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BEHOLD HE PRAYETH

By W. B. Dunkum

Evangelist

Reprinted by
Revivalist Press
of
God's Bible School, College and Missionary Training Home
Cincinnati, Ohio
1981

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Digital Edition 05/10/99
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A PICTURE OF DUNKUMS

As hdm0918.jpg, a picture of W. B. Dunkum and his wife is included with this publication.

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INTRODUCTION

W. B. Dunkum was a man of extraordinary abilities. He came from a family that has given the holiness movement many great church leaders. He attended God's Bible School from 1903-06. He served as President of Kingswood Bible College, Kingswood, Kentucky. He also helped to found the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Kentucky and was Conference President in 1924-25 and 1931-32, as well as held many other offices in the Conference over the years.

Dr. Dunkum was an evangelist of no small renown. We feel the contents of his books are for the church today, as they were in the yesteryears. Thus our desire for reprinting them. Dr.

Dunkum lives on in the lives and minds of those who knew him. And, those who read after him will also remember him. He was a great and godly man and a prolific writer.

May this book be as much blessing to you as it has to me.

Bence C. Miller,
President, God's Bible School
January, 1981

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DEDICATION

This book is being rededicated to the Church and reprinted out of my personal love and appreciation for a devoted father who was, and a precious mother who is, a spiritual example to my own life. I have been encouraged in this endeavor by various church leaders, some of whom are not only outstanding administrators but educators as well.

My father loved the ministry and wrote this book for the spiritual uplift of the minister and as a pulpit help. Then, they were to be words of edification, encouragement and inspiration to the Christian layman. May this book help you live a closer life to the Master, as this is the primary purpose for its being written and reprinted.

Dr. Joseph O. Dunkum

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PREFACE

The supreme desire of the writer is that Jesus may be lifted up and that every reader may get a glimpse of the Christ and not the writer. My aim is to bring out the truth so clearly and fairly that the Holy Spirit may seal it upon every heart. I neither seek nor desire oratorical flights but my message is primarily to the children of God in general, that they may see their exalted privilege and spend much time in prayer. The most attractive dishes are those which are filled with delicious food. While this is a very small dish yet it is filled with wholesome food which is easily digested.

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Chapter 1 IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

There is nothing more important than prayer. By it man is changed from a sinner to a child of God. And through its gateway we enter into the blessing of entire sanctification. And by prayer and prayer alone are we kept pure in heart and holy in life and free from our contaminating surroundings and sanctified and meet for the Master's use.

There are many sermons these days preached about prayer, many exhortations are given exhorting people to pray and much is said in general upon the subject but after all a very few people know how to pray. A very few people ever learn the secret of "effectual fervent prayer." We should ask for certain things according to His will, then let our faith take hold of the very throne and prevail with God until we are satisfied that His will is being wrought in our lives. Certain conditions must be fulfilled before we can expect God to answer. Repentance, confession, faith, stedfastness, earnestness and a constant abiding in Him. (Jno. 16:7) These with many other things, are essential in praying a prayer that will reach heaven, and bring an answer from the throne to our hearts. It has been ordained by God for us to ask for what we want -- in public, at the family altar and in the closet. (I Tim. 2:8).

Since God has commanded us always to pray, if we obey and believe Him nothing can stand between us and the answer. All His promises are yea, yea and amen forever to him that believeth. Our God is not like the heathen gods, "having ears hear not," but our loving, sympathetic Heavenly Father longs to hear and answer the heart cry of His believing children. Notice a few men of old who prevailed with God. Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Isaiah, Hezekiah, Daniel, Elijah, Elisha, David, Paul, etc. We also find a few people in these modern times who can really pray clear through. Look at Baxter; we are told he stained the walls of his study with prayer and as a result hundreds were brought to God. Luther was such a man of prayer that he broke the spell of darkness which had settled upon the Christian Church until nations were brought in dust and humility at the foot of the Cross. John Knox took, as it were, all of Scotland in his arms of faith, but God came in mighty power and answered. Whitefield spent much time in prayer and God came in mighty power to this child of His and gave him the desire of his heart. Wesley turned his thousands to God because he spent much time in prevailing with God in prayer. Look at Finney on his knees and as a result a spiritual wave reached thousands of hungry hearts. Then comes Inskip, McDonald and others. Eternity alone will reveal the result of these godly men who spent much time in talking to the Heavenly Father.

In the life of Jesus we can see quite often that He felt the necessity of prayer. At times He wanted to be alone, to get away from His disciples, to get away from the multitude, and go upon the mountain and be alone in prayer. If you ever do anything worth while for the Master, you must know the value of secret prayer. Under certain conditions it will be necessary for you to tear away from duties, loved ones and be alone with God. How cunning and shrewd the devil is. Sometimes when you want to pray he will send in visitors or neighbors. The door bell will ring: the telephone will ring, or anything to cheat you out of your secret prayer, family prayer, or devotion to God, whether private or public.

Then at times the Son of God spent nights in prayer. Now if Jesus Christ, our Saviour, the Son of God, saw and felt the need of nights of prayer and took Himself away from the multitudes to set us an example, surely we finite creatures need to tarry, -- wait till our prayers are answered In this fast age people are not taking time to pray. With their hands full and heads crowded with worldly things they are not growing in grace. Occasionally you see him at prayer-meeting. If urged to testify he will as the following: "Brethren, I am having a hard time; the road is rough, slippery and steep; the mountains are high, the clouds are dark, but I am trying to serve the Lord. Pray for

me that I may hold out faithful." Undoubtedly a person with such an experience needs to go somewhere and pray through.

Prayer oils the machinery to prevent friction, that things may run smoothly. When prayer is used plentifully, there will be no hot boxes, no breaking of belts, no cogs slipping, no leaking of the steam. If we pray secretly, hourly, daily, we can continuously have the spirit of prayer. It will make the worship of God easy, and will cause you to live where the sun is shining, flowers are blooming, grass is growing and birds are singing. Let us spend more time in prayer.

Prayer -- yes, midnight prayer -- will unlock the gates of heaven and flood the soul with satisfaction. John prayed on the Isle of Patmos and it was there he received that wonderful revelation from God. Yes, it was there he got a glimpse of that beautiful city whose builder and maker is God.

When Jesus spent whole nights in prayer, He would do tremendous works. A man said to a preacher, "Why did you have such success?" The reply was, "God kept me on my face." A great preacher preached a big sermon and one hundred were at the altar and one asked the question, "What is the secret of his success?" A friend spoke up and said, "Why, he prayed last night all night." The soul is fed through prayer and starved through the neglect of prayer. If you want grip, grace and backbone you must pray. If you want to be fat and healthy religiously, you must learn the secret, which is prayer. Never stop until you place the key of prayer in the lock of heaven and turn it and God will reward you accordingly. Certain time should be devoted specially to prayer. (Acts 6:4.) It has been said, "He that labors prays." How much more truly may we say, that "he who prays labors." Brethren, if prayer were not as essential as it really is to the success of our labors and for our spiritual uplift, do we not owe it to those around us to spend much time in prayer? Do we not hear the voice of the Apostle Paul thundering down through the ages and saying, "Pray without ceasing?"

Prayer is important in that it is the divine exercise in which the heart should be engaged continually. By praying earnestly for others you will become generous and be delighted in their happiness instead of your own because nothing will make you love people more than praying for them; and if you will allow yourself to be an advocate between God and your neighbors, you will think you have the best neighbors of anyone in your town or community. Praying for and with your children is a great means of government, much greater than quarreling, grumbling, growling, scolding and complaining. Brother, Sister, beware lest your inconsistent life and example hinder the piety of your children. It would be better for you that a millstone were hanged about your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea than for you to hinder (religiously) one of those whom God hath intrusted to your care. Mother's and father's prayer should be an inspiration to their children as well as the means of attaining the greatest and highest heights possible.

The Bible conception of prayer is that it is more than soul culture and discipline. Yea, more than a combination of blessings upon the one who prays. But everywhere in the Bible we are taught that the real heart cry of the soul is to bring things to pass. Jacob wrestled and prevailed until something occurred. Moses cried and seas divided. Daniel prayed and dreams were revealed and lions muzzled. Elijah prayed and rain descended, etc. Both Testaments are rich beyond measure in their teachings on prayer. The Bible sets forth to you your privilege at the throne of

grace. We should pray about everything, -- "pray without ceasing," pray always, pray believingly, pray persistently, pray importunately.

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Chapter 2 LAW OF PRAYER

It was a great achievement when the first electric message was sent from Baltimore to Washington, D.C., by means of telegraph wire. People were caused to wonder when the first message was sent in a second from England to America, But still greater was the wonder when messages began to go from city to city through the air without wires. But something still more wonderful was discovered thousands of years ago, that it was possible to get a message through to the skies and get an answer in return. Men and women are continually sending wireless messages to heaven and getting prompt replies, It is absolutely necessary for the soul to hear distinctly and unmistakably from the skies and we should hear daily. Just as sure as we can get messages from a distance of several thousand miles away, that sure can we get a message from the Lord God of the universe. Some may doubt as to getting a message directly from heaven, yet there are certain conditions in the Bible if complied with gives us access to the Celestial Wireless System Then we can invariably hear from heaven. Prayer should be wireless messages between earth and heaven.

"If we abide in Him." Hence there is a possibility of abiding in Him. He or she who abides in Him can constantly hear from heaven. God does not hear everybody's prayer. If you want your prayer answered you must either be right with God or praying to get right. When the conditions are met He answers prayer. It is appalling to see how little the doctrine of prayer is understood. Proficiency in prayer is somewhat like proficiency in a musical instrument -- it requires practice. The reason there are so few piano players is because of the lack of practice. The reason people do not pray is because they are out of the habit of praying. The habit of prayer is good but the spirit of prayer is better.

One might say, "Why pray for things? God loves us and knows what we need !" We cannot change God's mind. Very true. God knows what we need and He wills us His very best upon understood conditions and the conditions are if we ask we shall receive. We can have a part in the salvation of this world by prayer, but our prayers should be effectual and fervent.

It is a positive command of the Lord for us to pray to the Lord of the harvest that He may send forth laborers into His harvest, It is a sad fact that so many people do not know the value of prayer. Heathen are not supposed to know the value of prayer, but cultured people, living in the twentieth century or under the flash light of the Holy Ghost dispensation surely by all means should know the value of prayer.

We are told that in Africa many of the heathen are found kneeling in dumb appeal for hours. When asked what they are doing they will say, "We are praying to the white man's God; yet we do not know what to say." Yet occasionally we hear people say, "I do not believe in foreign missions." But they did not mean that, they mean, "I am ignorant concerning foreign missions." A heathen woman when in the very jaws of death spoke to a praying missionary and said, "Tell your

people how fast we are dying and ask them if they can send the Gospel a little faster." "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest."

Prayer is not only a duty but a privilege. God does not require any thing unreasonable. Prayer is reasonable, therefore God requires prayer. Prayerless individuals make prayerless homes. Prayerless homes make prayerless churches and prayerless churches make prayerless communities. Prayer is the binding cord of a home. Prayer is the life of a church. Jesus set the example of prayer, hence we should pray more and talk less. Paul also laid much stress on prayer. (Eph. 1:15-23; 3:14-21; Col. 1:9-11).

It is scriptural to spread your everything before the Lord; the little trials and difficulties, as well as the great ones. Your greatest friend is your Heavenly Father Who takes pleasure and delight in blessing His children. The more we exercise faith and patience the more will we feel like spreading our business affairs before the Lord. Martin Luther said, "I have so much to do today that I won't be able to get through without much time in prayer." He or she who spends much time in prayer is not likely to ask such questions as, "Is it wrong to go to dances, theaters, shows, etc.?"

We say we are intercessors; we claim to live a life of prayer; can we think of any one that we have prayed into the kingdom? We are priests unto God; then there is a responsibility upon us as to those for whom we are to intercede. Don't criticize but pray for them. If you should criticize a person today, you would not likely feel like praying either for or with them tomorrow.

I am convinced that there is nothing in the whole Christian religion so difficult and so rarely attained, as real prayer. Without it you are as weak as weakness itself, and with it you are strong and irresistible. But brethren, the average church member needs to turn over a new leaf and take a new lesson on the subject of prayer. If you lose the spirit of prayer you will do nothing, or next to nothing for the Master yet you may have intellectual endowment of an angel. If you have lost the spirit of prayer, you have lost your spirituality; hence I beseech you to stop and repent before it is too late.

No one can retain their relationship to God without the habit of prayer. We say habit because almost every body will pray when dangers and troubles arise, but Christians must have the habit of prayer, a time of prayer, a place of prayer. Prayer is as a rubber tube of communication, which brings down the atmosphere of heaven and keeps us alive and aglow for God and the right. Form the habit of praying in public. Don't be afraid of your own voice. Talk to the Lord as you would to an earthly father; He is not watching to criticize, but longs to answer the heart cry of His believing children. The greatest need of this day is united, special, genuine, agonizing prayer for the salvation and sanctification of the world.

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Chapter 3 REWARDED PRAYER

The best and the greatest people in America are those who spend much time in prayer. I do not mean those who talk about praying (though they may discuss the subject logically and systematically) nor those who say they believe in prayer, nor those who explain it, but I mean those who take time to pray. Undoubtedly they are doing more for God in solving problems in awakening dead and formal churches, in winning souls than any other class of people. They are constantly found in the thickest of the fight, doing valiant service for the Master and as sweet as heaven in their souls.

I often think when I see some homely looking woman plainly dressed come stepping up the church aisle, though she may have on a hat or a bonnet, which has been fixed over several times, and from the looks of her hands they have never been softened by the wearing of gloves, whom the average person seldom gives a passing thought; I am inclined to think she is doing more to advance the kingdom of God than the average person who demands the respect of the upper circles of society. Why, does she give her hundreds to advance the cause of Christ? "Nay verily," but she gives her mite, and God smiles upon her because of the fact that she has done her best. But she is a success because she spends much time in communion with the Heavenly Father. God will answer the prayer of the most humble person who keeps constantly resigned to His whole will. Prayer makes it possible for God to do what otherwise He could not do.

Every prayer must have two parts: A God to give; a person to receive. Man must be willing. Man's willingness is God's channel to the earth. God never pushes nor crowds blessings off on us, but only works as man gives his consent. We must constantly keep our hearts open to the truth. Open hearts are God's open channels of communion between heaven and this lost world. Our prayers are God's opportunity of giving, and our opportunity for receiving.

If we expect to be rewarded well we must pray well. Martin Luther said, "To have prayed well is to have studied well." It would be well for you to form the habit of prayer. John Wesley had the habit of getting up each morning at four o'clock for prayer and meditation.

Prayer is the door to the divine treasure house of God which contains supplies for all our needs. We do not realize the possibilities there are in prayer. There is no limit to the power of prayer if we are living in the proper attitude before God. There are two kinds of prayer these days. One is saying prayers and the other is praying prayers. We should pray from the heart. Don't try to fix your prayers by flowery words that just come from the lips, but a prayer from the heart will reach the hearts of men and women and win them to Jesus. Some people pray because they feel it their duty, but I believe David prayed because he counted it a privilege. When our hearts are in tune with heaven, prayer will be a love feast and a privilege. As you walk with God and commune with Him many times you will find that you haven't words to express the desire of your heart. "He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that ye ask or think." God loves us too well to answer our prayers when we ask for things which would be a curse to us instead of a blessing. God has many ways of answering. He waits many times that He might give us a better and fuller answer. A poor woman stood at the gate of a vineyard. The proprietor asked her if she wanted some grapes. She said she did, so he took her basket and was gone a long time. She became discouraged, thinking he would not return. At last he returned with the basket heaped full. He said, "I have made you wait a long time, but the longer you wait the better the grapes and the more." At times the

answer to your prayers may seem delayed, but hold steady; in His own good time He will give you the desire of your heart if it is for His glory.

If you want your prayers rewarded and answered, pray in faith. Let us remember that prayer is not merely coaxing and teasing God for something; it is an opportunity for the expression of your love and gratitude and praise to God. So it should be a time of praise as well as a time of asking. People who are rewarded by prayer are those who pray, not those who talk about prayer but those who take time to pray. If you haven't time, take it from something else. Put your time to pray first and put your other items of life's schedule after prayer and by so doing you can do something worth while for God. Prayer is the mightiest force at the command of the Christian, It is the believer's highest privilege; the supreme power of the Church; yes, hell's most vital foe.

A story is told of two men who fell out. One heard that the other was talking about him. He went to him and said, "Will you be kind enough to tell me my faults to my face that I may profit thereby and get rid of them." "Certainly," said he. They stepped aside. The former said, "Let us pray first"; you lead the prayer." After prayer they arose; "Now you may proceed with your complaints." "After praying about them," said he, "they look too little to talk about." After asking forgiveness, the quarrel was settled and they parted the best kind of friends.

There are other difficulties that might be settled the same way. Try it. More things can be settled through prayer than can be imagined. Contentions settle nothing; law-suits breed bitterness and hatred; arguments create antagonism; but difficulties should be settled by old-fashioned prayer-meetings. The Lord hears and answers prayer. You should not want. He maketh you to rejoice in answers manifold and to tell of the wonders of prayer. Through prayer He has restored you plentifully and led you in paths remarkable. Though you walk in valleys of discouragement and humiliation, He will comfort you in prayer and give you light for darkness. In the presence of your enemies He will answer your prayers in ways marvelous, He hath anointed you with fresh oil and given you a full cup in the time of drought. Surely His goodness and mercy shall follow you if you pray unto Him, and in His way of prayer shall you abide all the days of your life.

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Chapter 4 NEGLECT OF PRAYER

We should commence every day upon our knees and be sure of the fact that God is with us. He begins the day unwisely who leaves his bed chamber without a few moments of communion with his Heavenly Father. No pressure of business or household duties should crowd out prayer. If so you will become dry, formal, and lean in your soul. Go not out into the dangerous world without prayer. You work hard all day, and when night comes you are too tired to pray and you excuse yourself by making a short prayer. Next morning your early devotion is eliminated because of sleeping too late. You neglect prayer and you will suffer for it. Temptations are before you and you are not prepared to meet them. With a guilty conscience you are likely to shrink from duty. A few minutes lost can never be regained. Hence it would be wise for you to tarry at the foot of the cross before going out to confront the enemy and face the issues and responsibilities of life. By not praying as much as we should we are likely to lose the joy of salvation. One might ask the

question: "How may this joy be lost?" By leaving off the first love. By neglecting certain means of grace; such as Bible reading, meditation, and both private and public prayer. No place to live like living on your knees before the throne of grace.

We have lost the art of prayer. The first thing you do, pray. Do not make prayer secondary. Prayer is the most important thing in the life of a true Christian, It is not an important factor in the life of the twentieth century Christian, but a very important factor in the life of a Bible Christian. True prayer is conceived by the Holy Ghost. You can move the world by prayer and the man who moves the world is a man the world can't move, It is alarming to see how people are neglecting prayer, and they dwindle spiritually who neglect prayer. If Satan can get you to neglect prayer he has won the victory and you have lost your power.

The greatest lack of our life is that we do not pray more, and there is no failure so disastrous or criminal as this. If at all times we could have access to our fellow creatures, especially those who were wise and noble, how strong and brave we should become. But we can have the presence of one Who is greater than a friend. Whatever our needs are we should seek His august presence and obtain His counsel and assistance. Think of having access into the presence of our Father, in Whom wisdom, power and love blend perfectly, and Who is always willing to hear us. He is perpetually urging us to come. "This is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us; and if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him."

Prayer is the means to an end, but of the many who are going this way few reach the goal. Tennyson called it "That mystery where God and man is one with man and God." Many of our leading church members are strangers to prayer; when that is the case they are strangers to God and to Christianity and to experiential religion. Prayer is not noise, but a sincere expression of the human heart to Almighty God. Ninety per cent of our church members never pray at all. Greater than doing is being, and when you are you will. If you can't get a prayer through and get an answer, you have missed the greatest blessing under heaven. Over five hundred times the Bible says God talked to Moses, or Moses talked to God, and as a result Moses wrote more scripture than any other writer. When the Church neglects prayer there will be defeat in the battle. David Gregg says, "Nothing lies beyond the reach of prayer except that which lies outside the will of God." You can do more than pray, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed. When a Church gets as honest and serious in prayer as she is when looking after other church duties, things will come to pass. "He that saveth his time from prayer shall lose it; he that loseth his time in communion with God shall find it in blessing." -- Wilder. "I would rather teach one man to pray than ten men to preach." -- McGregor.

There are doubtless a few persons who have not some time in their lives, either by experience or observation, witnessed the power of God as one who hears and answers prayer. Many a man who does not pray can look back to the time when he was in trouble and called mightily on God for help. In the years that have come and gone, in poverty and in adversity, when human refuges have failed, many have fled to Him for help, who is mighty to save, and have found His grace sufficient, and His arm strong to redeem and victorious to deliver. Many who have become formal and careless, have lost out in their experience and do not pray as they used to, if at all. It is well to remember the way God has led us in the years gone' by, It is better still to know

that He leads us now, and that He is fulfilling His gracious Word, "The Lord shall guide thee continually." It is He Who took us from the horrible pit and the miry clay; and established our goings, and His new song has never died upon our lips. A living God will bend low to hear His children's cry. A living Christ is touched with the feelings of our infirmities and was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin, He sits at the right hand of the Father on high and makes intercession for you. O man of God make haste to prove the power of prayer. Be encouraged. He who made his life a pilgrimage, made it a life of prayer. Have you yet learned the value and privilege of prayer? If in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving we do let our request be made known to God, He hears and answers prayer. If prayer was ever needful it is now. While Satan is pursuing and Christ inviting and our necessities urge us onward, shall we hesitate to avail ourselves of all the help which God bestows, that we may make our calling and election sure, and be fitted for such service as shall glorify God and bless a fallen world.

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Chapter 5 RESULT OF PRAYER

Mr. Torrey says the average preacher does not pray over five minutes a day, and the average Christian does not pray over three minutes per day. The life of Daniel shows the result of prayer. His foot prints have been left in the sand of time and his life of prayer should be a blessing throughout all ages.

It was said of Mr. George Whitefield that he had an unvarying rule of praying one hour before the delivery of every sermon. Therefore he would go before his people charged and surcharged with the Holy Ghost.

While a fair was being held in the suburbs of London, Mr. Whitefield erected him a stand and preached to a multitude from ten A. M. to four P. M., while many of his friends thought his life was in danger. But as a result five hundred souls were converted.

Mr. Wesley's invariable rule was, alone with God one hour in both morning and evening. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." One said to a preacher after he had delivered a red-hot sermon: "The Lord certainly helped you to deliver that message this morning." "Yes," said the preacher, "but I spent half the night in prayer."

In a gracious revival conducted by Jonathan Edwards some women prayed all night. The next night he preached from the text, "Sinners in the hands of an angry God." When he got through many were holding to the backs of the seats feeling as though they were dropping into hell, but in that one service over one hundred souls found salvation.

One man of God one Sabbath morning (in the midst of harvest) at a country church, announced sunrise prayer-meeting next morning. He went home and spent the following night in prayer; went to sleep just before day. He awoke at sunrise; horses and buggies were around the church and people were gathering. Services lasted all day. Some told in their testimonies they

could neither rest nor sleep any the night before. Conviction settled upon the community and a sweeping Pentecostal revival followed.

Multitudes of our people are getting behind in their praying and sorry to say, some will never catch up. The prayer life is essential, far-reaching and has abiding results. All cannot preach, all cannot sing, all cannot give great sums of money, all are not gifted with magnetic personality, but all can move heaven in prayer. Where there is oneness, agreement and congeniality and the people go to praying, something begins to happen. John Hunt tells us of a missionary who never ceased to pray for his people. Though in the very jaws of death, he lifted them to God in prayer, and through his earnestness and prayers the awful cloud of paganism was lifted and the light from heaven flashed into many a benighted heart.

John Knox was a man of prayer. There was a little inclosure near his home where he was in the habit of retiring for prayer. A friend one night followed him out to his accustomed place of prayer, and sitting on the outside listened. He heard Knox exclaims "O Lord, give me Scotland or I die." Then all was silent, in a few moments the same statement. Then he exclaimed with greater earnestness than ever, "O Lord, give me Scotland, or I die." It is sufficient to say God heard and answered. Hence he knew the result of prayer.

We can learn many lessons through the life of Mr. Charles Finney which will be invaluable to us and such as we can learn nowhere except in the school of prayer.

One man said that the result of Mr. Finney's meeting in his town was that the entire place was penetrated with such a religious feeling that it was impossible for six years to organize a dancing party and it was unprofitable to have a circus. A very prominent lady of high standing, culture, and extensive influence, was one of the first converted. She being very worldly, regretted the coming of Mr. Finney, as she was afraid he would have a revival and it would interfere with her pleasure the coming winter. She being radically saved did produce much excitement among the class of people to which she belonged.

