

*To carry the burden of a brother's wants to the throne of grace, is the suggestion of affection.* Neglect of prayer on his behalf is a mistake and a sin. Gold fails to purchase a prayerful interest in another; the impelling power is love. Wide is the range of this sympathy; its cry is for each, for all. Mutual watchfulness suggests subjects of prayer in the closet, and in the assembly it obeys the command, "Pray for one another." How much of church life appears in prayer for the brethren? Two or three offering united supplications have the special promise of an answer—a fact which ought to draw forth deep and lasting interest in the prayer meetings of the church. When prayer is silent, the covenant-agreement, mutually to watch over and pray for one another, is broken.

In aiming at the due discharge of our obligations as Christians to each other, we are required, when doubts and fears oppress a brother, to carry relief to the burdened spirit. Familiar conversation on divine things will often prove a help to Zion travellers. They that feared the Lord spake often one to another. As the two disciples journeyed to Emmaus they were sad. Jesus draws near and says, "What manner of communications are these that ye have, one with another?" Their talk of the death of Jesus was the prelude of his presence. Despondency gave place to the glow of burning hearts; their interest was aroused by the rich discoveries made to them from the scriptures. Cases of conscience should be brought to the cross. Promises are keys that unlock prison doors; these should be quoted and applied to meet the case of the disconsolate. "When we see them oppressed with a weight of anxious care, instead of carrying ourselves with cold indifference and unfeeling distance towards them, we should cherish a tender solicitude to know and relieve their anxieties. How touching would such a salutation as the following be, from one Christian to another: 'Brother, I have observed, with considerable pain, that your countenance has been covered with gloom, as if you were sinking under some inward solicitude. I would not be unpleasantly officious, nor wish to obtrude myself upon your attention further than is agreeable; but I offer you the expressions of Christian sympathy, and the assistance of Christian counsel. Can I in any way assist to mitigate your care, and restore your tranquillity?' At such sounds, the loaded heart would feel as if half its load were gone. It may be, the kind inquirer could yield no effectual relief; but there is balm in his sympathy. The indifference of some professing Christians to the burthens of their brethren is shocking. They would see them crushed to the very earth with cares and sorrows, and never make one kind inquiry into their situation, nor lend a helping hand to lift them from the dust. Love requires that we should take the deepest interest in each other's case; that we should patiently listen to the tale of woe which a brother brings us; that we should mingle our tears with his; that we should offer him our advice; that we should suggest to him the consolations of the gospel; in short, we should let him see that his troubles reach not only our ear, but our heart." "Exhort one another daily."

We must respect the conscientious scruples and convictions of each other. All minds are not alike. Variety in the style of thought is not to lay the axe to the root of fellowship. Intolerance of an opinion differing from our own, when that opinion is not subversive of the fundamental doctrines of religion, is highly blameworthy. Regimental uniformity is not the proof of loyalty in the heart. Where the Master gives freedom, let not the disciple erect a barrier. There are diversities in every society; a stereotyped sameness in Christian manhood nowhere exists; hence the need of "forbearing one