Cruz, California. This was a very great surprise. Then by operating the instrument he not only answered the California message, but also sent one to Colorado Springs and another to Oklahoma City. This astonished all wireless telegraphers who heard of the incident, because the Richmond instrument was rude, home-made, having no poles, wires and other necessary equipment, besides being away down in the cellar out of sight. But from many a cellar, garret and home of poverty and distress as well as from mansions of wealth and elegance, prayer messages have been sent and answers received, for "All things whatsoever ye ask in prayer believing, ye shall receive," is the declaration of the prayer-answering Son of God.

Fifty Dollars

A gentleman embarked from Liverpool on a large ocean steamer bound for New York. In mid-Atlantic he discovered that he was short fifty dollars. How in the world could he supply the financial shortage and get the money he needed? He knew that his mother who was a very rich woman and had plenty of money in her possession was on board another ship also bound for New York and that it was somewhere within a radius of fifty miles from the ship on which he was sailing. He sent a wireless message asking his mother to place fifty dollars

with the purser of her vessel and to notify the cashier of his steamer of the deposit. The deposit and the notification were made and the son received the money. This seems to be a miracle of the twentieth century science but such miracles are now continually occurring. From the very beginning man, on the ocean of human life, has been sending prayer messages to heaven, for deposited in the vaults of the universe are all the powers of omnipotency designed exclusively for the benefit of man. "God is able to supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Jesus Christ to whom all power is given in heaven and on earth."

Blood Poison

Swan Island is several miles southeast of Cuba. It is destitute of the conveniences of civilization. John D. Graham, an employee of the United Fruit Company, on June 20, 1909, while working on the island cut his foot on a piece of rusty machinery. Two days after the accident blood poison began. There was no doctor on the island. A wireless message was sent out over the Gulf of Mexico asking for relief. A ship sailing for the Isthmus of Panama caught the message and in return, its surgeon, Dr. Albert Veasy, sent the prescription which was received and compounded by the king of Swan Island and John D. Graham's life was saved. So wireless telegraphy in a medical emergency sent a remedy from ship to shore and saved a human life. But when we look around us we can easily see thousands of human lives, employer and em-

ployee, on land and on sea, suffering from the deadly blood poison of sin. And the gospel news that we delight to tell is this: That any victim of the deadly malady of sin, who sends a message for help to the Great Physician will be healed, for He has said: "Every one that asketh receiveth," and "Him that cometh unto Me I will in nowise cast out." "The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses from all sin."

Harry Graham's Prayer

Harry Graham was an unconverted young man eighteen years of age, who lived with his parents on the Kentucky bank of the Ohio, directly across from Cincinnati. Lewis Mysonheimer, a young evangelist, had been conducting a successful revival in that part of Kentucky. Harry attended one of these meetings, became interested, was soon converted and afterwards developed into an earnest, active and efficient Christian worker. Being an excellent singer, he consecrated his voice to God and consequently became a valuable coworker with Mr. Mysonheimer in revivalist work. His father was an irreligious man and was bitterly opposed to his son's engaging in that which he considered wild, religious fanaticism.

In the year 1886, one year after his conversion, he was working in a revival meeting at Milan, Mo., at the same time Sam Jones was conducting a meeting at Cincinnati, Ohio. Young Graham and two Christian young men prayed that his father might attend the meeting, be converted and permit

his homesick son to return home. In less than a week he received a letter from his father, saying that he had attended the Sam Jones revival at Cincinnati, had been converted, and asking Harry's pardon, begged him to come. In his letter the father said:

"Harry, things have changed at home. We now have family worship. Your mother, brothers and sisters gather around me in the family circle while I read the Bible. Then we kneel and I pray. But, Harry, your place is vacant. Come home and occupy it."

How did it happen that three Christian young men prayed, and hundreds of miles away a strong man changed his life? There is only one answer —God answers prayer.

Better Than He Knew

It was a beautiful summer evening. A steamboat was steaming down the Missouri River, with its cargo of happy passengers. Its starting point was Leavenworth, Kansas, and its destination was St. Louis. The temperature was delightful, the atmosphere was invigorating, the sun was sinking behind the western horizon. The passengers, who had just finished their evening meal, stimulated by their exhilarating environments, were exercising their conversational powers on a variety of interesting topics.

An old man of seventy and a middle-aged man of forty-five were engaged in conversation. They were talking about the church. Then the Sunday-school was mentioned.

"I don't believe in Sunday-schools," the old man exclaimed.

"I am your diametrical opposite in that respect," the middle-aged man replied, "for I do."

"Well," said the old man, "my experience with the Sunday-school was anything but encouraging. I taught a class of ten young men for five years in the city of C——. I taught them faithfully, prayerfully, and, I believe, efficiently, and at the end of the five years, they seemed to me to be in a worse moral condition than when I took charge of the class. I resigned as a teacher, moved to New Orleans, and have never had the courage to do any Sunday-school teaching since."

The other man looked searchingly into the face of the speaker, and inquired his name.

"My name is Charles Howe."

"Charles Howe! Well, well, well! Can it be? I was one of the ten boys of that Sunday-school class, John Hays. Do you remember John Hays?" he inquired.

"Yes, indeed I do—John Hays—the most mischievous boy in my class. I could never forget him. But is it possible that this big, fine-looking man is John Hays, the little, slim, bad boy that I tried to teach thirty years ago?"

"I was that boy," was the answer.

"Well, John, I am glad to meet you again."

And the two engaged in a hearty hand-shake.

"Mr. Howe, you have told me why you do not believe in Sunday-schools. Now I want to tell you why I do. Shortly after you gave up your Sun-

day-school class and moved away, every one of us ten boys made choice of Christ and joined the church. This we unanimously decided was the result of your five years of teaching. Five of those boys have died in the Christian faith, and each one before he went away spoke of you as the one who had led him to a knowledge of Christ. Albert Parker is a missionary in China. Samuel Knox is pastor of a large church in Texas. George Williams is a St. Louis banker and superintendent of a large Sunday-school in that city. Joseph Knox is a wealthy merchant in his native city and teaches the Bible class in the old St. Paul's church. I am pastor of a church in Tennessee. And, Mr. Howe, this is why I believe in Sunday-schools."

"So do I. I believe in Sunday-schools, too, John Hays. You have convinced me that I was wrong. When I taught that class of boys I taught them better than I knew," exclaimed the old man, as the tears of joy rolled down his cheeks.

Prayer Rolled Back the Red Sea

When Moses and the children of Israel were escaping from Egyptian bondage, arriving at the Red Sea, they looked back to see only the hard-hearted Pharaoh and his tyrannical followers rushing on to drag them back again into a dreadful slavery. To their right, to their left and behind them were the hostile armies of Egypt, while before them the surging waves of the great Red Sea formed an impassable barrier. To them escape appeared impossible. So in their dire distress Moses cried to God

for salvation and immediately a strong east wind began to blow, the mighty waters of the Red Sea rolled back, congealed, the armies of Israel crossed over dry shod, which the armies of Pharaoh attempting to do were drowned. How frequently do we see a human life persecuted by enemies, deserted by friends, distressed by affliction, beset by temptation, surrounded by trouble, while, humanly speaking, the only thing left for them to do is to submissively surrender to the enemy of their souls and be once more dragged back into the Egyptian bondage of sin. So crying to God for salvation the great Red Sea of their troubles rolls back, and led by the friendly hand of their heavenly Father, they cross over into the happy spheres of freedom and peace, while all their besetting sins, shortcomings and spiritual imperfections are washed away with a flood of heavenly grace. The Bible says: "Be careful for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God," and "Come boldly to the throne of grace that ye may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

Elijah and the Drouth

When the earth was all dry, withered and parched by a dreadful drouth that cursed it for the space of three years and six months, it was in answer to the earnest and powerful prayers of Elijah, the prophet, that rain descended, causing the grass to grow, the flowers to bloom, and all nature to revive and rejoice with verdure, foliage and flowers. God has

not changed a particle. He is just as able, anxious and willing now as He was then to hear and to grant the prayers of His praying children. Then when we look about us and behold the world of humanity by which we are surrounded with hearts and minds that are dry, withered and parched with souls and bodies that are dwarfed and destroyed by the dreadful drouth of sin, does it not behoove us as Christians, as a duty that we owe not only to our fellow creatures, but to ourselves and our God, that we pray Him for Christ's sake who said: "If ye ask anything in My name I will do it," to rain a shower of divine grace down upon these sin-benighted souls and cause the flowers of holiness to bud, bloom and blossom forth in every look, word and action, ornamenting and adorning and beautifying with all the Christian graces the immortal life of this sin-cursed planet, until these terrestrial spiritual deserts are made to bloom and blossom forth in every look, word and action, ornamenting, adorning and beautifying with all the Christian graces the immortal life of this sin-cursed planet, until these terrestrial, spiritual deserts are made to bloom and blossom like the rose.

A Christian cannot live the spiritual life without prayer, as well might he attempt to live the physical life without breathing. One is no more impossible than the other, for

> "Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
> The Christian's native air,
> His watchword at the gates of death,
> He enters heaven with prayer."

The Bible tells us that "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." "Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, and it rained not on the earth for the space of three years and six months; and he prayed again and the heavens gave rain and the earth brought forth her fruit." God encourages us, invites us and actually commands us to bring into requisition the great prayer force in the universe for the advancement of His kingdom the same to-day as Elijah did in his day in the wonderful centuries of the past.

Prayer and Politics

It was the autumn of 1888. The whole country was on fire with political excitement. We were on the eve of the presidential election. It would be only a few weeks when election day would arrive and the people of the United States elect to his office the chief magistrate of our country. A preacher was at that time pastor of the Memphis church at Memphis, Scotland County, Missouri. The church at Memphis, together with seven other churches in the county, constituted his charge. The month was October—the weather dry and beautiful. The light of the October moon made the nights attractive, indeed. The roads were smooth and nice and the material conditions appeared to be exactly right for a successful protracted meeting at a country church. Such a church was part of that preacher's charge—the Hickory Grove church

—six miles east of the city of Memphis. He had promised its members the first meeting of the conference year and this was certainly the proper time for it. At any rate he thought so and consequently announced that the meeting would begin. Some of the good people said that there would be a much better meeting if they could only wait until after the election, believing that the people were so excited over politics that it would be hard to interest them about religion. The meeting began, the congregations were large, well behaved and attentive. Night after night the Gospel was preached and night after night the congregations came until several nights had passed. About the only interest manifested was the large congregations, the good behaviour and the attentive listening. It was true that the interest in politics had to a certain extent prevented an interest in religion. A part of the congregation would, during the day, go to Arbelia, a small town situated on the railroad, half a mile from the church, listen to political speeches, engage in political rallies and participate in political conversations, all of which assisted in driving away the good impressions made on their minds the night before at the church. The preacher became discouraged. It was not convenient to have a day meeting, so what in the world was he to do? One night after preaching a sermon with the usual result, he stood with a sad face and a sadder heart, leaning on the pulpit, watching the people leaving the church. Old Grandma Dickerson, as she was familiarly called by the people of that neighbour-

hood, an old saint in God's militant church, who joined the church triumphant a short time afterwards, came forward and inquired of the preacher if he were not discouraged. He answered in the affirmative.

"Well," said she, "what is that you are holding in your hand?"

"My Bible," he answered.

"Turn to Matthew xviii. 19," she almost commanded.

He was obedient and turned to the Scripture to which she referred.

"Will you please read it?"

Then he read: "If any two of you shall agree on earth touching anything that you shall ask, it shall be done for you of My Father which art in heaven." She gave him a look of rebuke, although she never said a word. He realized his lack of faith, and said that he never felt so much like an infidel in all his life before. She inquired, after looking at him a while:

"Do you believe that Scripture?"

"Yes," he said "I do. It is in the Bible, it is in the New Testament, and it is the language of Jesus."

"Read it again," she commanded.

He was again obedient. Then she asked him once more if he believed it, and he repeated his former declaration and affirmed that he did. She had him read it three times, and every time asked him if he believed it. To every one of her questions he gave the identical answer.

"Now," she said, "I am one and you are one. That makes two. And we are on earth, so this promise is meant for us. We can test it. Will you stand on this promise and pray with me for the salvation of my children?"

The preacher said he would.

"Will you pray all night?" she inquired. "Jesus used to pray all night."

He promised that he would try, and went from the church to the house where he was being entertained, determined to besiege a throne of grace. He entered his room, fell on his knees and commenced to pray. Oh, how he prayed! The next night the revival began, the fire fell, sinners were converted and many were added to the church. Her children were converted and received into the church. At the last quarterly meeting of the conference year, Robert Dickerson, her son, who was converted in that meeting, was elected an officer in the church. He has been a prominent and useful member ever since.

"God sent that old Christian," that preacher often said, "to teach me a lesson in the power of intercessory prayer."

Prayer is stronger than politics. Prayer is omnipotent, prayer overcomes with ease the seemingly impossible.

"Prayer makes the darkest cloud withdraw,
Prayer climbs the ladder Jacob saw;
Gives exercise to faith and love,
Brings every blessing from above.

"Restraining prayer we cease to fight,
Prayer makes the Christian's armour bright;
And Satan trembles when he sees
The weakest saint upon his knees."

Noah's Ark

The old patriarch Noah and his family would never have survived the deluge if Noah's ark had been incomplete in any respect; if there had been an aperture in the side, the top, the bottom, or a deficiency anywhere, the waters of the flood would have rushed in and they would have shared the same fate as the other inhabitants of the earth. So neither can we sail over the floods of time to the ports and harbours of the Glory World if our Christian crafts are incomplete; if they are minus the propelling powers of prayer. It will require only a few howling storms of adversity, the rolling waves of trials, troubles and temptations, a raging cyclone of opposition, to sweep us into the whirling vortex of destruction and sink us beneath the reach of rescue forever.

David, Daniel and Christ

David prayed specially seven times a day. Daniel prayed fearlessly three times a day, with his windows opened towards Jerusalem, and permitted himself to be cast into a den of lions before he would relinquish the performance of this extraordinary Christian duty. Christ Himself prayed and taught His disciples to pray, and the prayer that He taught

them, denominated the Lord's Prayer, has been handed down from one generation of Christians to another, across the space of nineteen centuries, and offered, repeated and echoed, in nearly every land and language from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.

Prayer When in Affliction

We should always pray with unusual earnestness and importunity when suffering affliction. We have a splendid example of this furnished us by our Saviour, when He prayed all alone in the garden of Gethsemane, at that lonely night hour while all the rest of the world was wrapped in darkness and in slumber, immediately preceding His crucifixion. What finite mind can grasp the deep meaning and peculiar import of the extraordinary prayer of the mysterious God-man when communicating with His Father, immediately preceding His agonizing and ignominious death upon the cross, requesting Him if possible to let the bitter cup pass from Him, but at the same time submissively saying, "Thy will, not Mine, be done." And if His disciples had watched and prayed with Him, instead of sleeping while He prayed, possibly they would not have entered into temptation and been guilty of the terrible sin of denying their Master. The spirit was willing, but the flesh was weak, and they entered into temptation. We should learn a splendid lesson from this and watch and pray continually, pray at all times, pray without ceasing, pray in public, pray in private, pray in the family circle,

when we are surrounded by the loved ones at home. Pray when we arise in the morning, when we lie down at night, and amid the rush and whirl of the humming business of the day, that we enter not into temptation and be guilty of the terrible sin of denying our Master, for "Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees."