Mr. C. G. Finney's brother-in-law was superintendent of a cotton factory, and invited Mr. Finney to hold service there one night, which he did, having present a large crowd. The Word took powerful effect. The next day Mr. Finney started through the factory sight-seeing, when a holy solemnity seemed to settle upon those who were busy at their looms and other implements of work. He noticed one trying to tie a thread but trembling so she could not. He looked solemnly at her; she was overcome, and sank down and burst into tears. The impression caught almost like powder, and in a few moments people were in tears throughout the factory. The owner of the establishment was present and said to the superintendent: "Stop the mill and let the people attend to religion, which is more important than the running of this mill." The factory was immediately stopped and the weeping hundreds assembled around Mr. Finney and he preached to them in the power of the Holy Ghost. A Pentecostal revival with astonishing power, went through the entire mill and in a few days hundreds were wonderfully and scripturally converted, Oh, the power of tarrying before God!

Mr. Finney held one of his greatest revival meetings in London, which lasted nine months. Average number of seekers at one time was fifteen hundred. A number of services 2,000 people

responded to seek God at one time. The number which sought and found God came from all parts of the city, numbering up in the thousands. But all of his great victories came as a result of spending much time in prayer.

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Chapter 6 EFFECTUAL PRAYER

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." A pray-er should always be as good as the prayer. Prayer is defined as "the application of an insufficient to a sufficient being for good, which the former cannot otherwise obtain and which the latter alone can supply." Phillips Brooks says a prayer is "a true wish sent Godward." To really pray means to pour out your soul in worship and supplication to the Almighty. Some of the constituent elements of prayer might be defined as: 1. Thanksgiving. 2. Adoration. 3. Supplication. 4. Confession. 5. Intercession. When prayer is preceded by repentance and accompanied by faith, it invariably brings a direct answer. Three kinds of prayer: 1. Secret prayer. 2. Family prayer. 3. Public prayer. "Pray without ceasing." Continually keep in the spirit of prayer. There should be special times and seasons of prayer. It would be well for us to pray both morning, noon and evening. Let those who want constant and perfect victory continually hold communion with God. All great soul-winners have been men of prayer. Those who prevail in prayer know by sweet experience that "God is a prayer-hearing and a prayer-answering God." I pity the skeptic who does not believe in answered prayer.

A certain child who said, "God always answers prayer but sometimes He answers 'yes,' and sometimes He answers 'no,'" was not far from being correct. God does answer prayer, but our prayers must be according to His will, then He does grant the request of those who meet the divine approbation. Two reasons He does not answer prayer: 1st reason is with the prayer -- not according to His will. 2nd, is with the pray-er. "If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me."

The God of the heavens has not wound up the universe as a great piece of machinery and left it to run itself. He is ever ready to lead and guide those who trust wholly in Him. He knows when a hero dies for the sake of the Gospel; He sees a sparrow when it falls to the earth; yea, He holds us in the hollow of His hands, numbers the very hairs of our head and makes all grace abound toward us that we, "always having all sufficiency in all things may abound to every good work." Effectual prayer should never have a secondary place in life, but should always occupy front ranks. When prayer is secondary, or incidental it is powerless. You should never attempt to get along without prayer. It is more necessary than food, air, light, or money. You live a prayerless life a few days and you will awaken to the fact that you are bankrupt spiritually. If you want to enjoy the riches of God's bank you should continually draw checks on it. Many believe in prayer who never avail themselves of the opportunity. Consequently they are the losers but not aware of it.

Red-hot prayer is prevailing or effectual prayer. Prevailing or effectual prayer is the prayer which attains the blessing that it seeks. Its effects are generally lasting and permanent. Rev.

C. G. Finney gives the following as essential to prayer. 1. It must be for a definite object. 2. Prayer, to be effectual, must be according to the revealed will of God; 3. Prayer for an object implies a desire for it. 4. Prayer, to be effectual, must be offered from right motives. 5. Prayer, to be effectual, must be by the intercession of the Spirit. 6. It must be persevering prayer. 7. You must pray in faith.

The Holy Spirit helps your faith. 1. He will give you a desire and a burden. 2. He will give you the spirit of communion. 3. We pray in His name, in faith and in love.

We must pray the prayer of faith. 1. The prayer of faith will inspire and illuminate. 2. The prayer of faith succeeds. 3. The prayer of faith never dies. 4. The prayer of faith never fails. 5. The prayer of faith is indispensable to praying in faith. 6. The prayer of faith is possible. 7. The prayer of faith leads to the spirit of prayer. 8. To offer the prayer of faith we must have faith in prayer. 9. The prayer offered in faith will give you the desire of your heart. 10. This kind of faith will surmount difficulties and obstacles and climb on the tomb stone of defeat and make the impossible possible.

It is useless to pray unless you expect to obtain what you ask for. And if you are led by the Holy Spirit to pray for certain things, you have as much reason to expect the thing to be done as if God had revealed it in His Word. Certain conditions of the heart are essential to pray red-hot prayers: 1. A heart that is undivided. 2. A broken and a humble heart He will not despise. 3. A clean heart. 4. A forgiving heart. 5. A willing and obedient heart. 6. A heart taught by the Spirit. 7. A heart that glorifies the God of heaven. See the following scripture and pray accordingly:

"Delight thyself also in the Lord, and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass." Ps. 37:4,5. "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of them that fear Him: He also will hear their cry, and will save them." Ps. 145:18,19. "When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, 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." Matt. 6:6. "Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." Matt. 7:7,8. "All things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matt. 21:22. "Pray without ceasing." I Thes. 5:17. "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it you." Jno. 16:23. "Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you." Jas. 4:8. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Jas. 5:16.

