

for this blessed change in the state of the world, and would diligently seek to discover from the Word of God what is his will, and would pray fervently and constantly to be enabled to perform it, what a number of evils and miseries, and what an host of sins and offences would disappear at once from among us, and how little there would be left to make us unhappy. Thus all Christians would at once be admitted into so close a connection with our blessed Saviour, that all the snares and devices of Satan would have no power to separate them from his love; for when his mother and his brethren came to seek for him, and he was told that they were without, his answer was concluded in these words, "Whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and my mother." And now try to think and realise to yourself how very important it is that you should understand this prayer, which is left by Jesus Christ himself to guide all his followers in all ages of the world in what manner they may address their petitions to him; and when you repeat these words, think seriously and deeply upon the meaning of every sentence, and feel sure that your heart is praying as well as your lips, for you are speaking to God himself, and in the words of your Redeemer. If you ask a favour from your earthly parents, you are not careless or heedless whether they hear you or answer you or not; if you want some indulgence from them, or to make known some want which they have not supplied, and which you know they will relieve if you ask them to do so, you are quite in earnest in your petitions; you know exactly what you are asking for, and are anxious to receive a favourable answer from them: but my dears, you never yet asked