
“PRAY WITHOUT CEASING.”

“Without ceasing!” says some little one; “surely we cannot be always praying!” No, you cannot. You have many other things to do besides. When we are told in Scripture to “pray without ceasing,” it means that we are to pray *regularly*, whenever the appointed time for doing so comes round; and *constantly*, whenever we feel a need for prayer.

Just as the body cannot thrive without regular meals, so the soul cannot prosper without set seasons for prayer. And just as hard work, or cold weather, will sometimes make us feel hungry between meals, so there are times when the soul has a wish to pray before the set hour returns.

You can pray without going aside to kneel down. You can speak to God, and ask his blessing, when you are walking to school in the morning, or while you are in a railway carriage. “Those who “pray without ceasing,” are ready to pray wherever they are, and about all that they do.

A PRAYER.

Oh ! that mine eyes might closed be
 To what concerns me not to see ;
 That deafness might possess mine ear
 To what concerns me not to hear ;
 That truth my tongue might always tie
 From ever speaking foolishly ;
 That no vain thought might ever rest,
 Or be conceived within my breast ;
 That by each deed, and word, and thought,
 Glory may unto God be brought !

But what are wishes ! Lord, mine eye
 On thee is fixed, to thee I cry !
 Wash, Lord, and purify my heart,
 And make it clean in every part ;
 And where 'tis clean, Lord, keep it too,
 For that is more than I can do.

Thomas Ellwood.