

we have the guiding lights of a great leader of men, and the staff on which he leaned during a time of bitter trial such as the whole world is passing through to-day. I have outlined the rational grounds of our belief in the existence of God and His revelation to man. I will now deal with the duty and efficacy of prayer.

Duty is that which we owe—that which we ought to do. Man owes God the homage of prayer, the humble acknowledgment of his utter dependence on Him. "For piety," says Cicero, "is justice towards God." ("Est enim pietas justitia adversus deos." The plural "deos" is Cicero's concession to the polytheism of the day. He himself, as we have seen, believed in one God, Maker of heaven and earth, and of the spirit that is in man. (Cf. Tusc. Disput. loc. cit.). Man believes in justice. Though he may do unjustly, the sentiment of justice is deeply rooted in his mind and heart. It is justice, right, that is fought for in the World War which is raging to-day. Even our enemies, though deeply in the wrong, are, like the man in the parable, "wishful to justify" themselves. When the Pharisees and the Herodians asked the Master if it were lawful to pay tribute to Caesar, He bade them show Him the coin of the tribute, and remarking that it bore Caesar's image and superscription, said: "Render therefore, to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Mark 12:14). The answer went to the root of the matter, beyond what they who sought it recked of. Men, made in God's own image and likeness, are loath to give to God that which is His. But it is a poor sort of justice that takes no account of Him. The man who fails to pray will not draw forth from his heart and render to God the coin of tribute which bears upon it His image and superscription.

Jesus Christ taught the duty, and indeed the necessity, of prayer by precept and example. He used to pass whole nights in prayer on the mountain alone. He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, when His soul was sorrowful even unto death, and His sweat became as drops of blood trickling down upon the ground. "And being in an agony, He prayed the longer" (Luke 22:43). He bade His disciples watch and pray lest they should enter into temptation, and Himself taught them to pray the great prayer of all Christians, the "Our Father." He pledged His word that if they asked the Father anything in His Name He would give it them. Lastly, He laid down the law of prayer in these words: "Ask, and you shall receive; seek, and you shall find: