

O divine exercise here below ! for while we present our supplications and narrate our grievances, we are sometimes transported from these glooms of anguish to a mental calm and tranquility of mind, where we are filled with rapture, while, by the eye of faith we foresee all our requests fulfilled, and the cause of our sorrow annihilated in His love. By prayer, which is the soul's embassy on the most important and interesting affairs, is carried to the court of heaven—sometimes in broken sentences—devout ejaculations, pious aspirations, sighs and groans. By it we reveal our mind to the Most High, ease our burdened heart, and devolve all our difficulties and sorrows on God, and then composedly rest.

Prayer is the Christian's evening and morning sacrifice to God ; but the prayerless person is the profane atheist, who denies adoration to the Author of his being. And, O deluded Papist ! why, too, dost thou commit thy suits to departed saints, who are enjoying perfect felicity above ? They cannot know thy complaints or necessities unless possessed of omniscience, which it were blasphemous to suppose. Is not God everywhere and fills the very heart ? As in Him thou livest, movest, and breathest, so in Him thou thinkest, and to Him alone, through His beloved Son, thou shouldst pour out all thy complaints and supplications.

Friends may be removed, acquaintances taken away, public worship out of reach, liberty denied, and we banished from our native land, yet the *soul* and *prayer* must never be separate. The royal charter is lodged within our breast, that we may be robbed of everything sooner than of liberty to come with boldness, through the blood of Jesus, to the throne of grace. The wicked through his pride of face will not call upon God, but it is our highest honor to be admitted into the presence of the King eternal, and to have His ear open, and attentive to our request.

What is the saint's prayer-book ? Just affliction, and a body of sin and death lying hard upon him, and Christ in all His endearing relations. The first teaches him for what to pray, and the last to whom. In this divine exercise God condescends to wrestle with His people, and in the struggle to be prevailed upon : " Let me go," says God ; " I will not," says the wrestler, till thou " bless me."

In prayer God and the soul meet, and hold communion together ; then the curtain of heaven is drawn aside, and we look in, and see our wonderful possessions, the King in His beauty, that house of many mansions, and the excellencies of that life above, so that we are filled with wonder and ecstasies of joy, and, like the Apostle Paul, desire at times to depart and to be with Jesus. Prayer is the well at which we drink the heavenly water and are refreshed and strengthened for our journey. Then, Lord, while allowed to come into Thy presence with boldness, let secret sin never cause a secret