The Infidel Major

Brother Hagler, who was pastor of a church at Duquoin, Ill., in the autumn of 1884, conducted a protracted meeting in his church that lasted seventeen days. At the beginning of the meeting three or four Christians covenanted together that they would pray for the conversion of a certain infidel and his family who were living at that time in Duquoin. The father of the family had been a major in the late war, was very hardened by sin, had not been to church for fifteen years, and often made public profession of his skepticism. The third day of the meeting he came to church, but sat very near the door. This encouraged the Christians to continue for him, with greater earnestness, their prayers. He came a second time, became interested, requested the prayers of the church and before the close of the meeting himself, his wife and four children were converted and received into the church. Surely God hears and answers prayer and the Scriptural declaration is true: "Ask of Me things to come concerning My sons, and concerning the work of My hands, command ye Me."

Power and Necessity of Prayer

Can we say enough concerning the power and efficacy of prayer? This is established not only by Scriptural proof but by our own personal and individual experience. Who is it that ever offered a prayer to God in his life that cannot testify to the comfort and strengthening influences derived from the performance of this extraordinary Christian duty? Certainly there has been many a person who has gone through the form of prayer who did not pray. Many a person has humbly bowed at the mercy seat when the spirit was proud and unbending. Some have prayed more frequently to their congregations than they ever did to their God. Prayer is often abused by formality, by being offered without a purpose, by asking for things concerning the reception of which we entertain grave doubts. Such prayers cannot accomplish any good whatever and border so on blasphemy that they merit the displeasure and the disapprobation of God. Christ has said, "All things whatsoever ye ask in prayer believing, ye shall receive." Then if we believe what we profess, why not practice it? If we believe in the divinity of Christ, if we believe that His teachings and doctrines are divine, why not obey His precepts and confide in His promises? He has said: "Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you, for every one that asketh receiveth, he that seeketh findeth and unto him that knocketh, it shall be opened, or what man is there of you whom if his son asked bread

would give him a stone, or if he asked a fish would give him a serpent? If ye then being evil know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father who art in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?"

Amherst College Student

Several years ago a young man, as a student, was attending Amherst College, Massachusetts. He was a bright, sociable, intellectual young fellow, but he was not a Christian. A revival was in progress at the college. His Christian classmates became so deeply interested in his salvation that they set apart a week to unite in special prayer for his conversion. One of his classmates wrote a letter to his mother at his home, told her of the revival in progress, of the interest they were taking in her son, of the week of contemplated prayer for his benefit, and asked her to join with them in prayer that her son might be saved. In two weeks she received another letter, written by the same hand, telling her of her son's conversion. He became a very earnest Christian, and a very successful teacher. He taught for several years in the schools of Connecticut and was especially noted for his efficiency as an instructor. He is dead now but died trusting in Jesus, and has gone home to glory. He is now taking lessons from the Great Teacher in the celestial school of the skies. But he can never graduate, he can never receive a diploma from God, he can never master the curriculum in the schools

of Christ, because the finite cannot grasp the infinite and the mind of man cannot grasp all the deep things of God. But he will go on and on; his knowledge increasing, his wisdom growing, his love expanding through eternity's rolling cycles.

Pharisee and Publican

In speaking of the right of a sinner to pray we are reminded of the splendid parable of our Saviour when He said: "Two men went up in the temple to pray, the one a Pharisee, and the other a Publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself: God, I thank Thee that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this Publican. I fast twice in the week and give tithes of all I possess. The Publican standing afar off would not so much as lift his eyes unto heaven, but smote himself upon his breast and said: God be merciful unto me, a sinner." Then our Saviour said that this man went down to his house justified rather than the other. "For every one that exalteth himself shall be abased, but he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." He not only teaches us in this parable that a sinner has a right to pray for mercy, but also the beauty and necessity of humility in prayer.

"Prayer is the contrite sinner's voice,
Returning from his ways,
While angels in their songs rejoice,
And cry, behold, he prays."

Thief on the Cross

The prayer of the repenting thief on the cross, when he prayed to Jesus, "Lord, remember me," and our Saviour answered him and said, "This day thou shalt be with Me in Paradise," is an irrefutable argument to the dangerous doctrine that a repenting sinner has no right to pray. He was a thief and a thief is a sinner. He repented and prayed and the Lord heard him and answered his prayer. Therefore the Lord hears and answers the sinner's penitent cry. "Every one that asketh receiveth." And He has declared to us Himself that He is no respecter of persons. Do not be discouraged but pray to God with all your heart and you will receive salvation now, for "Behold, now is the accepted time; to-day is the day of salvation."

Young Man's Prayer

Not long ago I heard a young man make a prayer that was very short, very pointed, very earnest, but a prayer that was tremendous for spiritual power. It surely reached the ear of God, touched His heart, and received an immediate answer. He cried, "Oh, God, help me. I am so weak. I find it so easy to do wrong and so hard to do right. Help me to-day."

Has that ever been your experience that it was so easy to do wrong and so hard to do right, that you needed the unceasing help of God? But while you realize the impotency of man, do not forget the omnipotency of God and that He is able to deliver thee.

Forty-one Converted

God not only hears and answers the earnest prayers of the repenting sinner, as he cries to Him for help, but recognizes with equal attention the anxious supplications of the Christian as he intercedes in the sinner's behalf. In a prominent church in New York City a young theological student taught a Sunday-school class composed of forty-one young ladies. He prayed and laboured for the conversion of the entire class. His prayers were answered and one after another of the class were converted until forty of the number made a public confession of faith in Christ and united with the church. He had been instrumental in leading all but one into the kingdom of God. This one, Harriet J——, seemed to him, because of her repeated refusals to become a Christian, to be beyond the reach of the power of earnest prayer and Christian influence. He laboured with her and prayed for her until he graduated from the seminary and accepted the pastorate of a church in a Western city a thousand miles away. He frequently thought of her and she was often the object of his petitions, as he from time to time in her behalf would besiege a throne of grace. Many years had passed and gone. He had not heard from her for a long time, he did not know her spiritual condition, her whereabouts, and was not even sure that she was alive. Therefore he had long since ceased to remember her in prayer. He was invited to Brooklyn to deliver a special sermon, on a great occasion, in a magnificent church, before a large and cul-

tured congregation. After the sermon as he was leaving the church, he was met in the aisle by a nicely-dressed, middle-aged lady, who evidently belonged to one of the best families of Brooklyn. She politely addressed him and inquired of him if he remembered her. He confessed that he did not.

"I was once," she replied, "a member of your Sunday-school class in New York City, when you were a theological student. My name is Harriet J——."

"Are you a Christian?" were his very first words.

"Yes," she said; "I have been a Christian for a number of years, but I am very sure I would not have been if you had not offered so many earnest, faithful prayers for me when you were my Sunday-school teacher. I have long wished to see you that I might tell you that I believe that I was converted in answer to your prayers."

Then the preacher said, as he walked away, that he could not keep from inquiring of himself again and again if there was actually any such thing in this wide world as unanswered prayer. Sunday-school teachers, parents and preachers, take courage from this and take hold of God in mighty prayer until Sunday-school classes, families and whole congregations are prayed into the glorious kingdom of God.

Acceptable Prayers

Acceptable prayers are not necessarily prayers that are manufactured out of fine, cultured language, but if, guided by reason, conscience and Scripture,

our prayers are humble, earnest and believing, that is sufficient; they are acceptable with God. He knows what we have need of before we ask Him. And He has said: "When ye pray use not vain repetitions as the heathen do for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be ye not therefore like unto them." It is not necessary that we pray according to the rules of grammar, the regulations of rhetoric, or the laws of literature, but according to the spiritual laws of God. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, for the Spirit helpeth our infirmities. God is a Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. If our prayers are acceptable then they must be spiritualized by the Holy Spirit of God.

Prayer of a Little Child

If it were possible for God to be more delighted with the prayers of one of His children than those of another, the prayer of a little child would all the more forcibly command His holy appreciation. The prayer of a little child, as it bows its little head and folds its little hands at night, asking God to bless mamma, papa, sisters, playmates, and everybody else in the world, with childish accents, broken sentences, misplaced and mispronounced words, as it tries to convey an idea of its needs and wants to the great Creator and Controller of the universe, presents to the human mind a spectacle over which invisible angels delight to hover. For if there is anything that has the power to attract holy angels

from the heights of heaven to the surface of the earth, it must be the prayer of a little child. The prayer of a little child, meek, mild and innocent, has as much power to thrill and electrify the courts of heaven with joy as the most eloquent prayer that was ever offered in the most costly cathedral that ever lifted its lofty steeple within the jurisdiction of Christendom. When our Saviour was here on earth, He expressed His appreciation for child life when He said: "Suffer little children to come unto Me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Let part of our mission on earth be to bring little children to Christ, not only by praying for them ourselves but by teaching them to pray. We will be held in high esteem in heaven if our mission on earth is to pray and to teach others to pray. And Jesus has said: "Except ye be converted and become as little children ye shall in no-wise enter the kingdom of God."

Privilege of Prayer

Of all the privileges that Divinity has ever condescended to confer upon humanity, one of the most exalted is the privilege of prayer—the privilege of speaking directly to the Creator and Ruler of the universe. We frequently hear persons boast of having conversed with some great orator, author or statesman, while at the same time they would hesitate to acknowledge that they had ever talked to God. One man boasted of his intimate acquaintance with General Grant and of the frequency with which he had engaged him in interesting conversa-

tion. Another of his familiar associations with General Lee and of the pleasant talks he had often had with him during those delightful associations. Another of his pleasant friendship with a noted orator, while another told of the never-to-be-forgotten pleasures of an occasional correspondence with a famous writer. But none of them were ready to rejoice over the conversation, association, friendship and delightful correspondence they could have so frequently enjoyed with the Lord Jesus Christ. Oh, that men would appreciate the privilege of a conversation, association and communication with the Great Giver of all Good, with the Great Father of Light, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Faith and Humility

None of us yet know how to pray. We don't know how to put that faith and humility in our prayers that should characterize a Christian's prayers. But the time is coming when we will learn. The time will come when the praying mother will offer an earnest prayer for her prodigal boy and he will get up from the gaming table and take the next train for home.

Fulton Street Prayer-Meeting

When Jeremiah Lamphier organized the Fulton Street prayer-meeting, in October, 1857, he wrought more wisely than he knew. Every day at the noon hour for fifty-three years some part of the busy

throng have stopped a while, in America's great metropolis, and offered up their prayers to God. This prayer-meeting has not only been a great moral factor in the purification and elevation of the civilization of America, but has contributed to the betterment of the civilization of the other nations of the world. A mighty prayer force in daily action, under the influence of which prodigals have been converted and returned to loving, anxious parents; husbands, brothers and fathers have been saved, reformed and made strong men in Jesus Christ. It has made hearts glad, homes bright and driven sadness and gloom from hundreds of human lives. Business men loaded with business and commercial burdens, and others fearing financial bankruptcy, have stopped here for a while to pray. Outside was the din of hurrying business, the shouts of eager men buying and selling, within a stone's throw of the financial exchanges, where millions of dollars pass from hand to hand; not far from where the courts were in session, proceeding with their trials of thrilling interest; in this pavilion of prayer, shut out from the "strife of tongues," trusting hearts have been found daily seeking God in earnest supplication. At the noon hour, while the material sun sat in his zenith over Greater New York, the Sun of Righteousness in His mediatorial meridian poured the light of joy and salvation down on a redeemed world in answer to human prayer. During his lifetime, the founder, Jeremiah Lamphier, seldom missed a meeting, and when he died the meeting did not stop but continues under

the efficient presidency of Mr. F. H. Jacobs. We thank God for the past history and the present power of the Fulton Street prayer-meeting.

The Prodigal Prayed Home

One night at the Fulton Street prayer-meeting, New York City, as the leader stood before the audience with open Bible in his hand directing the meeting, a man opened the door, entered the room, walked down the aisle and handed him a message. It was written by an old father in a nervous, trembling hand and read something like this: "I want you to join me in praying for my boy. He has run away from home. We don't know where he has gone, but think he is in Colorado. Pray for him that he may become a Christian and come back home again. If we do not hear from him soon I fear his mother will die of grief. Don't forget to pray for my boy." The Fulton Street prayer-meeting knelt and prayed to God to convert the prodigal wherever he might be and send him back to his home. In a few days the mother received a letter from her absent boy that read something like this: "Mother, I am in Colorado. I am a cowboy. I hired out to herd cattle when I first came out here. One bright morning while herding cattle, all alone, while the other boys were in camp, with the sun shining bright and beautiful, the cattle grazing on the plains, the high mountains stood to the west of me, the wide plains to the east. I sat on my pony and looked at the beautiful scene and got so lonesome. I thought about you, father, and

home, and got homesick. I felt like I wanted to pray. I got off my pony and knelt down on the prairie grass and tried to pray. While I was trying to pray to God, His Holy Spirit came upon me and converted my soul. When I work my month out, and draw my wages, I will come home. I am sorry I ran away. I am glad I am a Christian and I am sorry that I caused you and father so much trouble. I want you to pray for me that I may live a faithful, consistent, Christian life."

Prayer found him, converted him and brought him back home again. Oh, God, help us to pray until all the wandering prodigals come back to their homes, to their praying mothers, and into the kingdom of Christ. The Saviour has said: "If ye abide in Me and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you."

William Wilberforce

There is an inseparable connection existing between the Christian's intercession and the sinner's conversion. In the intimate relations of cause and effect, they are strongly linked together. The famous William Wilberforce, the great English statesman and Christian philanthropist, was once a wild, wicked, worldly young man. At the age of twenty he was elected a member of the British Parliament and soon distinguished himself by his talents and statesmanship. He professed to be a skeptic and often spoke in terms of ridicule and sarcasm of the religion of Jesus Christ. But to the very great surprise of himself and his intimate friends he sud-

denly lost his skepticism and was as suddenly thrown under a very deep conviction for sin.

"Well," he said, "while I laughed, sang, conversed and continually presented to the world an external happiness, it was all the time nothing more or less than the deepest deception, for all around my heart in the blackest mantle of darkness was an internal misery."

In search of religious instruction, he went to good old Dr. John Newton, a grand old preacher whom he had heard preach many times in the days of his childhood.

"Yes," the old preacher said, "I remember you very well. I often met you when you lived with your uncle and aunt. I have your name on my prayer list and for several years I have been praying daily for your conversion. I am so glad that God has sent you to me in answer to prayer."

Wilberforce was converted and became one of England's greatest philanthropists. This, however, is only another example of the omnipotency of prayer. So the intercessory prayer of the Christian and the conversion of the soul of the sinner are frequently found in inseparable connection, occupying to each other the intimate relation of cause and effect. Oh, God has given us a power that we can use in the world's salvation.

"And that power is prayer, which soars on high,
Through Jesus to the throne;
And moves the hand that moves the world,
To bring salvation down."

Sir Robert Peel

Once Sir Robert Peel, the great English statesman, was found by a friend praying over a bundle of letters. The friend apologized for the disturbance and was turning away when Mr. Peel stopped him by saying:

"You have not disturbed me. These are not my private but my public devotions. I was just giving the affairs of state into the hands of God, for without Him I am not sufficient for their management."

Statesmen who pray to Christ will, in the control of state, obey His laws and the identity of the civil law and the moral law will produce a harmony in the universe of God that will make the angels rejoice.

Mr. Gladstone

The day before Mr. Gladstone made his famous speech on the Irish question in 1881, he was discovered by Mrs. Gladstone and a number of his friends in the exercise of earnest prayer. This speech was one of the great efforts of his life. He believed in a God that hears and answers prayer and attributed his successful career as a statesman to its power and efficacy.

Piano

An elegant piano was in a large room where a number of musicians were performing both vocal and instrumental music. Whenever they struck a certain musical chord the piano would respond with

a similar tone, as if an invisible hand were touching its keys, although no one was near the instrument. Whenever there was a discord the piano was unresponsive and would only discharge its music in response to a harmony of sound. The science of acoustics here reveals to us the power of harmony and the weakness of discord. If a human life is in perfect harmony with God and man it can touch the key of prayer and a sympathetic chord in the loving heart of an affectionate heavenly Father will quickly respond with an immediate answer. When the infant church was in one accord on the day of Pentecost, it was filled with the Holy Ghost. Harmony is one condition of spiritual reception. It is hard for a church in discord to receive the spirit of God. The science of spiritual acoustics reveals to us the principle on which the prayer force can receive a successful operation—harmony with God and man.

Universal Neglect

If everybody should quit praying what would be the consequence? If all earth should neglect for one week to pray to God, who could even approximately picture the terrible result? The cause of evil would rapidly advance. Satan would establish strongholds in the earth's very centre. Our prayers are the spiritual chains, made strong by the blood of Jesus, that bind our earth to heaven, and should they be broken the earth would roll from its present spiritual orbit to the sulphurous regions of hell to smoulder in its bottomless pits forever.

Oh, may the destructive sword of spiritual lethargy never succeed in severing those telegraphic wires of communication that bind earth to heaven, that bind man to God.

Importunity

Let us not become weary in praying. "Let us not become weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." Our Saviour spake a parable unto them to this end: "That men ought always to pray and not to faint, saying, There was in a city a judge who feared not God neither regarded man, and there was a widow in that city, and she came unto him, saying: Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while, but afterwards he said within himself: Though I fear not God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

"And the Lord said: Hear what the unjust judge sayeth. And shall not God avenge His own elect though He bear long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily, nevertheless, when the Son of Man cometh shall He find faith on the earth."

The Mexican Soldier

Several years ago during a revival an old gray-haired man stood up in church in a testimony meeting and made a very interesting talk. He said:

"I am an old Mexican soldier. Many years ago

I enlisted in the United States army and went away from home to fight in the Mexican War. My widowed mother was opposed to my enlistment. She did not want me to become a soldier and go away from home. But regardless of her opposition I was disobedient and went to war. Then she wanted me to become a Christian before I went away, but I would playfully tell her that I would wait until I returned from the war. I remember the day I left home. My mother gave me a gold watch and said: 'My son, this was your dead father's watch, but I want to give it to you. It is yours and I want you to wear it, and every day when it is twelve o'clock I wish you to look at it and remember that your old mother is at home in your room, kneeling by the bed you used to occupy, praying for your salvation.' She at the same time gave me a small Bible. She had marked certain passages of Scripture in it and requested me to read a portion of it every day. I took it from her just because I had a high regard for my mother, but I never intended to read it, and had very few thoughts of ever becoming a Christian. Four long months had passed by and I was hundreds of miles away from home. The army was making a long, tiresome march through the forests of Mexico. I looked at my watch. It was exactly twelve o'clock. I thought of my mother far away in my bedroom kneeling before God, at that very hour praying for my salvation. I felt a desire to pray for myself, the first desire of this kind I had experienced since the days of my childhood. I requested an officer to relieve me for a short time.

He granted my request and I retired from the ranks into the forest and, under one of those great trees, I knelt and poured out my soul to God in prayer. My prayers were answered, my soul was converted. I arose from my knees and returned to my place in the ranks, a different man, a new man—a Christian. I have now made an enlistment in another army, the army of the living God. I became a soldier of the cross. I have fought many a battle. I have won many a victory. I know that Christ is true. I have watched by the church in bivouac, fought by it in battle, never dreamed of desertion. Although a war-scarred veteran, I am looking for a promotion from the church militant on earth to the church triumphant in heaven, the church triumphant that now stands watching, waiting, beckoning for me to come and swell its numbers in the battlements of glory. My precious mother, whose earnest prayers brought me into the kingdom of God, has long since preceded me to that Land of Light, but by the grace of God I intend to meet her there. I am working on, praying on, and trusting in the Lord, and 'when the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.'

"What this world needs," said the old man, "is more consecrated Christian mothers to pray for their children and to pray for their homes."

And the old man was right. You give America a generation of Christian mothers and the next generation will be a generation of Christians, indeed, with scarcely a solitary exception. Oh, my God, save the mothers of America!

Other Worlds and Stars

On a beautiful night, when the sky is clear, and no cloud obscures in the least degree the star-spangled canopy above, lift your eyes and look, beholding the stars, worlds and systems, rolling, revolving and circulating through the boundless fields of endless space, and ask yourself the question if these worlds are inhabited by immortal, created, accountable beings, and if these beings enjoy the same great privilege accorded the rational inhabitants of earth? The privilege of talking to God? We speak to God from our hearts. He replies to us by granting our requests. Thus we converse with the King of the Universe.

Private Prayer

Oh, the privilege of private prayer, when the soul need hold nothing in reservation, but can tell it all to God. How delightful to resort in secrecy to the privacy of our rooms and there hold sweet communion with God, until, when we depart from this trysting place of happiness and joy, our whole being is radiant with hope and luminous with love, like the face of Moses when he interviewed God on the Mount. For our Saviour has said: "When thou hast shut thy door pray to thy Father which is in secret and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."

Mighty Magnetism

As a mighty magnetism attracts the mariner's compass to the north, so our prayers attract the attention of heaven to earth. If you wish to get the

attention of heaven you pray, for "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much," and "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and His ears are open unto their cry."

Prayer Like Incense

An acceptable prayer ascends to heaven like the fragrant perfumes of sweet scented incense, and, settling around the Great White Throne, God is delighted, and immediately there issues from the Powers of heaven an invisible, though mighty influence, that, descending to earth, forms a halo of holy love and a barrier of protection around the object of its petitions, modifying his life and performing results beyond the most extravagant expectations of the petitioner.

Voice From the Tomb

Many years ago a widowed mother died, leaving her only child, a little boy, alone in the world. She was too poor to leave him any of this world's goods, she did not even leave him a dollar. But she was a godly woman and had often prayed that her little boy might grow up to be a good man and a Christian. After his mother's death he was soon surrounded by better material circumstances, received a good education, and in a few years became a rich man and ranked among the wealthy men in the city where he lived. It was now twenty years since his mother's death and he was still unconverted. He was not a Christian. His mother's prayers had not been answered. He thought that

it would be showing the proper respect to his mother, and also that it would be the right thing for him to do, to take her bones from the neglected graveyard in the lonely country place and bury them in his own nice lot in the city cemetery. During the day of the disinterment he could not keep from thinking of the hundreds and hundreds of times his mother had prayed for his conversion and that her prayers had never yet been answered. These thoughts and memories deeply stirred his heart and that very night he sought the Lord and found Him in a bright and happy conversion. The mother's prayers were answered after all and her son was brought to Christ. Oh, you mothers, pray on, pray on, pray on, and if the loved ones for whom you are praying are not converted now, perhaps after years have gone by and your body is smouldering in the dust of the earth, the voice of prayer from the silence of the tomb may lead the object of your petitions into the kingdom of God.

Martin Luther

"Ask of Me things to come concerning My sons, and concerning the work of My hands, command ye Me."

It is said that Martin Luther had such power with God in prayer that he could secure from Him whatever he desired. At one time during the Reformation an awful crisis occurred, when only the strongest faith could see any cause whatever for the slightest hope of the ultimate triumph of the religion of Luther. A persecution had broken out

with such a tremendous force and power that it threatened to carry to destruction everything that was conducive to the advancement of the Reformation. Luther's friends were few, feeble and faltering, while his enemies were many, strong and exultant. But regardless of all these discouraging oppositions, Luther never wavered a particle, but, according to his usual custom, he went to his place of prayer and sinking upon his knees in earnest supplication, he implored Divine Omnipotency to reinforce with sufficient help the necessities of human impotency. It is said that he prayed especially for the Emperor of Germany, basing his prayers upon Proverbs xxi. 1: "The king's heart is in the hands of the Lord, as the rivers of water: He turneth it whithersoever He will." He wrestled alone with God like Jacob of old until he had won the victory. Then arising from his knees he walked from his place of prayer into the room where his family was assembled and with joy in his heart and sunshine in his face, he lifted his hands towards heaven and shouted:

"We have overcome; we have overcome; yes, we have overcome."

And, indeed, he had overcome, as was plainly proven to the world a short time afterwards. It was discovered that just at that very time when Luther claimed the victory, Emperor Charles V issued his proclamation of religious toleration in Germany. That wonderful prayer of Martin Luther's not only immediately but permanently changed the whole religious complexion of the entire world and

has wielded over it an influence for good from the moment it was offered until the present time and it will continue to exercise an influence for good until the time arrives when the Judgment shall close the period of prayer and praying will cease forever. Oh, God, give us more men who can pray like Luther, like Elijah, like Daniel, like Paul, and "righteousness will cover the earth like waters cover the sea."

John Knox

John Knox was a mighty man, noted for his faith, his hope, and his wonderful power with God in prayer. His name will shine as a brilliant star in the firmament of the church until the history of the world is completed. At one time Queen Mary of Scotland declared that she feared the prayers of John Knox more than she feared all the armies of Europe. Queen Mary was the daughter of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, and under the dangerous teachings of her mother, she was taught the erroneous doctrines of Catholicism and consequently brought up in the dark faith of Rome. She became a dangerous instrument in the hands of the Romanish priests and Catholicism generally for the destruction of Protestantism. Soon after her ascension to the English throne, the jails were filled with Protestants; the fires of martyrdom were kindled at Smithfield, and the whole land was one scene of desolation, indeed, while Protestants were hunted and destroyed like wild beasts on the mountains. Bloody Mary was the name given to England's

queen, and a very appropriate name it was. The great heart of John Knox was deeply stirred by the awful things that were continually transpiring. It is said that he would stand on his knees or lay prostrate on his face for hours at a time in prayer to God for the salvation of his people, and at times would cry out: "Oh, God, give me Scotland or I will die." And God gave him Scotland. One day during an awful crisis in the bloody persecution, Knox, together with several of his friends, were engaged in prayer in a certain place for an emancipation from this cruel administration of British government and its destructive martyrdom, when Knox shouted: "Deliverance has come." And sure enough, deliverance had come, for as fast as a courier could ride from London to the city where Knox was praying, the news was carried of Bloody Mary's death. She had died suddenly, and, as a comparison of time afterwards revealed, at the very moment when John Knox, miles away, had shouted that deliverance had come. Surely a spiritual telegraphy frequently communicates to praying hearts the glorious news of answered prayer and that every one can have his prayers answered is plainly proven by the best of Scriptural evidence, for Jesus Himself has said: "Every one that asketh receiveth."

Charles G. Finney

One of the most powerful and successful revival preachers in the United States of America between the years of 1825 and 1835 was Charles G. Finney.

His revival work extended here and there in different parts of New England, but was confined largely to the state of New York. The thoroughness of the conversions that occurred in his revivals was so manifested in the subsequent life of the converted person that it not only convinced the world of the reality of religion but closed the slanderous mouth of blatant infidelity. One of the most distinguishing characteristics of his revivals was the constant exercise of earnest, importunate, believing prayer. His theory was that we must cling to Christ with the hands of faith, and cry to Him with an earnestness, importunity and constancy in prayer if we would witness the fruits of that genuine revival that results in an essential link in the chain of causes that invariably result in the production of a revival. Prayer and truth are both absolutely necessary in the conversion of men. But one great mistake that Christian workers too frequently make is that they depend almost exclusively on the power of truth and neglect to utilize the other necessary branch of the essential means which is effectual, fervent, believing prayer. They seem to forget that the mind of man will not believe the truth of God without the help of the Holy Spirit, and that the Holy Spirit invariably works in human hearts in answer to human prayers. "If ye then being evil know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?"

Men preach the truth, talk the truth and circulate

the truth in tracts, papers and books, and then wonder why it is that they do not succeed. They actually forget that they would have succeeded beyond the possibility of a doubt if they had prayed to God to send His Holy Spirit and prepare the hearts of the people for the truth's reception. Oh, that every one who professes to love the Lord would only realize the inseparable connection between the praying of the Christian and the salvation of the sinner.

"Author of the new creation,
Come with unction and with power.
Make our hearts Thy habitation,
On our souls Thy graces shower.

"Hear, oh, hear our supplication,
Blessed Spirit, God of Peace.
Rest upon this congregation
With the fullness of Thy grace."

DeWitt Talmage

Many years ago a husband and wife went from Somerville where they lived to Baskerville where Rev. Chas. G. Finney was conducting a series of revival meetings. They attended his meetings and were deeply impressed, not only to lead better lives themselves but to use every agency in their power to induce their children to become Christians. The evening they returned home from the meeting they were very much surprised to find their three children, two sons and one daughter, making preparations to respond to an invitation to attend a very

gay entertainment. The mother called the children into her room and said:

"Children, your father and I, during our absence, attended a revival meeting at Baskerville, conducted by Rev. Chas. G. Finney, and we have resolved not only to lead Christian lives ourselves, but to induce our children to come and go with us to heaven. I prefer that you do not go to the entertainment, but if it will be a great disappointment to you not to go I will not require any of you to stay at home. If you do I want you to know that I will not cease to pray for you from the time you start until you return home, that you may be converted and become the children of God."

The children went and the mother prayed. They did not enjoy themselves very much, for the very thought that mother was at home praying for their salvation made their surroundings uncomfortable to them. They did not return until daybreak, neither did their mother cease to pray until they returned. During the day the parents heard their daughter weeping in her room. They went in and found her penitently seeking the Lord with all her heart. They prayed with her and pointed her to the "Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world." She was converted and told them to go to the barn where both her brothers were earnestly seeking the Lord. The parents went and found their oldest son kneeling on the barn floor crying to God for help. They gave him the necessary instruction, and he too was soon converted and afterwards became an eminent minister of the Gospel.

They then sought their second son and found him near by in the wagon house, earnestly seeking the Lord. While they were praying with him he, too, was gloriously converted to God. The pious mother, stirred to importunate prayer by Charles G. Finney's sermons, had actually in one night prayed all of her children into the kingdom of God.

David, the younger son, unwilling to keep to himself the glorious news of his wonderful conversion, walked across the fields to the house on the adjoining farm, where the young lady lived to whom he was engaged to be married. He related to her his religious experiences, and she too was converted and consecrated her young life to the service of the Lord. A sweeping revival began, of which that mother's prayer-room appeared to be the storm centre, a revival that swept the whole country, and two hundred more souls were converted in the little church at Somerville.

David and his sweetheart were afterwards married. They became the parents of several children, whom they determined to raise for God. They made a contract with their Christian neighbours to help them pray their children into His spiritual kingdom. Their prayers were answered and all their children were converted. The last one to profess faith in Christ and rejoice in a precious Christian experience was their noble son, DeWitt, who afterwards became the eminent DeWitt Talmage, the famous American pulpiteer, whose eloquent sermonic productions have gospelized so many homes

and spiritualized so many lives and evangelized so many hearts through the agency of the secular press. Dr. Talmage often said:

"All that I am, all that I expect to be, and all the good that I have ever accomplished in this world can no doubt be indirectly attributed to the all night prayer of my grandmother when she prayed for the salvation of her children."

She was stimulated to the exercise of prayer by the Holy Ghost sermons of Charles G. Finney. Oh, may all the preachers be baptized with the Holy Ghost and all the mothers with the spirit of prayer. In one night's time an evangelizing force will go forth in the world and nations will be born in a day.