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Chapter 7 FORMAL PRAYER

Doubtless before now you have heard prayers that seemed cold-hurt or frost bitten. They needed warming up or thawing out. A warm heart makes a warm prayer, while a cold heart always makes a cold formal prayer. Either a cold heart or cold prayer is a hindrance to the progress of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That cold-hurt prayer never reaches the throne. It seems to be addressed to

the congregation and not to the God of the heavens. Your religious experience will never have much depth to it if your prayers are cold-hurt. No one can continue in close fellowship with God who prays cold-hurt or frost-bitten prayers. A person who prevails mightily in prayer and is successful in interceding for souls is worth more than tongue can tell. Praying is valuable, especially when it is red-hot and comes from the heart of one who walks with God. To be a success in prayer: 1. One needs a reasonable knowledge of himself. Who am I? What am I? What is my standing with God? and what is my standing with my fellowmen of earth. A deep heart-searching when alone with God is sure to reveal to you your real self. One glimpse of yourself will cause you to discover the fact that you need to get down low in the valley of humiliation. 2. We need to know God; whom to know in all His fulness is entire sanctification. It is impossible to know Him without a genuine work of salvation wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit. Merely an intellectual assent to the truth is not enough, there must be a clear conception of saving grace. A sinner does not know God. A sinner cannot have a sufficient degree of confidence to ask anything from the Lord whom he is habitually sinning against. He needs repentance. His prayer must be for pardon and mercy. After pardon, then he can pray for others to some extent, but he can pray better after he has received' the baptism of the Holy Ghost. After once right with God we should exercise much faith and great care lest we fall again into sin and the clutches of Satan. As long as we remain faithful, prayer will be easy and victory sure to follow. 3. We must have a reasonable knowledge of human nature, people's habits and dispositions. True prayer seeks for others the same blessings one has received himself. To see what others are, helps you to get an insight into your own experience. But when looking at the blunders and shortcomings of others you surely need the grace of entire sanctification. A keen insight into the lives of others brings to you a very great responsibility. Much the same when you discover serious fire or fatal disease a great responsibility is resting upon some one. In order to help others we should first gain their confidence, and seek to get under their burdens and difficulties, It is a great privilege to be called upon by the Lord to help lift the burden from the hearts of those for whom Jesus died.

It is folly, shame, yea, a disgrace to be praying cold-hurt prayers under the Holy Ghost dispensation. If it is necessary for us to have clear ideas concerning any Bible subject, it is the subject of prayer. And by getting a clear insight into the subject we will neither minimize its power nor charge God foolishly. All the men and women of any age who have moved the world towards God, have been men of prayer. Open the Book, properly called the Bible, there stands Abraham, (that holy man of God) interceding for Lot in Sodom. Jacob wrestling with the angel till the break of day. There is Moses praying for his people, and Elijah opening and shutting the gates of heaven with his mighty prayers. The Psalms are more than communion with God, as they are praise for answered prayer. Then comes the Master, the greatest of all examples, spending all night in prayer. I can't imagine His prayers were either cold or formal. No wonder the poet sang:

"Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
The Christian's native air:
His watchword at the gate of death,
He enters heaven by prayer."

A great philosopher said, "Prayer is religion in act." That is true providing the prayer is not frost-bitten, It is appalling to see what a misconception some people have of prayer. It is a red-letter day in the experience of any man or woman when he or she learns the lesson and finds

out how to pray. To learn this lesson may mean that you will have to pass through the kindergarten of suffering, but the peace and assurance you obtain will be worth more than the cost. Hence we can correctly say, prayer is the condition of the heart. It is real communion and adoration. We come not so much to tell what we want of Him, but to ask what He wants of us. When we use the telephone we are not content until we hear the voice of the one we seek. There are many who undertake to talk with God, but they hang up the receiver before the answer comes. But if your prayers are cold-hurt it is useless to take the receiver down unless we mean to pray for number one. But our prayers ought to go through and we wait until an answer comes from the responsive heaven. Wait until there comes into your soul a flood-tide of God's abiding love and you have the assurance that your prayer is heard in heaven and answered on earth. Then you can rise from your knees and go forth in the strength of that revelation, knowing that "the promises of God in Him are yea and in Him amen," to him that believeth. Hence the real value of prayer in every walk of the Christian life would be very hard to over-estimate. This indefinable power is much better felt than told.

I am persuaded that many misapprehend the part which prayer is to play in the prosecution and conservation of revival work. We would not deny for a moment that miracles of grace are wrought through prayer, yet God does not send a revival in one's sleep, but we must tarry in His presence and agonize and hold on until He answers by fire. Then our prayers will no longer be cold-hurt, but will reach the throbbing heart of God, stir the public with whom we pray, and we will be better prepared to go forth facing the conflicts which are just ahead.

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Chapter 8 ELEMENTS OF PRAYER

In the twelfth chapter of Acts and the fifth verse we read these words: "Peter was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him." This reveals to us the power of prayer. What is impossible to man is possible to God. Man's extremity is God's opportunity. "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken." There are marvelous results connected with prayer, especially when prayer is in faith. Prayer is power. Jesus said, "Whatsoever ye ask in My name that will I do. If ye shall ask anything in My name, I will do it." Jno. 14:13,14). This clearly shows that omnipotent power is at our disposal (for His glory) for the asking. What is prayer? "Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, uttered or unexpressed." It is communion with God -- making our request known to Him, It is talking to our Heavenly Father, and they who know Him best are oftenest found in the secret place of prayer. Jesus tells us over and over again to make known our desires to the Father, and ask in His name and the Father would grant our petitions. He does answer the heart cry of His children and encourages us by saying, "If ye ask anything in My name, I will do it." The soul that has the spirit of prayer will not get discouraged by delayed answer, but "being fully persuaded that what He has promised, He is able to perform." Beloved let us continue to pray until the petition is granted. As we are members of the true Church we ought to be able to pray the effectual prayer that availeth much. If you want to pray the prayer that reaches the throne, abide in Him and let His Word abide in you. "And ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you." We are to make our petitions to God, Who hears us for Christ's sake. Not to the priest, nor to the preacher, nor to the people, but to God. God can and

does answer our request, and to Him we are to pray in the name of His dear Son, and as we pray unto the Father in His name, Jesus intercedes for us.

Many of our best people lose some of the greatest blessings by not being definite, Be definite in asking. The Church prayed "for him." Thank God for a praying Church, a Church that knows how to bring things to pass. Andrew Murray, -- "With Christ in the School of Prayer," says, "Our prayer must not be a vague appeal to His mercy, an indefinite cry for blessing, but the distinct expression of definite need. Not that His loving heart does not understand our cry, or is not ready to hear, but He desires it for our own sakes. Such definite prayer teaches us to know our own need better. It searches us and puts us to the test as to whether our desires are honest and real, such as we are ready to persevere in. It teaches us to judge whether our desires are according to God's Word and whether we really believe that we shall receive the things we ask. It helps us to wait for special answers, and mark it when it comes."

So this company of believers in Jerusalem were definite in their asking. It was "for him" -- for Peter, for his deliverance out of prison, and out of the hands of wicked Herod, that prayer was made without ceasing to God, and their prayers were heard and answered. May the Spirit of God inspire our prayers to help us to pray without ceasing unto God for those things that we desire, until the answer comes.

