

The Economic Value of Prayer

From an Address delivered at the Goderich District Convention

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WE live in a practical age, when scientists fain would draw us from the miraculous and the divine. Wonderful cures are effected, people are restored when almost at death's door, sad deformities have been restored to normal conditions, and many unheard of restorations are being made, and we attribute it all to the wonderful science of medicine.

The great Niagara has been harnessed, producing for us such wonderful power. How? Science has done it.

Wonderful as this may seem, it does not compare with the miracles wrought by our Saviour or the apostles. The apostles restored sight to the blind, gave the deaf their hearing, and wrought many other miracles. Men say God does not use man for such work as He did in olden times. Have we proof for that statement? Nay. We dare not say so. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, to-day and forever.

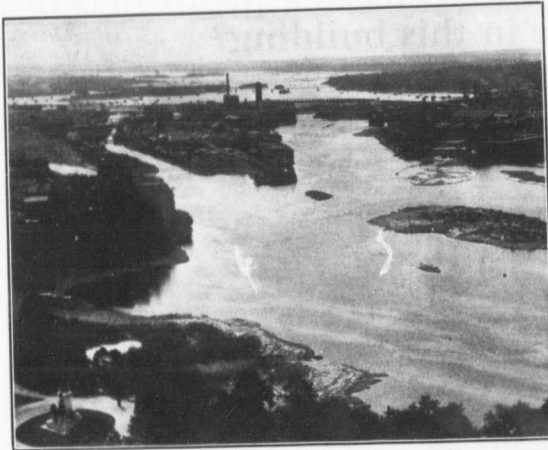
Lord Tennyson said, "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." It is true. But let us revise

promises are ours for the asking. It is God's way that we get what we want from Him, by asking for it. Then we must conclude that the economic value of prayer is boundless, a priceless legacy, the bank through which we may draw what we need. All the longings of a righteous heart may be satisfied.

The economic values of this power are very numerous. Through prayer God's best blessings come to man. The great "whatsoever" means temporal as well as spiritual. "Give us this day our daily bread." What may we not possess of life's abundance, of physical power, and what may we not possess of the power of God?

What we ask for ourselves we may ask for our organizations.

We find that prayer economizes time. Our work will plan better, if under the guidance of God. Your topic for League will make greater progress under the influence of prayer, and the study of the Sabbath-school lesson will develop better methods and more spiritual when mingled in communion with God.



VIEW OF THE CHAUDIERE FALLS.
From Top of Tower of Parliament Buildings, Ottawa.

it, "More things might be wrought by prayer than this world has dreamed of."

Prayer is not a force among forces, but a force above forces. There is no power in the universe but upon that particular force prayer can lay its hand and call its might into service, because prayer is a personal power with intelligence to guide it and a personal will to work in accord with the purpose of God.

"This power has a great scope."—Verily, verily I say unto you, he that believeth on me, the works that I do, shall he do also and greater works than these shall he do because I go unto the Father.

This promise is both startling and comforting. Christ's works were of great value. Parched deserts became a pool, the thirsty land springs of water, the eyes of the blind were opened, the ears of the deaf unstopped, the dumb sang, and the dead were brought to life.

This power is ours.—As we believe in Christ and His word we claim His promise, "He that believeth on me." These

Prayer will economize money. How much money is actually wasted in the securing of funds to keep our church in a working condition, and how much might be saved if God were controlling the financial affairs of our church.

Prayer will economize nervous energy. Ah! those worries. "Casting all your care upon Him who careth for you."

"God broke our years to hours and days,
that hour by hour
And day by day
Just going on a little way
We might be able all along
To keep quite strong.
Should all the weight of life
Be laid across our shoulder and the
future rife
With we and struggle, meet us face to
face
At just one place
We could not go. Our feet would stop
and so
God lays a little on us every day.

And never I believe on all the way,
Will burden bear so deep
Or pathways lie so threatening and so
steep

But we can go, if by God's power
We only bear the burden of the hour."

Prayer will save souls. Sabbath-school teacher, are your members all Christians? This power is yours. Take advantage of it. Epworth Leaguer, save your chum, and parents, your children. Yes, it is sound, wonderfully simple to live an abundant life. But

"What is prayer, if it be prayer indeed?
A mighty utterance of a mighty need
That man doth pray when he doth
press with might
Out of his own darkness into God's own
light."

There are certain keys which alone will unlock the door of this great storehouse.

The glory of the Father must be the object of our petitions. Often an analysis of our prayer motive would reveal other glories sought for.

"Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name." In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ is one of the conditions of successful prayer.

There must be patience and unselfishness. We must exercise impurity in prayer.

Dr. Simpson tells the story of a bell that had been sunk in the river. Unavailing efforts had been made by various engineers to raise it. At last a clever native priest asked permission to make the attempt, on condition that the bell might be placed on his temple. He then had his assistants gather an immense number of bamboo rods. These are hollow, light and buoyant, and can scarcely be kept from floating on the water. They were taken down by divers one by one and fastened to the bell at the bottom of the river. After many thousands had thus been fastened it was noticed that the bell began to move, and when the last one had been added the accumulated buoyancy was so great that they actually lifted that enormous mass of bronze to the surface.

Every whisper of believing prayer is like one of the little bamboo rods. For a time they may seem to be in vain, but it was the one more rod, the last feather-weight of power, that made all the others effectual and brought the consummation. The prayer line between us and God must be clear. There must be no obstructions in our own life. Perhaps, after all, the greatest asset we can give to the world is that of a happy, contented life in God's plan for us. This can only be by daily and hourly communication with the Father. Paul said, "I have learned in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content." That state was only reached by a work of grace. Let us not miss the blessed fellowship of God by our own blockades.

How to Tell the Flags

The French flag is, as one would imagine everyone would know, blue, white, red in equal divisions, the blue next to the flagstaff. The Belgian flag is black, yellow, and red in the same way, the black next to the staff. The Dutch flag is red, white, and blue, but divided in a different way. The colors run the length of the flag, the top being red, the middle white, and the bottom blue. This flag is being sold in many places for the French.

The Russian flag is of white, blue and red stripes in the same form as the Dutch, only the white comes at the top, the blue in the middle, and the red at the bottom.