The Converted Coal Miner

A drunkard and his destitute family lived in a coal mining town in a Western state. He was a coal miner, had worked in the mines for many years and received good wages for his work. But he spent all his money in saloons and for ten years had not contributed a cent towards his family's support. His wife, a Christian lady, though not possessing very much physical strength, worked the best she could to furnish her family with food and clothing. She worked at the wash-tub, with her needle, every way she knew, but often was unable to furnish her little ones with the necessities of life. For lack of food they were often hungry. The children were thinly clad and in the winter time frequently went without shoes. The kind mother did the best she could, but her body was not strong,

and her small earnings were insufficient to make her children comfortable. Though with a patience that Christianity only can impart, she worked and prayed on, making the best she could of her unfortunate surroundings. The husband drawing his wages and spending them for drink would come home intoxicated and abuse the little helpless children that called him father, and beat his wife when she was unable to provide such things as his brutal appetite desired. The neighbours came in, talked with her, offered her their sympathy and advised her to leave him.

"He never contributes a cent to your support," they said, "nor to the support of the children, nor to his own support. You board him yourself and make all these sacrifices for him and then he beats you for doing it. If I were you I would not live with the drunken brute."

"Don't you call my husband a brute," she very earnestly replied. "I know that John is dissipated and that he does not always do right, but I remember how kind and good he used to be during the first years of our married life. And I believe he is going to reform and become kind and good like he was then. I pray every day and every night for God to convert him and I believe that He will. For God has told us in the Bible that 'Men ought always to pray and not to faint,' and 'All things whatsoever ye ask in prayer believing ye shall receive.' I can't keep from believing that my prayers will be answered and that he will be saved yet, and before very long."

A Methodist preacher was conducting a successful revival meeting in the little white chapel in the coal mining town. It was Friday evening and the dissipated miner was passing by the church to his home. He saw a large crowd standing around the church doors unable to get in because of the large congregation that had assembled.

"What does all this mean?" he inquired, as he saw the great crowd around the doors.

"Oh," they replied, "there is a strange preacher in there doing some wonderful preaching and people are professing to be converted while he preaches. They claim God gives them new hearts and makes them new creatures. What do you think about it?"

"I don't think anything about it," he said, "except this is the biggest crowd I have seen go to church since I have lived in the town, and I have lived here a good many years. I guess I will go in and look at a man that can draw a crowd like that in this town."

He pushed his way through the crowd, entered the church and stood near the door, with his rough mining clothes on and the dust of the coal mine still on his face and hands. The preacher's text was "God is love." He told the sinner that God loved his soul but hated his sins; that He sent His Son into the world to save the sinner; that He came "to seek and save the lost"; that "He died for the ungodly" and that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

The next day in the coal mine the miners said to him:

"We saw you at church last night."

"Yes," he said. "I haven't been to church before in many years."

"Well, how did you like the preacher?" they asked.

"Oh," he said, "he will do very well to preach to women and children, telling them that God is love, but to convert an old sinner like me he will have to preach the terrors of the law, preach about death, hell and the judgment—that the wages of sin is death."

But all the time he was talking against the preacher and against his kind of preaching, he was wondering if God was love and if He actually loved him, after he had been such a blasphemer, such a drunkard, such a Sabbath breaker, such a wife-beater. Down deep in his heart he was wondering if God loved him.

The next day was Saturday. He finished his day's work, drew his week's wages, which amounted to fifteen dollars, for he received two dollars and a half a day, and then started to the saloon to engage in his regular weekly dissipations. To reach the saloon he had to pass by the church. He saw the overflowing crowd standing around the church door unable to secure an entrance. He felt impressed to go in and hear the preacher preach another sermon. He pushed his way through the crowd, entered the church, but could find no place to sit down. He was tired and did not feel like standing, so, walk-

ing down the church aisle, he found a place near the pulpit on a seat among some little boys so near the front that the preacher said he could have touched him with his finger.

"While I was preaching," the preacher afterwards remarked, "I saw him weep. The big tears started from his eyes, rolled down his cheeks, black with the dust from the coal mine. He wiped them away with his rough sleeve."

After the sermon the preacher put a proposition requesting those who desired to become Christians to stand. The coal miner stood up. The preacher inquired of him what particular part of the sermon that night fit his case.

"Nothing in the sermon to-night," he replied, "but last night you said that 'God is love' and that He loved the sinner's soul but hated his sins. Does the Bible say that 'God is love'?"

Turning over the leaves of the Bible he showed the penitent man where it said that "God is love" in a number of different places. As soon as he was convinced of God's love he could not keep from loving God and as soon as he loved God he was converted. There is a principle of reciprocity planted in every heart. When it is convinced that it is loved by another it reciprocates that love in return. When this man was convinced that God loved him, he loved God in return, and the result was his conversion. He arose from his knees where the minister was praying with him and instructing him and started home. He did not want to go to the saloon then; he wanted to go home to

his wife and children. When a man is converted he does not want to go to the saloon, but he wants to go and tell his happy experience to his loved ones at home.

About this time on Saturday nights he usually returned home drunk and abused his wife and children. His wife was waiting for him. The children had not gone to bed. They never did on Saturday night until their father returned. The wife was keeping his supper warm for him. Kneeling by a chair she was also praying for his salvation. They heard the familiar footsteps coming down the sidewalk. She arose from her kneeling position and stood between her frightened children and the door, as if to protect them from their drunken father with her frail body. He reached the door, opened it, but not like he used to. He opened it gently, stepped in and stood in the presence of his family. He began to smile.

"Don't be afraid, wife," he said. "I am not going to hurt you. I am not drunk—I am converted. I have not been to the saloon. I have been to church and I am converted."

"Oh!" she exclaimed. For a moment she imagined that he had lost his mind. That too much drink had dethroned his reason—that he had become suddenly insane and that his mind had taken a religious turn. She felt like she was standing in the presence of a maniac. But the children believed him. Taking the baby in his arms, he pressed it to his breast, kissed its pale face and said, as he held it up between him and heaven:

"From this time on I will be a good father to you. I will never beat you again. I will put shoes on these little bare feet and warmer clothes on your little body. I will furnish food for your hungry mouth. I will be a true father to you."

Pressing it to his heart again, as if to seal the vow he had just made, he placed it on the floor. Then taking in his arms the next child he made a similar vow, and on, and on until he had vowed before God that he would protect and support all of his seven children. At last he approached his astonished wife, who even yet was not prepared to believe his conversion. He put his hand in his pocket and pulled out his week's wages and said:

"Wife, if I were drunk, I would not have this. Wife, you take it—it is yours. Buy things for yourself and the children. It is more than you could earn in a month."

She threw her glad arms around her husband's neck and wept.

"Oh, John," she said, "the news is too good. The neighbours came in last week and wanted me to leave you, but I told them that I was praying for you and I knew that God would answer my prayers and you would be converted."

The preacher who related this incident said:

"It may be that I will lose my voice some time so that I can't preach, but if I do I hope that I will not lose my muscular power nor my brain power, for I want to work and support the Gospel in the country where I live. This grand old Gospel of Jesus Christ that puts shoes on bare feet, food in

hungry mouths, clothes on thinly clad bodies, and sends happiness and joy blazing like sunshine through homes of darkness, poverty and destitution. Oh, what a privilege to give to the support of such a glorious Gospel. Praise God for the Gospel of Jesus Christ that teaches the doctrine of prayer."

The Power of Prayer

It is useless to speak of the power of prayer. Some of you know much about its power. It is useless to tell you about Hezekiah's restored health, of Elijah and the great rain, or of the post-mortem examination of the Apostle James that showed his knees to be callous from much praying. It is useless for me to tell you of Whitefield on his face before God, of Richard Baxter who stained the walls of his study with the breath of prayer, or of how prayer walked the cave as a lion tamer in the days of Daniel, of how prayer threw open the prison doors for Peter, rolled back the Red Sea for Moses, and made the very heavens bend for the sainted John Wesley. If John Livingston could in one little church at one service bring 500 souls to God, why cannot we in one revival meeting bring fifty to Him as easily as Livingston brought 500? If John Knox could place the lever of prayer beneath Scotland and shake it from one end to the other, why cannot we turn our prayers loose in this country and shake it from centre to circumference? We can if we will. It is the same Holy Ghost, the same Great Jehovah, the same Christian religion. God has not changed a particle. I need not tell you

of the time when your own soul was sinking and God heard your cry, of that time when your own child was dying and God granted your petition, or of the time when your own fortune failed you and God filled your empty pantry with the measure of meal and the cruse of oil. We know not what others may do but as for us we are going to pray. We are going to turn the roaring battery of the artillery of prayer loose on the advancing hosts of sin and mow them down by the hundreds and thousands before the devil has had time to heave a single fortification. Let us station our prayers like grim sentinels on the very outskirts of our country and stay the charging squadrons of vice that threaten to rush over our thoughtless people and sweep them into the angry whirlpools of sin and sink them forever beneath the reach of rescue. Oh, my friends, it is time for action. The angry clouds of vice and sin are gathering in the distance while the howling storms of Satan's wrath are raging within. Let us pray. Let us pray until the answer to our prayers, like the commanding voice of Jehovah, will hush the howling winds and still the surging waves of the wild sea of corruption that threatens to roll its filthy billows over our 90,000,000 of American people and deluge in everlasting ruin our God-given American homes. Yes, let us pray on to the terminus of our probation and then:

"This robe of flesh we'll drop and rise
To seize the everlasting prize;
And shout while passing through the air,
Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer."

The Converted Engineer

An engineer, who controlled the large engine on the Burlington railroad that drew the long passenger train, was a Christian man. It was eight o'clock at night. A Christian friend was riding with him on the engine. They were approaching a Western city. Passing through its suburban districts they were heading for the big union depot.

"Look," said the engineer, "the next house is mine."

His friend looked and saw a cozy cottage home, while at the window were three children with their mother looking and waving at the passing train. The engineer also looked, smiled and waved his hand in return. Turning to his friend he said:

"Those are my wife and children. Every other night at eight o'clock they take their places at that window and watch my train go by. The children are dressed for bed and with their night-dresses on they kneel on a big trunk by the window and watch my train go by. Then they bow their heads and say their prayers. And they always pray for me. Their mother has taught them to. It does me so much good to have them pray for me. I believe that their prayers help to keep me straight. I used to be crooked. I was about as rough a man as lived in this city. I would drink, and fight, and swear and gamble and do a great many things that were wrong. But I married a Christian woman and that Christian woman prayed for me every day and every night. When God sent a little child to our home, as soon as it got big

enough, its mother taught it to pray for its wicked, profane, dissipated father. God gave me three precious little children, one little boy and two little girls, so four earnest prayers went up to heaven every day for my salvation. She taught the children to kneel on that big trunk by the window every night as my train went by, so I would know that they were thinking about me and praying for me. I tell you their prayers made me think. At last I had a lay-off for a whole week. I went with my wife down to the big Methodist revival meeting. I was converted and ever since I have been a different man. I don't want to swear, drink, fight, gamble or do anything wrong. And I love to pray, too, and read my Bible and go to church whenever I have a chance. My family, instead of the saloon, now gets the benefit of my money. I have gotten out of debt and I feel and act like a new man. I tell you there is one thing that I know, and that is this: that religion can save a man from sin. Christ has saved me in answer to the prayers of my wife and children. I like this new life better and better every day. I thank God that He hears and answers prayer." Oh, remember and do not forget it, that there is a very close relation existing between the prayer of the Christian and the salvation of the sinner. Don't forget to continually pray for the salvation of your unsaved friends, that they may be saved from sin. For the prayers of the Christian and the salvation of the sinner are closely linked together.

Sight Guns

On the great war-ships, I am told, the successful cannoneer usually sights his gun on his knees, and that the gun thus sighted seldom misses its mark. So it is in the Divine Navy. The gospel preacher who makes his sermons and sights the gospel gun on his knees will seldom miss the mark.

Thirteen Consecutive Hours

An old preacher preached a powerful sermon before an annual conference. He stirred the hearts of his auditors with a strange and mighty power. After the sermon, a young preacher came up to him and asked:

"Tell me the secret of such wonderful preaching."

"My young brother, did you ever pray?" replied the old preacher. "Did you ever pray thirteen consecutive hours over the preparation of a sermon?"

"No," he said. "I never prayed that long over a sermon."

"I did," said the old man, "in the preparation of that sermon. That is all the secret I know. Earnest praying makes powerful preaching."

The Waiting Congregation

The congregation had assembled at the church. The time for the preaching service had arrived, but the preacher was not there. A messenger was sent to his room but soon returned and reported that the preacher was in his room but the door was locked, so he did not get to see him, but could only hear him talking to some one on the inside. He had

heard him say that he would not go to church unless the person to whom he was talking went with him. One of the intimate friends of the preacher arose in the congregation, after hearing the report, and said:

"He will be here and the Person to whom he is talking will come with him. We will have a gracious meeting to-day. You see if we don't, for the Person to whom he is talking is God. He is just praying—that's all."

Just then the church door opened and the preacher came in. Walking to the pulpit he preached a sermon with such supernatural power that he stirred human hearts and saved lost men from sin. The twentieth century preacher should be a man of prayer, and then souls will be converted under his ministry.

The Two Brothers

A few years ago a Christian mother went into a little prayer-meeting in the city of Philadelphia and requested the Christian people to pray for the salvation of her two dissipated sons. She said she feared they were going to ruin as fast as they could possibly go. They would frequently get drunk, and had recently been on a big spree, and were now beyond her control. Though they were young and had just started in the way to ruin, still if something was not done to save them and that very soon, she was sure that both her boys would finally fill drunkards' graves.

"Oh, my heart is almost broken, Christian

people," she said. "Will you not join me in praying to God to save my two dear boys from a drunkard's life and a drunkard's grave?"

They knelt and prayed with her for the salvation of her sons. The next morning the two brothers had an appointment to meet on the corner of Thirteenth and Market Streets and go from that place on another round of dissipation. They knew nothing of Mr. Moody's revival meetings in progress in that city at that time, conducted in a large building on that very corner. One brother arrived at the appointed place before the other and while he was waiting for him to come he saw the great crowd of people pushing their ways into the large building where the revival was being conducted. He was curious to see what it all meant, where the people were going, and what they were going to do, so he followed them in. The spirit of God fell upon him and convicted him so deeply that his convictions soon resulted in a glorious conversion of his soul to Christ. He became one of the brightest converts of that meeting, and attracted the attention of a great many people by his demonstrations of joy. His brother, coming to the street corner where they were to meet and not finding him there, also tried to enter the building, but found it too crowded to secure an entrance. He, too, through curiosity, went into another meeting, was wonderfully converted and went home happy. After he reached home and while he was telling his mother what the Lord had done for him, the older brother came in with the glad tidings of his con-

version. There was great joy in that home that day and that mother was the happiest mother in Philadelphia. A few days afterwards one of the brothers told his experience in the young converts' meeting. No sooner had he told his story and sat down than the other got up and said:

"I am the other brother and I want to say that while only a few days ago our home was very miserable indeed, we now have the happiest home in Philadelphia. It is made happy all because of the religion of Jesus Christ."

We need more praying mothers to pray for the salvation of their wayward children. We need more Christian mothers to enlist other Christian people in uniting with them in besieging a throne of grace in behalf of their loved ones lost in sin. For God will hear and answer prayer. He has said: "All things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer believing ye shall receive." "And God is not a man that He should lie, nor the son of man that He should repent. Hath He not said and shall He not do it and hath He not spoken and shall He not make it good?"

The Blind Man Healed

Many centuries ago our Saviour was in the city of Bethsaida, a city situated on the shore of the sea of Galilee. A number of persons brought to Him a blind man and besought Jesus that He would touch him, that his physical blindness might disappear and that he might immediately receive his physical eyesight. Jesus listened to their petitions

and in answer to their prayers led the blind man out of the city, and touching his eyes with His omnipotent fingers of healing, destroyed his blindness and immediately imparted to him physical eyesight, so he could look with joy and wonder upon the beauties and sublimities of the material universe by which he was surrounded.

In imitation of those people of Bethsaida let us lead our friends who are blind with sin to the Saviour of sinners, and pray Him to touch them with the powers of the Holy Spirit that their spiritual blindness may disappear and that they may immediately receive their spiritual eyesight. Jesus will listen to our petitions and in answer to our prayers will touch their sin-blinded eyes with His omnipotent fingers of salvation, destroying their blindness and immediately imparting to them their spiritual eyesight, so that they can look with joy and wonder upon the beauties and sublimities of the spiritual universe by which they are surrounded. Jesus Christ was the divine oculist, who, when He was here on earth, exercised His powers over the material universe and opened the eyes of the physically blind that they might see the beauties of the world, but now since His enthronement on His mediatorial throne at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He exercises His powers over the spiritual universe and opens the eyes of blind sinners that they may see the beauties of His grace. And He does this in answer to prayer. For the Scriptures command us to "Pray for another that ye may be healed." God will hear and answer prayer, for "God is not

a man that He should lie, neither the son of man that He should repent. Hath He not said and shall He not do it, or hath He not spoken and shall He not make it good?"

Bishop Charles C. McCabe

Bishop Charles C. McCabe, who was one of the most eloquent and popular bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, claimed that he was converted when he was only eight years of age, through the influence of a pious father's prayers.

"Every day at the noon hour," he said, "I saw my father come from his place of private prayer with a supernatural glow of heavenly light in his eyes, and I knew he had been praying for me. It made such a mighty impression on my child mind that I resolved to improve the first public opportunity to seek religion at the altars of the church. My father was a Methodist exhorter, and the opportunity presented itself just after one of my father's impassioned exhortations in the church, when he invited people to the altar of prayer. A large number of little boys from seven to ten years of age went to the altar that night. I went with them and had scarcely knelt down when my soul was gloriously converted by the power of the Spirit. It was the influence of my father's prayers that induced me to go to the altar. It was his prayers that prepared him that night to deliver his powerful exhortation, and it was also his prayers that prepared my young heart for its reception. So I was converted and saved from

sin through the influence of my pious father's prayers."

Bishop McCabe was not only one of the finest preachers, but one of the finest singers in the United States. He has sung and preached and prayed thousands and thousands of people into the kingdom of God. He might have led as many thousands down to an awful perdition and with them been lost forever, if it had not been that he had a praying father who prayed earnestly every day for his boy's salvation. Oh, for more praying fathers to pray their boys into the glorious kingdom of God. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Francis E. Clark

Francis E. Clark, who was the originator of the Christian Endeavour Society, claims that he was brought to Christ through the influence of a pious mother's prayers. His father died when Francis was but a babe. His mother, seeking to be both a father and a mother to her son, whom she loved so well, baptized him with her prayers and blessings and leaving him the legacy of a rich Christian example, went to heaven. He was only seven years old when his mother died, but her prayers, he said, made such a mighty impression upon him that he could not keep from becoming a Christian. When he was twelve years old, one night he walked into a mid-week prayer-meeting in Claremont, New Hampshire, and gave himself to Christ. He afterwards became one of the most eminent and useful

ministers in the United States. On February 2, 1881, in the Williston Congregational Church in Portland, Maine, he organized the first Christian Endeavour Society the world has ever seen. There are now 50,000 Christian Endeavour societies with a membership of over 2,000,000 throughout the different nations of the globe. If the mother of Francis E. Clark had never prayed, perhaps her son would never have become a Christian and possibly we would never have had the Christian Endeavour Society. What a blessing has Lydia Fletcher Clark been to the world in giving to it, through her son, the benediction of the Christian Endeavour Society, none but infinite wisdom will ever know.

Prayer and Gunpowder

"Prayer is more powerful," Mr. Moody once said, "than gunpowder."

"How do you know?" a friend inquired.

"Well," he said, "during the Civil War I was holding a meeting in Nashville, Tenn. A young soldier came to me one day with a letter in his hand, trembling from head to foot.

"Mr. Moody," he said, "I want you to pray for me."

"Why," I asked, "what is the matter now?"

"I have just received a letter from my sister," he said, "and she tells me in this letter that every evening as the sun goes down she gets down on her knees in prayer to God for my salvation. And I want you to pray for me too that I may be saved. I don't know why it is but I have been trembling

like a leaf ever since I have received this letter, and I am afraid that something dreadful is going to happen unless I am converted."

The prayer was offered and the soldier was saved. This strong, young soldier, Moody said, was as brave a man as he ever knew; he could face the cannon's mouth; he could stand in the thickest and hottest of the battle while the blood of his comrades dashed upon his garments, and never begin to tremble. But with all his bravery he was an infidel; he did not believe in prayer, Christianity or his mother's Bible. But, regardless of this, his sister's prayer of faith, put in operation 600 miles away, made him tremble from head to foot with the ague of conviction. The prayer of faith could make him tremble, but the dangers of battle could not. Therefore, I say that prayer is more powerful than gunpowder. This boy had had a praying mother, his mother had died and gone away, but she left behind her a praying daughter, and this praying daughter had prayed a godless brother into the glorious kingdom of God. Oh, how many more sons and daughters would be saved if this world had more praying fathers and more praying mothers. "Ask of Me things to come concerning My sons and concerning the work of My hands command ye Me."

The Tarkio Revival

The great revival meeting at Tarkio, Atchison County, Missouri, conducted by Rev. M. B. Williams, resulting in the conversion and addition of

so many people to the different churches of Tarkio, was simply the result of earnest, believing, united prayer. The meeting began November 4, 1900, and continued three weeks. The week the meeting closed, the people came forward and as a contribution towards the compensation of the evangelist and a cancellation of the expense of the meeting, laid upon the altars of the church, as a free will offering, the splendid sum of $3,000. The spirit of liberality as well as the spirit of conversion was given to the people in answer to prayer. The reason I say this is because at the very beginning of the meeting 1,200 covenant cards were distributed and signed by the Christian people of that town, agreeing to pray every day for the Holy Spirit to manifest His reviving and converting powers among the people of Tarkio. Their prayers were answered and 562 persons professed saving power in Christ; 562 persons were converted from sin to righteousness, from Satan to God. Praise God for the privilege of prayer, for the privilege of securing the help of Him who said: "All power is given unto Me in heaven and earth."

The Pentecost Revival

The history of the Church is the history of revivals and the history of revivals is the history of prayer. On the very first pages of the history of the Christian Church is a vivid description of a glorious revival that occurred in answer to earnest, importunate, believing prayer. It was the revival of Pentecost in the city of Jerusalem, nearly 2,000 years ago.

One hundred and twenty followers of a crucified, resurrected and ascended Christ had assembled in an upper room in the city of Jerusalem and watched and waited and prayed for ten long days for a baptism of the Holy Ghost. "And when the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place, and suddenly there came a sound from heaven as a mighty rushing wind and filled all the house where they were sitting and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost," and the result was that 3,000 persons were converted and added to the church in a few eventful hours. Here we have a Scriptural example and a Scriptural proof of prayer as a necessary preliminary to a genuine revival of religion. So the history of the Church, the history of revivals and the history of prayer are so inseparably connected that a disconnection by division is an impossibility. Every genuine revival is old Pentecost repeated.

"And we believe to us and ours,
The apostolic promise given.
We wait the Pentecostal showers,
The Holy Ghost sent down from heaven.

"Assembled here with one accord,
Calmly we wait the promised grace,
The purchase of our dying Lord.
Come Holy Ghost and fill the place."

The Red Schoolhouse

Sometimes a glorious revival visits a community in answer to the earnest prayers of a solitary individual. Several years ago in a small town in the

state of Vermont, religion was at a very low ebb. The regular weekly prayer-meeting convened in the little red schoolhouse and was very poorly attended. Because of its smallness of attendance, the pastor announced its discontinuance during the winter season. The announcement seemed to meet with the approbation of everybody in the town with the solitary exception of a good old lady who was noted for her earnest prayers and her faith in God. She said that it would never do for the prayer-meeting to die. The next Wednesday night she lighted her lantern, went to the schoolhouse, built a fire and by the light of her lantern read a passage of Scripture. Then kneeling, she occupied a whole hour in earnest, fervent, wrestling prayer to God for the revival of His work in the indifferent, sin-cursed and backslidden town where she lived. But in returning home the weather was so cold, the wind so fierce and the snow so blinding that she was compelled to stop at the house of one of the leading members of the church, in order to get warm. He was surprised to find her out such a night in such a storm and inquired the cause of her strange visit.

"Oh," she replied, "I have just been to prayer-meeting and only stopped a little while to get warm."

"Prayer-meeting," he exclaimed; "I thought that the prayer-meeting had gone into winter quarters."

"Oh, no," she said. "The prayer-meeting is alive and I am determined that it shall never die

as long as I live and am able to get to the schoolhouse."

"Well, who was there?" he inquired.

"There were four of us," she replied. "God the Father was there, God the Son was there, God the Holy Ghost was there, and poor insignificant I was permitted to be there. We had a glorious time and intend to have another prayer-meeting next Wednesday night."

The news was spread and the next Wednesday night found the schoolhouse filled to its utmost capacity with penitent professors of religion, who, with prayers of repentance, confession and reconsecration, renewed their covenant with God. The revival fires fell and a revival started which swept not only the backslidden town but the whole surrounding country of which the red schoolhouse was the revival storm centre. So I repeat it—a glorious revival sometimes visits a community in answer to the earnest prayers of a solitary individual. Oh, may the spirit of prayer come upon the people that sinners may be saved and souls swept into the kingdom of God.

The Ark and Dagon

The golden lid of the Ark of the Covenant was called the mercy seat. The mercy seat of the Mosaic dispensation was a type typifying the Christian's place of prayer under the Christian dispensation. Now wherever we pray is the mercy seat where Jesus answers prayer. The Philistines captured the Ark of the Covenant from the armies of

Israel and carried it away to Ashdod, one of their heathen cities, and placed it in one of their pagan temples by the side of Dagon, one of their greatest idols. The next morning when they went into the temple to worship him, they found that their old idol had fallen prostrate on the floor before the Ark of the Covenant. They lifted him up and placed him back in his former position. But the next morning they found that their old idol had again fallen prostrate on the floor before the Ark of the Covenant and this time he was broken to pieces.

Every human body was created to be a temple of the Holy Ghost. Prayer is a destructive antagonist to the idols of sin. So whenever the spirit of prayer is possessed and the mercy seat established in the human heart, then the idols of sin in the human life like the Dagon god of the Philistines, will be immediately dashed to destruction. One of God's methods for the establishment of His kingdom in these earthly temples is destruction by construction. By the construction of the altar of true prayer in the human heart, the idols of sin are destroyed in the human life. It is said that Luther and his followers began their reformation by finding fault with others, but John Wesley and the Methodists began their reformation by finding fault with themselves. When we find fault with ourselves to such an extent that we offer the earnest prayer of true repentance through faith in Jesus Christ, then a revival begins in our own hearts and every genuine revival begins in some individual

heart. May the earnest prayer of every one soon be: Oh, my God,

> "The dearest idol I have found,
> Whatever that idol be—
> Help me to tear it from its throne,
> And worship only Thee."

The Revival of 1857

The great revival that swept the United States in 1857 was said to have been the greatest revival that the world has ever seen since the day of Pentecost. It was preceded by an era of business failures, bankruptcies, and financial calamities to the commercial world of a more destructive character than it had ever before experienced. The financial idols and the commercial ideals of so many American business men were so completely demolished and the objects of their temporal hopes so entirely destroyed that they turned their hearts from these perished and perishable earthly ambitions for consolation, for comfort and help to the God of the Bible. They prayed to Him for help and He heard and answered their prayers. Temporal prosperity is not always a means of grace, while temporal adversity is sometimes instrumental in leading a soul to Christ. When the American heart was turned from the worship of Mammon to the worship of the living God, then God revived His work in America and a revival began that in a few short months swept 500,000 souls into His glorious spiritual kingdom. So the revival of 1857 is said to

have been the greatest revival that the world has ever seen since the day of Pentecost. It seemed that nothing short of the calamities of adversity would make men pray in earnest and when men prayed in earnest their hearts got right with God. He revived His spiritual kingdom on the earth, and a great salvation swept into the repenting, believing hearts of one-half million of American people. Oh, for the spirit of earnest prayer to take possession of the hearts of men.

The Praying Cripple

Mr. Moody said that he once knew a little girl who was a cripple. She was a Christian but was so physically disabled by her afflictions that she was unable to do Christian work. One day she was visited by her pastor to whom she complained because she was not able to get out and labour for the salvation of the lost. She said:

"I can't get out and work for Christ, but am compelled to lie here on this bed, day after day, and night after night, and suffer and suffer."

But her pastor told her that there was a work that she could do and that that work was praying —that she could pray for the salvation of the unsaved. He advised her to write down a list of the names of the unsaved people who lived in that community and pray every day for their salvation. She followed his directions and wrote down the names of a great many of her unconverted friends. In a short time a great religious interest was awakened in the little town where she lived and the churches

were crowded with irreligious people seeking salvation. She would inquire every day who had been converted and if their names were on her list she would mark them off. Then she would continue her earnest prayers for those who were still unconverted. In a few weeks she died. Under her pillow they found a roll of paper on which was written fifty-six names of persons for whom she had been praying and all of whom had been converted during the recent revival. No difference if we are physically afflicted, or physically strong, we can pray. God will hear and answer our prayers, for He has said, "Every one that asketh receiveth." Let us ask then and receive the things our hearts so much desire. The salvation of people lost in sin, the people for whom Christ died, and His kingdom will come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Sennacherib's Army

When Sennacherib, king of Assyria, invaded Israel, destroyed the cities and with his great army was encamped round about Jerusalem, designing the capture of the Holy City, he sent a messenger to Hezekiah, king of Judah, telling him of the lands he had formerly destroyed and the mighty things he was able to accomplish by the means of his great army. He demanded the immediate surrender of Jerusalem, declaring that he was going to take the Holy City and that Hezekiah's God could not prevent its capture.

Hezekiah took the letter that Sennacherib had

sent him and spread it out before God and prayed for protection. God heard his cry and answered his prayer and that very night the angel of the Lord passed over the Assyrian camp and slew 185,000 Assyrian soldiers. The next morning when the Israelites arose the Assyrian army was still in death. God answered Hezekiah's prayer and fought his battles for him.

The armies of sin are encamped about us. They surround us on all sides and demand our surrender. They would capture our city, our homes, our children, our lives and destroy all that is good and pure and holy with us, within us and about us. They have sent to us their impudent messengers and have demanded our immediate surrender. Let us cry to God for protection, deliverance and salvation. He will hear our cry and He will answer our prayers and give to us the victory. The angel of the Lord will sweep over the camps of sin and bring to them destruction. The Bible says: "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him and delivereth them."

May the Holy Spirit with His powers of annihilation sweep down on the hosts of sin and win for God a victory.

Dead Letters

I am told that there are 5,000,000 dead letters in the dead letter post-office at Washington City, letters that miscarried, letters that lost their way, that never reached their destination. But of all the millions and multiplied millions of prayers sent

from praying hearts to God, not one has miscarried, not one has lost its way, not one has failed to reach its destination. Not one prayer of faith has ever yet failed to receive an answer. For God, Himself, has said: "All things whatsoever ye ask in prayer believing ye shall receive."

