

connection in which they are found. Thus it is with *faith* and *love*; the former to the Lord, the latter to the saints.

In like manner as faith and love are joined together, so also *prayer* and the *word* of God are joined together. From among the passages where prayer and the word thus occur, I quote the three following, viz :—Acts vi. 4; Luke, end of chapter x. and commencement of chapter xi., and Ephesians vi. 17, 18.

The first occurs at a memorable epoch in the history of the assembly of God here upon earth. Acts vi. makes mention of the first failure collectively of the saints. Individual sin had occurred in the case of Ananias and Sapphira, but now the change from the freshness and devotedness of chapters 2 and 4 begins to mark the saints in their collective character. How sad this scene! The blessed Lord had suffered, had been crucified, had risen from amongst the dead, and ascended on high; thence he had shed forth the Holy Ghost, the power that wrought in His disciples, so as to make them vessels of testimony in Jerusalem, both for the conversion of thousands and also for bringing home to the consciences of rulers and people that there was a power in these witnesses which was superior to all the power that was of the world; the apostles were faithful, the blessing was abundant, the proof that the Lord was working with them was manifested to the least as well as to the most spiritual (Acts iv. 31), and yet, with all this grace and privilege