Prayer is the actual contact of the soul with God and from it comes new life and strength. It is a real application of the soul to God for aid, and should be with the confidence of a little child. It is then and then only that we open our secret thought and inmost wants. Such prayers are necessary to build earnest, true Christian character. Prayer gives right direction to life and motives and principles and should control the entire life. Prayer is necessary for true interpretation, regardless of your scholarship. Many of the best scholars have neglected the highest aid and have gone exclusively into intellectual methods. Prayer removes the mountains of difficulties and brings about the salvation of men from sin to holiness of heart and life. Don't argue with people but pray for and with them. Arguments are detrimental to deep spiritual life. Your prayers should be stronger than your argument, for the most conclusive arguments are your prayers. What a marvelous thing it is to pray! It is the duty and privilege of every individual, yet many are neglecting their known duty. Through prayer spiritual forces are set in exercise which work out God's design in the salvation of men. Christians ought to feel a drawing to pray as they should feel responsible about their own soul and become intercessors for lost humanity. When praying is in the Holy Ghost wonders will be accomplished in Jesus' name. Because of prevailing prayer hungry souls will be led into the banqueting house of love, and will eat and drink abundantly and will witness that "He satisfieth the longing soul and filleth the hungry soul with goodness." But who is willing to be the intercessor? Who will take time to pray? Reader, will you? The time has come when nothing but prayer will meet the demand. Who can tell what stupendous and glorious results will follow if people pray in the Holy Ghost. Prayer alone will give another Pentecost; it alone will bring down fire from heaven. Prayer is the one thing that will prepare the way of the Lord, either in individuals or in churches. It alone will remove stumbling blocks and bring about confession and restitution, preceded by Bible repentance, to the end He may ride on gloriously in converting and sanctifying power. Oh, the power there is within our reach, if we would only master the situation. Power with God and men! Princely power! Who can adequately express the tremendous possibilities wrapped up in prayer? Who can tell the blessings that are missed in two worlds by neglecting prayer.

Doubtless many will wear starless crowns because of neglecting their duty. Let us, as representatives of the kingdom, do our duty along the line and see the salvation of our God and wear a starry crown in the world to come.

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Chapter 9 HINDRANCES TO PRAYER

The most important help to successful Christian living is prayer. It is that efficient means of grace which is in reach of every Christian, though it meets with many hindrances. But they who are determined will be rewarded a thousand fold for their time and labor. Let us notice some of these hindrances:

1. The neglect of certain means of grace accounts for failures and hinders prayer. Begin to live on past blessings; neglect family prayer and secret prayer, and you will dry up, settle down and lose out. If your prayers are not heard in heaven and answered on earth you had better investigate. The Lord might put His finger on a sore spot in your life, but if I were you I would "go through." It takes backbone, blood, muscle and green backs, but let's go through.

2. A direct hindrance is Satan. "Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees." He is always looking for some way whereby he might hinder prayer, but constant fellowship with Jesus Christ through the experience of holiness gives victory over the devil. Jesus conquered him by prayer and fasting and we should go and do likewise. He knows how to plan and suggest when you are on your knees; he will show you things of importance which need immediate attention.

3. Lack of time. The men of business cares may plead the want of time. People always find time for that they consider important. If we consider communion with the King of kings of little importance, of course we will find but little time for it. In proportion as we feel the importance of anything in that proportion do we give it attention.

4. Disobedience to God. Your success in the Christian race depends upon your obedience to God. "To obey is better than to sacrifice."

5. Difficulties with the brethren or neighbors. It is high time all difficulties were straightened up.

6. Lack of unity or agreement. See 2nd chapter of Acts.

7. Withholding from God that which belongs to Him. Brethren, render to God the things that belong to Him that you may keep out of trouble.

8. Secret sins. There are sins known to no one but the Lord and the person committing them. They are as fatal as open vice, as no sin is hid from the Lord.

9. Heart sins, The inbred sin of the human heart. The roots of evil, the unholy nature of the soul. This is heart sin, and generally the worst form of sin. The heart sin cannot be forgiven as it was nothing we committed, but that we inherited; hence we will have to get rid of it by a cleansing process. To be delivered from this sin means to be sanctified wholly.

10. Mental suggestion. Wandering thoughts are mental and not moral hindrances. They are not evidences that we are wrong. By no means are they a sign of sinfulness.

11. Physical weakness. Weariness or drowsiness. It has a strong tendency to produce spiritual slothfulness, which we have to constantly watch against.

12. Human infirmities. Our infirmities will likely hinder our prayers. We lack in judgment and good sense. From the fact we are human we are likely to take the human for the divine. We are dull and sluggish, slow to see things as we want it. Unless we have reasonable knowledge here, our prayers will likely be hindered.

13. Selfishness and wrong desires.

14. Strife and bitterness.

15. Doubt.

16. Standing on forbidden ground.

17. Ignorance concerning the things of God.

18. Excusing wrong.

19. Unforgiveness. Mr. Wesley said, "We should order forgiveness by the barrel and forbearance and long-suffering by the hogshead."

20. Broken fellowship.

There are some methods whereby we may overcome hindrances:

1. A fixed determination. We are in no child's play, but in a conflict between light and darkness; right and wrong; God and Satan. You will need the courage of a hero, but He is all you need.

2. It will take time to be religious if other interests do suffer. You neglect your spiritual life and you will take the consequences. No one loses by taking time to pray. Martin Luther said, "I have so much to do today that I can't get along without praying three hours." John Knox counted a day ill-spent unless he prayed from seven to eight hours, If Christian people would pray from seven to eight minutes per day they would not backslide on every change of the moon.

3. Faith is essential to our spiritual welfare. God wants us to have faith so we will not hinder the answer. We exercise faith in our every day affairs. Let us pray in faith and look for a definite answer. The more you pray the more you learn the mysteries of prayer both as to height and depth. Sometimes we ask for something and fail to wait for it and should it come at once we are gone when it arrives. We should have faith in prayer as we do in a telegram. We do not see it going but we wait and it goes. Pray in His name (i. e.) our prayer must be grounded on the finished work of Christ, and on redemption's rights through His death and atonement. God requires us to believe before He answers our prayers. Faith is a law under the gospel dispensation. Faith is also a mighty force in the spiritual world. Hence let us pray in faith.