Prayers Fly

Prayers do not walk, prayers do not run—they fly. If anything in this world has wings, it is prayer. It can fly further, it can fly faster, it can hit harder than anything in the wide universe of God. In one second of time your prayer can fly from the place you now occupy to the throne of God and bring a blessing to a person on the other side of the sea. You can pray here and now and immediately affect the life of a person in England. You can pray here and now and move the life of a person in China, in India, in Africa or Australia—anywhere on the surface of the big, round earth. You can pray now and in a second you can exercise an influence over the life of a person in California, Oregon, Alaska, Mexico, or in the busy commercial cities of the enterprising East. God's spirit is omnipotent and omnipresent. He is everywhere and when you pray here, He touches a heart there, and helps to save, protect and bless the object of your prayers. Prayer can girdle the earth in less time than you can seal a letter, clasp a belt or hook an eye. There is nothing with which I am acquainted under old high heaven's lofty dome

that can achieve with greater facility the annihilation of distance than the mighty power of human prayer. Yes, prayer can fly, no difference who offered it, no difference from what place it started. It may start from the lisping lips of an infant, or the toothless mouth of the centenarian, from the contrite soul of the sinner or the breaking heart of the mother, or it may start from the sobbing voice of the deserted wife crying to God for help. It makes no difference who offered it, its velocity is just the same, its momentum is infinite, its power is omnipotent, its mission is the salvation of man.

It may start from the counter or anvil, from the carpenter's bench or cook-stove, the wash-tub or the sewing-machine, from the plow or the bank, from the express train or the church, from the court-house or the country home. No difference from where it starts or from whom it starts, it soars away to God who will pick out the object of your petitions and touch his heart and change his life by the reforming powers of His Spirit. Prayer can find your prodigal boy far away from home, in the distant land, in the busy city, in the far-off isles of the sea, at the card table, the saloon bar, or places of dissipation and sin, and God will save him. Prayer can find him, stir his memory, tender his heart and turn his thoughts towards mother, home and heaven. Oh, praise God for the privilege of prayer and for Him who said: "Before they call I will answer and while they are yet speaking I will hear."

Prayer Flies Through Time

Prayer not only flies through space, but flies with equal velocity through time. It not only leaps across continents but it leaps across centuries. Prayer has wings and can fly, it can rise and sweep, and dart and circle as swiftly as the wings of the Cherubim which swept through Ezekiel's vision. Our prayers to-day may be efficacious in lifting empires off their hinges, evangelizing kingdoms and turning the currents of centuries. Remember that Christ Himself has said, "What things soever ye desire when ye pray believe that ye receive them and ye have them."

Asa and Zerah

When Zerah, the Ethiopian king, with a million of men and three hundred chariots left Egypt and invaded Judah for the purpose of capturing and destroying the Jewish people, Asa, king of Judah, knowing that if the Jews were saved their salvation must come from God, went alone to Him in prayer. The Bible says that "Asa cried unto the Lord, it is nothing to Thee to help, whether with many or with them that have no power; help us, oh, Lord, our God, for we rest on Thee and in Thy name we go against this multitude. Oh, Lord, Thou art our God, let not man prevail against Thee." Never was there a prayer more directly answered than this one. Zerah, the Ethiopian king, with a million of men and three hundred chariots, had come to destroy a few thousand Jews. The Jewish soldiers were peaceful, undisciplined and unused to war.

The warlike Ethiopians in their great numerical preponderance was enough, from a human standpoint, to awaken serious apprehensions in the minds of the Jewish people concerning the result of the impending conflict. But when Asa prayed the Bible tells us that the Lord went before Asa and his soldiers and smote the Ethiopians and they fled, and the Jewish army pursued them and smote them and destroyed them and captured their spoils and put them to rout because the fear of God came upon the Ethiopians and they were unable to stand before the all-conquering armies of the living God. Was there ever a victory where the hand of the Lord was more manifestly revealed in answer to prayer?

Millions and multiplied millions of sins have invaded our world for the purpose of capturing, controlling and forever destroying our lives, our homes, our children, our churches and our native land. In imitation of Judah's religious king, let us, regardless of the great numbers and mighty forces of evil that may be arrayed against us, pray to God for help. And as certainly as He is immutable, the same yesterday, to-day and forever, the victory will be sure, the antagonizing powers will be routed, destroyed and defeated and the hand of the Lord will be manifestly revealed in answer to prayer.

Via the Throne of God

I frequently hear parents express a desire for the salvation of their absent children, their children who are away from home. Sometimes it is a

prodigal boy from whom they have not heard for years.

"I wonder where my boy is to-day," they say. "I wonder where he is."

Remember that God knows exactly where he is. His all-seeing eye is looking at him now. He sees his place of residence; He knows his associations, temptations and environments. If you do not know where your son is, remember that there is One who does know and that One is God. Oh, my neighbours are so fortunately situated that they have their children with them in their homes, can talk to them face to face, induce them to go to church and exercise over them an influence for good. But I am not so fortunately situated as to my boy, for he is away from home and because of his absence I can have no influence over him for good. But you are mistaken again, for one of the mightiest lines of influences in the world lies open before you if you will only utilize it and bring it into requisition. That is the influence of prayer. Sometimes when you address a letter, in order to make it go the shortest way you write on the envelope via Chicago, St. Louis, New York or San Francisco. This causes the letter to go the shortest way and to reach its destination more quickly. Put on your wishes concerning your boy's salvation via the Throne of God. This will make your prayers take the shortest direction and their influence will all the more quickly reach its destination. How long will it take your prayers to reach the object of your petitions? It will take it less than the millionth part of a second.

How do you know it? Because the Bible says: "Before they call I will answer and while they are yet speaking I will hear."

Beats Sun Time

You can go to New York City, go on board a ship and sail for some distant antipodal seaport town. You reach your destination exactly at eleven o'clock in the morning. You go ashore, enter a telegraph office and send a message back to New York City, concerning your safe arrival. You send your message at exactly eleven o'clock and exactly at six o'clock the same morning it reaches New York City. In other words it seems to arrive in New York five hours before it started. It beat sun time. Yes, it is frequently demonstrated that the transmission of a human thought by means of telegraphy is more rapid than sun time. But many times more rapid than sun time and many times more rapid than the flash of human thought and the dash of human desire, by the means of the electrical telegraph, is the flash of human thoughts and the dash of human desires by means of effectual, fervent prayer. For the good old Book proves it when it says: "Before they call I will answer and while they are yet speaking I will hear."

The Laws of Electricity

A little child cannot understand the laws of electricity. It does not understand how the telegraph operator can touch the instrument here and dart a message under the sea to a continent beyond.

So our finite minds cannot understand how the touch of a Christian's prayer can strike a man on the other side of the earth and deliver him a message that will affect his life forever. But it does. The Bible proves it, experience demonstrates it and millions declare it is true.

Carvosso

Carvosso was a man of God, a man noted for his piety, faith and consecration to the service of his Master. His earnest prayers very seldom failed to receive an answer. It is said that he prayed his whole family into the kingdom of God. One day he prayed with an unusual importunity and power for the salvation of his children. In two weeks afterwards he was called from his work to pray with his daughter who was seeking salvation. His oldest son was converted at the same time. Then he prayed for his youngest son and he was also converted. He said that he very seldom said anything of how he felt or what he did except to the great Teacher of human hearts and with Him he said he would wrestle in agonizing prayer until he received an answer. "I would base my prayer on a Bible promise as a stimulus to my faith and hold on until God granted my request. The promise on which I stood and prayed my children to Christ was this: 'There shall not a hoof be left behind.' I reasoned from this that not one of my children should be left behind in sin but all of them would be converted, and they were."

Then he adds that if we only take hold of the

matter for which we pray with a spirit corresponding to the magnitude of the object to be secured then there will be a mighty movement among the people and many souls will be converted. Oh, for more Carvosso fathers with a mountain moving faith.

Prayer and Commerce

The merchant whose swiftly-sailing vessels, loaded with costly cargoes coming from every clime, zone and continent and from every isle of the sea, who by one stroke of his pen can change the whole face of American commerce, has not as much power as you have before God in earnest, faithful, continuous prayer, if you will only bring this prayer force into requisition. But, you say, I am so ordinary, my abilities, both natural and acquired, are so limited. I have no power. But you certainly have a power, for God uses the weak things of this world to defeat the mighty and the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. Do you not understand that this very day you can go into your place of prayer and kneel before God in humble supplication and bring down upon your own soul and the souls of others, whom your earnest prayer can touch, a blessing so vast, a benediction so precious, that the calculations of archangels and the ages of eternity will be necessary in its exact computation ?

Major Cole

God means for us to pray for temporalities as well as for spiritualities. When He taught us to

pray in the Lord's prayer "Give us this day our daily bread," He meant for us to ask Him for material food as well as the Bread of Eternal Life. When Major Cole was conducting his great revival meeting in Carthage, Mo., in the winter of 1888, he was in very straightened financial circumstances. His family was at home sick, he was entirely without money and the only thing he knew to do was to go to his room, kneel before God and pray to Him for help. While he was still kneeling, a Christian citizen of the town entered his room and laid $500 on the table, a present to Major Cole, presented to him by the good people of Carthage. He arose from his knees and thanked the man who brought it, the people who gave it, and, most of all, the Great God, who put it in their hearts to make to him such a timely contribution. This was certainly a verification of the divine declaration, "Before they call I will answer and while they are yet speaking I will hear." "Surely godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is and that which is to come."

The College of Apostles

The New Testament writer tells us that Jesus once spent a whole night in prayer. "And it came to pass in those days that He went out into a mountain to pray, and He continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day He called unto Him His disciples, and of them He chose twelve, whom He also named apostles." So we discover that the College of Apostles had its birth in the

all-night prayer of our Lord. Prayer is a cause that produces an effect which invariably elevates the condition of man and advances the kingdom of God.

Pentecost

The ten days' prayer-meeting of the infant church in the Upper Room produced a Pentecost. The baptism, the 3,000 conversions, the miraculous displays of spiritual phenomena, on the day of Pentecost, were the inevitable results of the protracted prayer-meeting by which Pentecost was preceded. Man prays, the Holy Ghost descends, human lives are purified, energized, and made strong by spiritual forces sweeping down through psychic channels from the storage departments of Omnipotency.

Stephen

Stephen prayed in the hour of his martyrdom, and his chief persecutor, Saul, was shortly afterwards converted to Paul, the great apostle to the Gentiles. Nations, generations and the entire history of centuries were affected by that prayer.

Cornelius

Cornelius, the centurion, prayed at Cæsarea, while thirty-three miles to the south, Peter, the apostle, at the noon hour of prayer, prayed on a housetop at Joppa. The result was that the flood-gates of salvation were thrown wide open and the waters of the River of Life poured their cleansing influences down upon the Gentile nations of the earth. And they will continue to pour the purify-

ing powers of their life-giving forces upon the human race until the whole wide world is evangelized by the mighty Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Lydia

The New Testament writer tells us about that Philippian prayer-meeting on the banks of that European river where Paul made the prayer-meeting talk and where Lydia was converted. She was the first person converted on the continent of Europe. Look at Europe to-day, with her schools, colleges, churches and eleemosynary institutions, her science, literature, art and commerce, together with her other productions of a great Christian civilization. So many actually Christian, the remainder, great or small, nominally Christian, all of its nations politically Christian. And that which has produced the best in European civilization were the gospel truths taught by Paul in that prayer-meeting talk, together with the prayer force that that prayer-meeting exercised, repeated again and again, brought into requisition and utilized by other lives, in other meetings and other places, generation after generation, century after century, until the little leaven has leavened the whole lump. So prayer and truth are the forces that have performed the miracle of a continent's regeneration.

Monica's Prayers

It was in answer to the earnest, faithful and importunate prayers of Monica, the mother of St. Augustine, that he was led from a life of heresy,

sin and dissipation into the spiritual kingdom of Christ.

He was born in the city of Carthage, November 13, 352 A. D.; he was not born into the kingdom of God until thirty-four years after his natural birth. Having graduated from the schools of Carthage, he was an educated and intellectual young man. But with all this education and intelligence he was not a Christian. His mother was so anxious for his salvation that she prayed for him day and night, that he might be saved. When he went to Carthage from Rome, his mother not only followed him with her prayers, but followed him with her person and besought him with all the powers of her being to give himself to Christ. He still refused and went to Milan. She followed him there, never ceasing her supplications to God in his behalf.

Certain, consecrated priests, who witnessed her praying, declared that such prayers as Monica offered to God for the salvation of her son Augustine could not go unanswered. One day, while listening to a sermon preached by St. Ambrose in Milan, he was converted and made a public confession of faith in Jesus Christ. He was baptized on Easter day, in the year 387 A. D., in the thirty-fifth year of his age. His mother leaped for joy when he told her of his conversion. He gave forty-three years of his life to the service of Christ. He became one of the great fathers of the Latin Church, more profound, more spiritual and more useful than any of his contemporaries.

It is the belief of the wisest and best men of the

world that no uninspired man has ever exercised such a power over the Christian church and made such an indelible impression on Christian thought as St. Augustine, who was led to Christ through his mother's prayers. Aside from the Bible, no writings impressed the mind of Martin Luther so much as those of St. Augustine and stimulated him in carrying forward with greater success the reformation of the sixteenth century. John Wesley was converted in England while listening to a layman read Luther's preface to the book of Romans, and consequently inaugurated that spiritual movement called Methodism in the eighteenth century that has so spiritualized, Christianized and civilized the world and will still go on with its wonderful work of reformation, salvation and evangelization of the nations of the earth until time shall be no more. So the exact influence of Monica's prayers will never be known until read by the blazing light of the raging fires of the judgment.

Few historians have recognized the power of the prayer factor in the moulding of a better civilization, how it has laid the foundations of republics, Christianized kingdoms, lifted empires off their hinges and turned the currents of centuries. It will be discovered at last that the prayer force has been more powerful in the production of a higher civilization than the battles of the nations.

William Carey

William Carey, the shoemaker and preacher of Nottingham, England, knelt down and prayed God

to help him to execute his plans for the world's evangelization. His prayer was answered, for an opportunity was soon presented. He improved it by preaching his famous missionary sermon, whose sermonic divisions were: "Expect great things from God," and "Attempt great things for God." Under its influence his congregation was stimulated to send a missionary to India. Mr. Carey was that missionary and sailed for India in 1793. He laboured for seven years before he baptized a single convert. But when we look at India to-day with her thousands and tens of thousands of Christians, with her schools, churches, printing-presses and other civilizing institutions, we realize something of the success of this missionary movement and its superhuman management in answer to Carey's prayer. In less than twenty-five years after Carey preached his famous sermon on foreign missions, all the leading churches of England had sent missionaries to some heathen land. Modern Protestant missions began their existence with Carey's agitation and leaped into existence from his earnest intercessions.

Adoniram Judson

Adoniram Judson was a member of that famous band that constituted the Haystack prayer-meeting at Williamstown, Mass. In February, 1810, he consecrated himself to God for foreign missionary work by an earnest prayer that eventually had a glorious answer. He established his mission in India in 1814, although he laboured a long time

without visible results. At last he enjoyed the fruits of his labours, patience and prayers, for in the year 1870, more than 100,000 converts had been brought to Christ largely through the instrumentality of his mission.

Madagascar

The London Missionary Society, after a long season of earnest prayer for the salvation of Madagascar, sent two missionaries there in 1818. Fifty years from that time, in the year 1868, the queen and her 4,000,000 subjects burned their idols and turned their hearts to the worship of the true and the living God. Prayer and missionary victories are invariably linked together as cause and effect.

Fiji Islands

The Fiji Islands were inhabited by 80,000 fierce, savage, warlike cannibals. William Cross prayed long and earnestly for God to help him to conquer them for Christ. He entered the islands in 1835 and began his missionary work. He was soon reinforced by helpers, and in 1885 the last heathen came to Christ. So it could be truly said that fifty years ago there was not a native Christian on the Fiji Islands, and now there is not a heathen.

