

**Prayer.**

Because God is a personal God, and man is a personal being, prayer is the most natural thing in the world. Between God and man sin has separated. The distance is not one of mathematics but one of morals. It is the distance between sin and holiness. When a boy has disobeyed his father he instinctively feels that there is a mighty distance between them. The closer the father comes to him physically the father the boy feels to be from him morally. It is only when their heart relations are made right that the distance disappears. Prayer is the child talking to his father in an effort to get and keep the heart relations right. The philosophy of religion can never be understood apart from prayer. To undervalue the necessity of prayer, to misinterpret the meaning of prayer, to misunderstand the nature of prayer, and thus to fail in prayer, is to fail at the very heart of our religion.

Mrs. Eddy devotes a whole chapter in her text-book to the subject of prayer. But it is not Christian prayer. "God is Principle, not person," and Principle never did hear and never can answer a real prayer. If God is Principle and not person, one might just as well pray to the principle of mathematics, or the principle of music, or the law of gravitation. Unfortunately, Mrs. Eddy's Principle is not free. She says, "Asking God to be God is a vain repetition. God is the same yesterday, and to-day, and forever; and He who is immut-