Prayer is not only for petition but for communion with God. If we think prayer is only for petition we will not make much headway in prayer. But it is for communion for us to get acquainted with the Bridegroom of our soul. We had better miss physical comforts than the blessings that come from communion with God.

Prayer is necessary for two reasons: First, we need help from the Lord ourselves. Second. intercession must be made in behalf of others. Many who are dead in trespasses and sins must be raised in answer to prayer by the coming of the Holy Spirit. True prayer must bring them back or they will be lost forever, It is important to pray for one another. Do you pray for and with your fellow-Christians, or do you cut and slash them with the tongue? Does your religion lift, or does it drive? One ounce of prayer is worth more than a ton of criticism, especially when the criticism is at one's back. Brethren, pray much. Don't try to pray nice prayers, but pray from the heart. Real prayer is exceedingly scarce. We have people who can say and make good prayers. They use good grammar, excellent rhetoric, first class logic, their sentences are well balanced, but no spirit, hence their prayers are dry. They cannot pray things through. If they could pray things clear through, the power of God would be mightily manifested, the tide of salvation would flow like a river, secret prayer would become common, family prayer general and all Christians would be ready to lead in prayer.

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Chapter 10 ANSWERED PRAYER

I. Some Conditions of True Prayer.

1. Putting away sin. 2. Doing whole duty. 3. Abiding in Christ. 4 Faith. 5. Guidance of the Spirit. 6. Confidence. 7. Boldness.

II. Steps in prayer.

1. Feel it is necessary.
2. Be definite, earnest and desperate.

3. Fast and pray until answer comes. (a) Asking is public acknowledgment of desire. (b) Seeking is earnestness in action. (c) Knocking is intensified earnestness demonstrated.

Praying is hard work.

It is very difficult to get much praying done.

1. Laziness. Spirit willing but flesh is weak.

2. Lack of vision and interest. Lose the vision and God's work suffers.

3. Selfishness. If some prayers could pass through a chemical process to take out all selfishness many times there would not be much left. But remember brethren our God is not a God of circumstances but a God of conditions. Let us meet all conditions and get our prayers through. Pray through. Pray until you get through, until there is nothing between. Prayer changes things. Prayer changes our attitude and relationship and brings us in harmony with God. Therefore prayer changes things and men.

III. Encouragement to pray.

1. Because God is our Father. "Lord teach us to pray."

2. Because He is our most intimate Friend at all times and in all seasons especially in times of emergency.

3. He is one Who will not deceive us.

4. He always gives full measure, sometimes heaped up, pressed down and running over.

5. After all the highest ministry of prayer is prayer for others, therefore put feet to your prayers and go after those for whom you have so long prayed.

IV. Some Reasons Prayers are not Answered.

1. A selfish aim. 2. Regard for sin. 3. Unforgiveness. 4. Indifference. 5. Disobedience. 6. Lack of faith. Jesus warns us against the self-confident spirit. He gave a parable by picturing two men praying in the temple, a Pharisee and a publican. The Pharisee stood erect where all could see him. He addressed his prayer to God but it evidently was intended for the people who gathered about him. He failed to thank God for His goodness and blessings, but thanked God he was much better than other people, especially the publican. Seemingly he had no need of God's mercies and thought it was impossible for him to be made any better than he was. But how different was the attitude of the publican. With deep realization of the need of forgiveness he fell, as it were, prostrate in the dust, saying, "God be merciful to me a sinner." His prayer went to the throne, while the Pharisee's did not; hence he returned home on better terms with the Lord than the Pharisee.

If Christian people would use as good reason and as good sense in praying as they do in transacting business the heavens would never seem brass and we would always get a reply. For example, in going into a bank to get a check cashed, we see to it that it is properly indorsed. In fact, we must subject ourselves to the rules and regulations of said bank, Much the same in prayer, we must look up the rules and regulations in the Word. We say, "Bring in all the tithes" -- nothing left out -- then "prove me." Surely He will keep His promise.

A man starts in business and says, "I will ask God to bless and prosper it." In other words he asks God to become partner. He prospers for a while, and then little by little he seems to be dropping through until he meets sudden failure. What is the trouble? In nine cases out of ten it is because he has failed to render God His just dues. You must not trifle with God, God is always ready to do business with those who will do business with Him, But if you fail to do business you are the party that suffers. Suppose you go in a grocery, one that does strictly cash business, and get a large order, then say, "I will pay you in six months." He would immediately remind you that he did business from a cash basis. How often we ask God for certain things, when our attitude toward God would forbid our request being granted. We miss God's best by being too complicated in our thoughts, plans and methods, But if you are adjusted to His will by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, "ye may ask what you will and it shall be done unto you."

Answers to prayer are remarkable. It was thought to be remarkable when the Atlantic cable was laid and the first answer received from the other side. It is remarkable that the King of Heaven should deign to have any connection with a guilty world, a race of rebellion, "conceived in sin and born in iniquity." Let us greatly regard our privilege of prayer. Let us thank our Maker for permitting us to have communion with "the immortal, invisible." He is not wearied at our coming, hence He commands us to "pray without ceasing." While some are rejoicing in the remarkable progress and privilege of the latter day communication by telephone, wireless and radio, let us rejoice over the privilege of hearing from heaven, the capital of the universe.

Illustration. Many years ago one beautiful Sabbath morning eight young men who were students in a law school, were walking along the banks of a river that flows into the Potomac River near Washington, D. C. They were going to a grove to spend the day in drinking and playing cards. As they walked along they amused themselves by telling jokes, when a church bell began to ring in a little town two miles away. One young man, by the name of George, said, "I will go no further but will go to church." One of the other boys said, "George is getting religious, come on boys and we will baptize him by immersion." They gathered around him, he said, "I know you have power to baptize me or even drown me, but my mother is an invalid and when I left home she said she would pray for me every Sunday from eleven to twelve o'clock. At this hour she is praying for me. But before I left she put her hands on my head and prayed for her youngest boy, then kissed me good-bye. Boys, I never expect to see her again in this world, but by the grace of God I will meet her in heaven." When George ceased talking their eyes were floating with tears, the ring was broken they formed around him, hence he passed out and went to church. They admired him for doing what they had not the courage to do. They all followed him and on their way they threw away their cards and drinks and were never known to spend another Sabbath in that manner, but they were all brought to Christ through the prayers of the invalid mother.

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THE END