Sandwich Islands

In 1792 Captain George Vancouver, a naval officer under Captain Cook, was the first person to

tell the Sandwich Islanders that there was a better religion than idol worship, and that that religion was the religion of Jesus Christ. He not only talked to the reigning king of the islands about the beauty and superiority of the Christian religion, but he talked in earnest prayer to the King of the Universe about the salvation of the Sandwich Islands from sin. His prayers were answered, for American missionaries were sent to them, and they were soon converted to Christianity. In the year 1819 they destroyed their idols, demolished their temples, and turned their hearts to the worship of Christ. They now have churches, schools, seminaries and missionary societies. They send their missionaries to other isles of the sea that they, too, might know about Christ and be saved. In 1853 the Sandwich Islands were recognized as a Christian nation. There was great rejoicing that another national star blazed with increasing brilliancy in the constellation of Christendom.

Robert Moffat

A Christian mother in Carronshore, Scotland, in her cottage home by the old fireside, read missionary literature to her son and then prayed with him that God might use him in the world's evangelization. Her prayer was answered, for in October, 1816, that son, Robert Moffat, sailed as a Christian missionary for Africa, where he spent fifty years of his life labouring to bring the Dark Continent into the glorious light of the kingdom of God.

David Livingstone

In Blantyre, Scotland, not far from the city of Glasgow, a father and mother who were poor in this world's goods, but rich in faith, bestowed a golden legacy on their little boy in his early childhood, when in earnest prayer they consecrated him to God for Christian service. Their prayers were answered and their hopes were realized when, in December, 1840, he started to Africa to work for Christ. He spent thirty-three years in the exploration, reformation and regeneration of the Dark Continent. Then David Livingstone, on May 1, 1873, in his hut on his knees in prayer, in the wilds of the land he had laboured to save, went home to God. He was not a mere geographical explorer, although no name is placed above his by the Royal Geographical Society. He was not considered a literary man, although no works occupy a higher place of esteem on the shelves of English literature than do his. He was not considered a regular missionary, although no man did more for missions than David Livingstone. The prayers and Christian influence of his parents wrought a great work for the world when such a character as David Livingstone was launched upon the life tides of the nineteenth century. No wonder that his inscription upon their gravestone was an expression of gratitude for their piety and their poverty.

James W. Lambuth

On March 2, 1830, James W. Lambuth began his existence in Green County, Alabama. The day of

his birth his father dedicated him to God for a foreign missionary and the next day announced it in a protracted meeting at the church. During the announcement he said that he was going to give a bale of cotton to help send this son to the mission field. Twenty-three years afterwards that boy responded to a call made by Bishop Andrew and volunteered to go as a missionary to China. He gave thirty-two years of his life to China, then seven years to Japan, and at the termination of thirty-nine years in the active missionary service went home to heaven to continue in the eternal presence of Him who had answered his father's prayer of dedication.

Lucinda Helm

In Elizabethtown, Kentucky, in 1886, Lucinda Helm, anxious to utilize the women of her church for the advancement of the Master's kingdom, prayed to Him for help, wisdom and guidance. God granted her petition. The organization of the Home Mission Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was soon consummated, an organization that to-day commands a membership of 86,000 women, has established educational institutions and supported them, has raised more than $2,000,000 for the church and built 2,500 parsonages for itinerant preachers. God's ear is not deaf to the earnest cry of an industrious, sensible people.

Dr. Morrison

An English lady, who was a Sunday-school teacher, prayed with great earnestness that God

would use her in the salvation of people lost in sin. A short time afterwards while going to Sunday-school, she found a poor, ragged, wandering boy. She took him to Sunday-school and when it was over took him to her home. He frequently accompanied her to Sunday-school. Soon he professed religion and after his conversion, through the liberality of benevolent friends, he was given an elementary education. Being called to the missionary work, he was the first Protestant missionary to China. This poor, wandering boy was none other than Dr. Morrison, the first foreign Protestant missionary that ever introduced Christianity into the great Chinese empire. It was in the year 1807 that he entered China; to-day there are many thousand missionaries and native Christians in the Celestial Empire. His teacher died long before he entered on his missionary work, but no doubt long before this they have met in that heavenly paradise above. What must have been her joy when she learned the result of her labours?

John G. Paton

It was a little thing for the father and mother of John G. Paton to kneel before God and pray Him to make their son a foreign missionary and use him in the salvation of the heathen world, but some way or other it seemed a big thing when God heard and answered their prayers. In the year 1858 he went as a missionary to New Hebrides, and so inaugurated and prosecuted his work of evangelization among the heathen that thousands

have been brought to Christ. He went into districts inhabited by multitudes of heathen people who had never heard of Christ. Where there was not a solitary Christian, now there is not a solitary heathen. Thank God for John G. Paton and his praying parents, who prove to us beyond a doubt that the story of missions is the story of prayer.

Hudson Taylor

About the year 1830 Hudson Taylor's father, two years before the birth of the son, became so interested in the spiritual condition of China and so greatly desired the salvation of her people, that one day while engaged in earnest prayer, he was constrained, no doubt by the Holy Spirit, to cry out:

"Oh, God, if you ever give me a son, grant that he may be privileged to labour as a Christian missionary for the salvation of the heathen of China."

That prayer was answered. Two years afterwards, in 1832, Hudson Taylor was born. He was converted at the age of fifteen and later in life became the founder of the China Inland Mission, an organization that has had such a remarkable career. He has had the privilege of leading more than 800 missionaries into the very heart of China.

The prayer of the father was unknown to the son until he had given to that far-away mission field seven years of service to God. That humble prayer of a humble man leaped across a generation, stirred the hearts of thousands and is slowly but surely changing the complexion of a continent.

Let us remember that declaration of the Word of God, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Samuel J. Mills

A Christian mother at Torrington, Conn., in the year 1783, in earnest prayer consecrated her infant boy to God for foreign missionary work. In after years he heard his mother tell of his consecration. Several years later while he was a student in Williams College, in Williamstown, Mass., he and some of his student companions were holding a prayer-meeting in a forest near by. A thunder-storm drove them under a haystack for shelter. While the thunders were rolling, the lightning flashing and the rain falling around the place of shelter, he told his companions of his great desire to organize a society to send the Gospel to heathen Asia. This organization was consummated. This was in September, 1806. Five persons attended its first prayer-meeting, seven persons its second, while now thousands attend its annual meetings, and tens of thousands have been brought from heathenism to Christ in foreign lands through its instrumentality. This was the beginning of the first organization of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

This same young man eight years afterwards assisted in the organization of the American Bible Society, an organization that has really done as much during the last century in the world's evangelization as any other institution in Christendom.

Thank God for Samuel J. Mills and his mother's prayers of consecration that laid him on the altar of God.

Layman's Movement

On November 15, 1906, a company of people assembled in the Fifth Street Presbyterian Church, New York City, to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the haystack meeting. The presence of the Holy Spirit was manifested in mighty power. They were impressed that the kingdom of God would be more rapidly advanced in the world if the laymen in the church could be organized into a better working force. The organization was consummated. Every prominent Protestant church in America is now organizing its laymen in a way to utilize more thoroughly their strong and efficient powers for the more rapid advancement of the Master's kingdom. On April, 1908, thousands of laymen from all parts of the United States met at Chattanooga, Tenn., to stimulate and more effectually perfect the organization. Its chief object is to help the pastors, facilitate the work of the church and evangelize, if possible, the world in this generation; having a Scriptural precedent in the Board of Deacons organized by the apostles immediately after Pentecost. On the very threshold of the twentieth century, a similar board of laymen are reproduced in answer to prayer. It is the Aaron and Hur movement holding up the hands of the ministry while the armies of righteousness are conquering the armies of sin.

Dr. Cyrus Hamlin

In the year 1851 when Mahmud was sultan of Turkey, he ordered the expulsion of all the missionaries from the empire. The edict was final and irreversible. Dr. Hamlin, heart-broken and discouraged, said to William Goodell: "Goodell, our life-work is a failure at the very start, for both the British and American consuls say the edict of expulsion must prevail and we must go at once." Goodell replied: "Hamlin, the Sultan of heaven can change this; let us appeal to Him in prayer." So they gave themselves to prayer—they opened the edict and spread it before God. They prayed all night, for it seemed to them in their helplessness that their very destiny hung in the balance. Well, what of it? This: The next day Mahmud died and the edict of expulsion was never mentioned again. Dr. Hamlin lived in Constantinople for half a century and more, and was instrumental in founding the famous Robert College there, which exists under American rule and is to-day the light of the Turkish empire.

Franklin's Kite

Benjamin Franklin, the first American philosopher, by means of a common kite attracted the electrical forces from the sky to the earth and treated electricity to its first scientific investigation. Then science wisely utilized its power in giving to the world a more rapid transportation, a more brilliant illumination, a more convenient communication, by causing it to increase the comfort, welfare

and convenience of the human race in a thousand different ways. By means of the common kite of prayer, the spiritual forces of the universe have been attracted from heaven to earth and wisely utilized in the transportation of human lives from sin to righteousness, in the illumination of immortal minds with the bright light of salvation, and in teaching the human race the happy art of a better communication with God. All of us can fly the common kite of prayer, for "Every one that asketh receiveth."

Postage Stamp

Some one said that since the extension of our governmental territory, a two-cent postage stamp would carry a letter around the world. The earth is 25,000 miles in circumference, but the letter must travel 30,000 miles in order to make the trip. This may be true, or it may be false, but we do know what is true. A postage stamp of faith placed on a prayer message on earth will send it to the post-offices of heaven and will bring back an answer, for our Saviour told us Himself that: "All things whatsoever ye ask in prayer believing ye shall receive."

Protestant Netherlands

When Louis XIV of France designed in 1672 to capture the Protestant Netherlands, he secured the alliance of England and other European powers and then with his formidable French navy sailed forth to the contemplated conquest. To all human appear-

ances the victory would be easy. But not so, for God was with those pious Protestant Dutch and according to Jean La Clere, the Swiss theologian, public prayers were ordered and offered for deliverance. And while the French navy waited for the tide to come in so they could land, it was retarded, contrary to its usual course, and held back for twelve hours, so the attack, which was deferred to a future time, was never made, for a storm arose and drove the fleet away. The God of Joshua answered the prayers of the Protestant Netherlands and their land was miraculously saved from the dominion of French Catholicism.

Oliver Cromwell

Whatever good has come to England and the other nations of the earth as a result of the life and political administration of Oliver Cromwell can be according to his own testimony truthfully attributed to his answered prayers. He believed that he was providentially directed in his life-work and that this direction was largely due to his earnest intercessions. The prayer force was recognized and frequently utilized by this English reformer and philanthropist.

Gustavus Adolphus

Gustavus Adolphus, king of Sweden, believed that the welfare of his kingdom depended more on his prayers than his battles. He read the Scriptures and urged his subjects to familiarize themselves with Bible truth. Believing that prayer was

an indispensable factor in the production of the best civilization, he prayed and requested his people to pray. So prayer is the secret of Sweden's phenomenal progress under the successful administration of Gustavus Adolphus. As we look back across the centuries we could easily discover that prayer in history is one of the most convincing evidences of the genuineness of the religion of Christ.

Gutenberg

When Gutenberg invented the art of printing, the thought occurred to him that the invention might be utilized by the devil in the advancement of evil and he raised his hammer to pound the type to pieces. But just then another thought came sweeping into his mind—that it might be used by the Christian world in the promotion of the kingdom of Christ. He prayed that it might be so. Then he lowered his hammer and the art that he was about to privately destroy he made publicly known. Consequently he made a valuable contribution to the salvation and education of the world's nations. The first book that was ever printed was by Faust and his son-in-law Shoeffer in 1460 and that book was the Bible. This seemed to be a consecration of the printer's type to God at the very genesis of the invention and a prophecy, too, that the time was coming when it would become a great and prominent factor in the world's evangelization. The father of the American printing-press was Rev. Jesse Glover, which seems prophetical that the ministry and membership of the churches of America would especially

utilize its powers. It appears impossible to disassociate the utility of the printing-press and the prayer of Gutenberg.

Joseph Haydn

When Joseph Haydn, the German musical composer, was trying to compose his oratorio entitled the Creation, he knelt down by the organ and prayed for wisdom and inspiration. His prayers were answered and he soon completed the musical composition. When he listened to the rendition of the oratorio for the last time, the rendering was so superior that the old musician lifted his hands towards heaven and said: "That came down from above. That came from the skies, for God gave it to me in answer to prayer." The whole musical world praises God for the earnest prayer and the inventive talent of Joseph Haydn which gave to the world that miracle of music entitled the Creation.

Mystery

Some persons say that they cannot believe in prayer because it is a mystery. But when we stop and think about it everything about us is clothed in a mystery. Matter is a mystery. It cannot be defined by the wisest men on the earth. Force is a mystery. No one can tell you what it is. Gravitation is a mystery. Of it the greatest scientists cannot give an explanation. You drop a lump of sugar into your coffee and it soon becomes a liquid. There is not a scientist in the world that can tell why, whether the change was chemical or mechan-

ical. But the sugar sweetens the coffee and that is enough for us to know. You can drop a prayer into a day and it will sweeten the day and no one can tell why, because prayer is a mystery. But that it sweetens the day is enough for us to know and we thank God for its sweetening influences on the environments, associations and conditions of human life.

Ozone

The scientific chemist tells us that ozone is a condensed form of atmospheric oxygen largely manufactured by the power of the electric storm. After violent displays of electrical phenomena, ozone is especially manifest in the atmosphere. Its presence is easily discovered by the bracing, invigorating and exhilarating influence that it exercises on human life. The electrical thunderbolts dash through the atmosphere with astonishing velocity but they immediately present us with the life-giving breath of ozone. The electrical bolts of human prayer dash through the atmospheric firmaments of earth and sky and immediately from the celestial heights of God's power descends a spiritual ozone to invigorate, exhilarate and make strong the lives of those who pray and those who are the special object of their prayers. Oh, the life-giving influence and power of human intercessions.

Louis Bleriot

Sunday morning, July 25, 1909, Louis Bleriot, a French aviator, in his monoplane, crossed the Eng-

lish channel, sailing twenty-one miles from his starting-place in France to his landing-place in England. The *Daily Mail* gave him the $5,000 prize that it had promised to the first aeronaut who should cross the English channel. He was the recipient of elaborate and appropriate honours conferred on him by both the French and English governments. Bleriot has the honour of being the first international aviator. In the world's history, science chronicles this aerial achievement as a twentieth century wonder. But for 6,000 years the monoplane of prayer has been flying with an incomprehensible velocity across that mysterious channel that separates man from God. Like the successful European aviator it has won many precious prizes for our blood-bought human race. The mighty spirit of Him who said, "Ask and ye shall receive," has been the propelling power that has carried the prayer message up to God and brought the answer down to man. Thank God for the monoplane of prayer!

Oxygen Hospital

The oxygen hospital in London has recently performed some very interesting experiments. Oxygen is the therapeutic agent employed in healing disease. The patient is placed in a thoroughly air-tight glass room and abundantly supplied with an atmosphere that is dried, filtered, ozonized and rarefied by a scientific mechanism that imparts to it the oxygenized properties that are supposed to contribute to the destruction of disease. As long

as the patient is in the glass room he breathes an atmosphere as healing to his lungs and his entire body as if he stood on the summit of Pike's Peak 14,000 feet above the level of the sea. Jesus said: "When thou prayest enter into thy room and when thou hast shut thy door pray to thy Father which is in secret and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." The worshipper of God, in the secrecy of his room, shut out from the world, breathes a spiritual atmosphere as stimulating and life-giving as if he stood on the Pike's Peak of God's glory in the mountain range of the skies and breathed the life-giving atmosphere of heaven. The soul to live must often breathe the oxygen of prayer.

"Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
The Christian's native air.
His watchword at the gates of death;
He enters heaven with prayer."

