

these terms: "O God, forasmuch as without Thee we are not able to please thee;" and in the 2nd Collect for daily evening prayer we are taught that, "from God all holy desires, all good counsels, and all good works do proceed." But whilst our Church thus teaches us *these* scriptural truths, she also leads us, in all her services, to pray for God's *grace*; that, "being strengthened by his holy spirit in the inner man, we may be enabled to do those things which of ourselves we never could accomplish."

Thus, brethren, should we all learn from the dignity, the importance, the responsibility and the difficulty of the work in which we are engaged, from the unvarying teachings of God's word; from the practice of the great apostle of the Gentiles; and from the instructions of our Prayer books, to attempt no discharge of the duties of our sacred ministry in our own strength; but continually to seek in the diligent use of the means of grace strength from God for this special purpose; and continually to labour, trusting in his Almighty aid.

And it strikes me that another most important lesson is to be learned from the practice of St. Paul. We find him frequently asking for the prayers of those to whom he addressed his epistles. In concluding his Second Epistle to the Thessalonians, he says: "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of God may have free course and be glorified, even as it is with you." In that to the Ephesians, he exhorts them to "pray always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication, for all saints; and for *me*, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel." To the Thessalonians and Hebrews, he says, "pray for us." And in this respect, as in all others, we find our holy Church walking in the footsteps of this great apostle of the Gentiles.