

receive the blessings of salvation, is graciously overcome by the out-pouring of the Spirit. The Spirit glorifies Christ—then the attraction of the cross is felt, and men are saved. Great encouragement to diffuse the gospel is felt from the promise of the Spirit. Man's alienation may thus be subdued. The successful prosecution of the work in former ages, has always been connected with power from on high. Our success can spring from nothing else. In vain do we place confidence in anything lower than the mighty power of God. Who is sufficient for these things? Our sufficiency is of God. We cannot go up to the battle unless our banner is set up in the name of the Lord. We are left to mocking, defeat and despair, if we call on heaven to witness what our own arm can perform. This is the reason, why God's servants must invoke the hand of the Lord to be with them. The incense of much prayer must arise from the Churches. Panting for the glory of God in the salvation of men, prayer will be offered continually. This will prove a more acceptable service than contributions of money. Many could give easily of their substance without any deep emotion. As a matter of custom and position money may be given to the cause of Christ, but true prayer—that which compasseth the whole case in view of eternity and the loss of the souls of men—is not easy in its observance. It moves the whole heart. It is a yearning cry for life. As the hungry plead for food, so the soul must cry for the bread of life. As the benighted long for the morning, our souls must look for deliverance;—make haste to help O God, make no tarrying O my God. Payment of the debt of prayer may be difficult, yet as a debt of honour let it be met, as a debt of love let it be discharged. Though offered in agony of soul, with strong crying and tears, it has heavenly promises to sustain, and heavenly messengers to comfort. The rush of angels' wings, bearing blessings down in answer, will be a sweet surprise. The more intense the agony, the sweeter the comfort brought by strengthening angels. If prayer then has been restrained, let us pay what we owe. Surely it shall not be said that prayer is offered in vain—the Lord seeth us not, the Lord hath forsaken the earth. See how the Hearer of prayer keeps up the proof of his faithfulness. The following affecting revival incident is mentioned by George H. Stuart Esq., of Philadelphia as an illustration of the power of prayer:

A pious mother, residing in the county of Armagh, very early in the summer of 1859, set apart one hour to go to her closet daily in prayer for a revival of religion in her own family, and in the congregation with which she was connected. This woman continued daily in prayer throughout the whole summer, but saw no evidence of an answer. But at the close of one of her daily hours of prayer, on a Monday morning in September, her eldest boy of sixteen years left his loom, (they were in humble circumstances, and the children assisted in maintaining the family,) and got right down on his knees to pray. In a short time afterwards her second son, a younger boy, without any knowledge of what his elder brother had done, was found on his knees. Where?—in the cow-house. These two boys continued in prayer all that day and all that night. And oh, what fervent prayers they offered up for their conversion! Let me give you a sample, which was taken down by a minister who visited the house—for such long continued and agonizing prayer was without precedent, and excited interest throughout the neighborhood. This is the petition: "O Lord come into my hard heart! Put in thy hand by the hole of the door and open for thyself. O Jesus, wash me in the fountain of thy blood; not my hands and my feet only, but my heart and my soul." One of these boys found peace the following day. The other not until the Saturday following, and nearly the whole of this time he was engaged in wrestling with God that he would take away his sins. Then three of the younger brothers were brought to Christ. One boy, not nine years old, continued in