Jenny Lind

Jenny Lind, the world's prima donna in the nineteenth century, frequently declared that her superior powers as a vocalist were given her in answer to prayer. She never attempted to sing her famous solo, "I know that my Redeemer liveth," without preceding it with a prayer that during the singing some one lost in sin would find Christ and be saved. That this prayer was often answered was proven again and again, various times, in different parts of the world by persons professing

conversion while she was singing her prayer baptized solo. Yes, the Christian's song and the Christian's prayer march hand in hand together in the conquest of this world for Christ.

Alfred Tennyson

When Alfred Tennyson, the English poet laureate, declared that more things were wrought by prayer than this world dreams of, he made declaration to a truth that was in the strictest harmony with the teachings of Jesus Christ, because prayer is a cause that is continually producing an effect and that effect is constantly seen in its transformation of human life, national government and in the elevation of the science, literature and art of all the nations of men. So the poet was right when he said that more things were wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.

The Sun Storm

On October 31, 1903, there was such a complete paralysis of the entire telegraphic system of France that to send a message correctly was next to the impossible. This was a phenomenon that the scientists of the world were puzzled to understand. But when the scientific astronomers reported that on that day there was a magnetic storm on the surface of the sun the complexity of the problem was easy of solution. Their astronomical instruments demonstrated the fact that on that day a sun spot 125,000 miles long raged for hours in the throes of a magnetic convulsion. This magnetic

storm was so powerful and so affected the solar universe that there was a complete paralysis of the telegraphic system on the French side of our planet. No reliable scientist has ever doubted this for a solitary moment. But that God, the Sun of Righteousness, the Centre of our great spiritual system, should affect the lives of men, paralyze the systems of sin, commune with men by His spirit, hear their prayers and grant their petitions seems to tax the credulity of the unbelieving world. Oh, Consistency, thou art a jewel!

Luther Burbank

Luther Burbank is becoming more and more appreciated and is continually commanding the highest respect of the industrial world, as with each successive season valuable manifestations of the practical results of his wonderful work passes into the possession of farmer, gardener, consumer, and pours its productions of wealth into the commercial treasuries of the world. Under his magic touch, plant life produces the most remarkable developments. He is simply working with God and learning more of the secrets of vegetable life as it manifests itself in its various forms and conditions on our planet. He does not create a new fruit, a new vegetable or a new plant, but only directs the growth along certain lines that God has laid down in the laws of nature and a new product leaps into existence as a result of the united flow of plant life from various sources and through different channels. How beautifully his peculiar work exempli-

fies the declaration of St. Paul that we are fellow labourers with God. By the prayer exercise man is brought into vital touch with God so that the spiritual forces of the universe flow down through psychic channels into human life and an affinity between divinity and humanity is the result and a valuable fruitage grows in beauty in the lives of praying men.

Ptolemaic—Copernican

For many centuries the world believed in the Ptolemaic theory of astronomy : that the earth was the centre of the universe and that around it the sun, moon, stars and other planets and constellations revolved. But in the sixteenth century Copernicus discovered the true science of astronomy, that the sun and not the earth was the centre of the solar system and that around it the earth and her sister planets revolved. The Copernican theory of astronomy was revolutionary and completely changed the whole world of scientific thought and made modern science a possibility. There are persons in the world who believe in a Ptolemaic theology. They believe that they are the centre of the universe—that everything should revolve around their lives in such a way as to contribute to their comfort, their selfishness and their pride. But the religion of Jesus Christ steps forward with the true theory of the science of human life and tells us that God, the Sun of Righteousness, and not man, is the centre of the universe and that in order to secure the object of human existence and

receive an answer to human prayer we must revolve around God and to Him sustain the prayer relation. Genuine, unadulterated, consecrated selfishness has prevented many a prayer from receiving an answer.

Plymouth Museum

In the Plymouth Museum in Massachusetts are two paintings. One represents the Pilgrims embarking from Holland and the other their landing in New England. In both paintings they are on their knees in prayer. Just before these paintings are first the open Bible of John Alden and the second the little cradle of Peregrine White, who was born on the ocean voyage. In this part of the museum we find that which typifies the three strong pillars that support our American commonwealth—the Word of God, the Home and Prayer. The Bible of John Alden represents the Word of God. The cradle of Peregrine White represents the home, and the kneeling attitude of the Pilgrims represents prayer. May the people of America never forget that "Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people."

Washington Allston

In the middle of the forenoon of the nineteenth century, Washington Allston was the chief of American artists. In 1801 he moved to London and attended the schools of the Royal Academy to prepare himself for his life-work. During this time

his financial circumstances were so distressingly destitute that he went into his studio, locked the door, knelt down and prayed for bread. While thus engaged a knock was heard at the door, which the artist hastened to open. A stranger was there who inquired for Mr. Allston. He desired to purchase the painting "Angel Uriel," which had won the prize at the exhibition of the Royal Academy. The artist went to the corner of the room, picked up the painting, and, wiping the dust from it, said: "Well, it is for sale." "Will you take four hundred pounds for it?" asked the stranger. "I will," replied Allston. "Then it is mine," exclaimed the stranger, who then introduced himself as the Marquis of Stafford. From that time on he became the warmest friend and the most generous patron of Washington Allston. The phenomenal success and marvellous life-work of this great American artist had its miraculous beginning in the exercise of believing prayer.

John Bunyan

In the year 1672, John Bunyan was thrown into Bedford jail for the second time. Believing that the testimony of his Christian experience would contribute to advance the kingdom of God in the world, he knelt down in his prison and prayed for God to help him make its publication. As Paul and Silas prayed in the Philippian prison, so John Bunyan prayed in Bedford jail. And his prayers were answered, for during this imprisonment he wrote his Christian experience in a book which

proved to be the greatest allegory and one of the grandest classics of the English tongue. Its publication and circulation are exceeded only by the Bible itself. So Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" was given to the world in answer to prayer.

Sir Christopher Wren

Sir Christopher Wren, the famous English architect, was the son of a preacher and a believer in prayer. He attributed his architectural achievements not exclusively to his natural talent for architecture, nor his acquired skill attained by the mastery of the mathematical curriculum of Oxford, but also to the power that God gave him to plan and execute in answer to prayer. After the London fire of 1666 his rebuilding of St. Paul's cathedral, fifty other churches, and other important buildings, was akin to the miraculous. He believed that the One who worked in the carpenter shop at Nazareth and who, before His incarnation, exercised His powers of divine carpentry in building the worlds, and who to-day, according to promise, is building, after the most magnificent style of infinite architecture, celestial mansions for His followers, also imparts wisdom to men for the elevation and betterment of terrestrial architecture. The God who gave Solomon wisdom to build his temple gave Christopher Wren wisdom to build churches and other important structures in the world's metropolis. The art of architecture has been rapidly pushed towards perfection by the wise utilization of the prayer force.

Michael Angelo

Michael Angelo, the famous Italian artist, was a Platonic Christian; that is, he believed in the philosophy of Plato when it perfectly harmonized with the religion of Jesus Christ. The divinity of the God-man, so frequently represented by him in sculpture and in painting, he never doubted. The "Ask and ye shall receive" truth, taught by Jesus, was exemplified in his life. While he chiselled the marble and painted the canvas he realized by faith the companionship of Him who painted the sunset and chiselled the mountains. The classical in sculpture in the Renaissance of the fifteenth century owes more to the prayer power than the world imagines.

Raphael

Raphael, the Italian painter of the fifteenth century, climbed to the highest pinnacle of artistic fame. He said: "I dream dreams and see visions, and then I pick up my paint brush and throw them upon canvas, and the world looks at them and calls them classical." But his dreams and visions were the product of his meditations, supplications and intercessions. So his Madonna, the World's Saviour, his Scriptural characters, Biblical scenes and other additions to the realm of art were answers to the prayers of the painter. Was not this another fulfillment of Scriptural prophecy that declared "The time will come when young men will see visions." The visions of Raphael in classical painting have so enriched the æsthetic

mind and elevated the nobler nature of man that we greatly rejoice because his Bethel dreams did touch the vaulted sky and angels descending the ladder of prayer brought down the answers in beauties superlative for the superior in the world of art.

John Wycliffe

John Wycliffe, the English reformer and Bible translator, brought the prayer force into operation with such power and efficacy in the fourteenth century, that he gave us the first English Bible in 1832. This dispelled the thick blackness of the Dark Ages to such an extent that he was properly entitled the "Morning Star of the Reformation." It was the prayer exercise so wisely and industriously utilized in connection with his literary pursuits that caused the schools of literature to correctly denominate him the "Father of English Prose." Although Pope Clement VIII cremated his dead body and threw its ashes into the river Swift, he could not cremate nor annihilate, in the least degree, the holy influences and mighty truths that had been injected into the minds and lives of men by Wycliffe's prayers and pen, for they were immortalized and will consequently live on forever. While more than 500 years have passed away since the death of this great man, the twentieth century is the inheritor of his spiritual legacies and prayer benedictions that he has so generously bequeathed to all the future generations of men.

Charlemagne

On Christmas day, in the year 800, in St. Peters, at Rome, at the grave of the apostles, Pope Leo III set the Roman crown upon the head of Charlemagne and made him Emperor of Rome. But this beautiful coronation could never have occurred if Charlemagne had not previously crowned his own life with the beauties and strength of the prayer habit. His subjugation of Central Europe to the temporal authority of Christianity, the promotion of the industrial pursuits of his subjects by the encouragement of agriculture, the stimulation of scholarship by the establishment of schools, the Christianization of his empire by the inauguration and perpetuation of missionary enterprises were the product of the life-work of a mighty personality made wise and strong by frequent communication with the Emperor of the universe.

Charles Martel

Charles Martel, the grandfather of Charlemagne, so lost the confidence of his father that it resulted in a disinheritance. He was so despised by the Roman clergy that they frequently painted him amid the torments of the eternal fires. But regardless of all this he risked his life in battle for the defense and protection of the Christian religion. In his famous battle of Tours, in 732, he not only stayed the northward march of the Saracens, defeated the enemies of Christ, destroyed Mohammedan power in Europe, but materially changed the future history of the entire world. He won

for himself in this battle the strange title, the "Hammer," because he hammered back God's enemies and won a victory for right. But it is said that in this battle he not only fought with material but spiritual weapons as well, for he prayed to the God of the Christians to give him the victory. His prayers were answered and the battle was won. So the prayer force has even changed the currents of human history.

Felix Bartholdy Mendelssohn

It is declared of Mendelssohn, the great German musical composer, that he snatched his symphonies from the skies. And the declaration is true, for with the hands of mighty prayer, he snatched from the skies symphonies celestial, which he wove into oratorio and song so as to gladden the ears of men with echoes from the choirs of God. In the production of his Oratorio St. Paul, it seemed that the noonday light that revealed the Christ to the persecutor, on the Damascus Road, converting him from Judaism to Christianity, shone with equal splendour in the life of Mendelssohn and empowered him to delineate with supernatural wisdom the character of the apostle to the Gentiles. On May 4, 1847, in Her Majesty's theatre in London, he listened to Jenny Lind for the first time, and rejoiced that a Christian vocalist could stir to action the better nature of man by her superior powers of song. His grave at Berlin is marked by a cross, beautifully emblematical of his faith in the One who

said: "All things whatsoever ye ask in prayer believing ye shall receive."

Alfred the Great

The prayer habit makes great characters. Great characters make great nations which produce the best in science, literature and art. Alfred the Great was the only English sovereign upon whom the title great has ever been conferred. It is said that his greatness was attained by his frequent communion with the King of the Universe, who delights to answer the prayers of men. But for Alfred the names of England and Englishmen would have disappeared forever from the pages of history. God answered his prayers and helped him to prevent the eradication. His collecting and revising the ancient laws of the Anglo-Saxons according to the morals and principles of Christianity formed a code of laws that became the basis of English jurisprudence. So we can properly entitle him the "Father of English Law." His petitions to the Great Lawgiver of the universe were answered and the God of Sinai and the Christ of Beatitudes helped him in the formation of his legal jurisprudence. He was the first translator of secular English prose into the literature of the English language. As Wycliffe stands at the head of sacred English prose, so Alfred the Great stands at the genesis of secular English prose. Look at all the English prose books in all the libraries of the world and remember that they all had their beginnings with this wonderful king of the ninth century whose magnetic personality was

so surcharged with moral forces as to affect the whole future of the human race.

Dante

Dante, Italy's eccentric and intensely Christian poet who so stirred the mind of the world to better thoughts in the fourteenth century, poured through the camera of prayer his poetical pictures upon the pages of a Christian literature. So his best contributions for men were a result of his close communion with God and his prayers gave his poetry a complexion of good that elevated to grander heights the moral character of men.

John Milton

John Milton, England's seventeenth century poet, with all his consistencies and inconsistencies, orthodoxes and heterodoxies gave us a literature permeated with prayer. "Paradise Lost" and "Paradise Regained" together with other literary gems leaped into existence from the profound mind of a great poet whose spiritual attitude was that of prayer. Thank God for the influence of prayer on the science, literature and art of the world.

Galen

Claudius Galen, the illustrious physician of antiquity, was a wonderful personality who impressed himself indelibly upon the history of the world. Living in the second century, just 125 years after the crucifixion of Christ, when surgical skill

and medical science were in their infancy, his phenomenal success in surgery and medicine has been a puzzle to the mind of the scientist. He was converted from atheism to Christianity by the critical examination of a human skeleton and afterwards made the declaration that he would give any one 100 years to find a more convenient situation for any one member of the human body. Believing that God was willing to give wisdom and success to man in answer to prayer, he frequently sought in earnest supplication, as did Solomon of old, the help of the Supernatural. His life was so blessed and brightened by the Spirit of the Great Physician that the whole Roman Empire looked on him with surprise and wonder. Marcus Aurelius, the Roman Emperor, employed him as court physician, while his professional skill commanded the admiration of the world. He was considered by the medical world as infallible authority for twelve centuries. That prayer is a benediction to a person and a profession has been demonstrated by historical proof ten thousand different times.

Galileo

Galileo, the scientific wonder of three centuries ago, was sometimes called the chronological link that bound together the beautiful æsthetics of Michael Angelo and the wise philosophy of Isaac Newton. By a strange coincidence he was born on the day that Michael Angelo died and died the year that Newton was born. While training for a monk in the days of his youth he became intensely

religious and consequently discovered that secret of the prayer force. That which he learned in preparation for the monkhood, he afterwards utilized in the days of his manhood and as a result revolutionized the entire realm of scientific thought. He invented the thermometer, practically invented the telescope, actually invented the microscope and gave an impetus to genuine science that moved it with a victorious velocity along the pathway of right. In his advocacy of the Copernican theory of astronomy he was interpreted by the Roman Catholic Church as contradicting the Bible. Therefore he was arrested, mistreated and abused. His arrest and imprisonment did not prevent his communion with God. He believed that the God of nature was the God of the Bible and that between His laws in the material universe and His laws in Scriptural revelation there could be no contradiction. That a false theology might contradict a true science and a false science might contradict a true theology, but that a true science and true theology could never contradict each other. So he was wiser, holier and truer to God than his bigoted, fanatical and narrow-minded persecutors. His obedience to the law of prayer and his faith in a God that answers the calls of men made him a glorious victor on the battle-fields of controverted science.

Radium

When Professor Curie announced to the world the discovery of radium, the schools of science listened with incredulity and astonishment. To

them a material substance that constantly imparted energy without loss of strength was indeed a marvel. It seemed an impossibility. How could there be an impartation of power without a diminution of strength, was a question that demanded an answer. But radium answered the question and a justifiable incredulity was converted into a scientific faith.

Because of His infinity, God's constant impartation of power to men does not in the least degree diminish His omnipotent strength. His giving does not impoverish, His withholding does not enrich. He delights to share His omnipotency with men.

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