

III.—REGIONS BEYOND OF PRAYER.

This suggests regions beyond even the promises that faith has not taken possession of,—namely, those regions beyond that *prayer is yet to tread*. Faith and prayer are so intimately associated that we cannot speak of one without at least implying the other. But let us mark that there are *different levels of prayer*. As we follow our blessed Lord, as He teaches His disciples, He goes from one rung in the ladder to another, and lifts them with Him, higher and higher, to a sublimer level of prayer.

Our Lord's first lesson on prayer was, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." But then, as we go on in Matthew and come to chaps. xvii. and xxi., a new element is emphasized: "Whatsoever ye shall *ask in prayer, believing*, ye shall receive." Now, it is not simply asking, but asking in faith and receiving according to faith. But when we come to the Gospel of John, we read, in chap. xvi., the most marvellous words our Lord ever spoke on prayer, in the New Testament: "*Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My Name*: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. Whatsoever ye shall *ask the Father in My Name* He will give it you." Now, this is beyond simple *asking*; beyond even *asking in faith*. This is asking by virtue of, and because of, *our identification with the Lord Jesus Christ*. His *Name* is His *person*. To ask in His *Name* is to ask by virtue of our identity with Him, our individuality being merged into His personality in the sight of God, so that God does not look on us as we are, in ourselves, but looks on us as we are *in Christ Jesus*. Here is a "region beyond," in the matter of prayer, that one man or woman in a thousand has scarce dreamt of. When I go to the Father in Jesus' *Name*—reverently let me say it—*Christ is the suppliant rather than myself*; and because the Father can deny the Son nothing that He wants, it is certain that what I ask in His *Name* I shall receive—*ay, I have already received it*; and it is my privilege to believe that I have received that which I ask.

Now, suppose the Christian Church should get hold of this power of prayer, and get above the level of simply asking, or even of asking in faith, and realize her identity with her Lord and the privilege of praying in the *Name of Jesus*; then, keeping in fellowship with Christ, nourishing and cherishing this daily walk with Him, and therefore having, within, the motions that His Spirit creates, the groanings unutterable awakened by the Holy Ghost—these, presented in the *golden censer of Christ before the throne*, shall certainly be heard and heeded by the Father. And so I believe that the greatest need of missions to-day is *NEW PRAYER*—prayer on *the highest level of prayer*.

IV.—REGIONS BEYOND OF GIVING.

There is yet another "region beyond" that has not been taken possession of, and that is the region of *sanctified giving*. We are coming now to a very practical matter. There is a whole world of promise and of power to be