

and the Holy Spirit will teach you how to pray.

2. *We may well arrange our prayers after the model here given.* Here we are taught to approach God with filial reverence and confidence; to pray for the success of all efforts to evangelize the world; to ask for such temporal mercies as we stand in need of; to cast ourselves upon his mercy for forgiveness of sin, and to seek divine guidance and protection amid the dangers of life. The particular blessings we need will all come under one or other of the six petitions.

3. *God does not always answer at once, but bids us continue praying.* Sometimes God answers with a gentle but firm "no," but when he does so he supplies grace to bear the trial which he will not, for wise and loving reasons, avert, and shews in a thousand ways that he loves to answer every desire consistent with his fatherly discipline.

4. *Some answer, and the best answer, every prayer is sure to receive.* This holds good of every true prayer without exception. Some one has used the dead letter office as an illustration of unanswered prayers. Letters are sent there because the postage is not prepaid, or they have been misdirected, or the address is illegible, or they contain matter that is unmailable. So prayers that fail of answer are not

presented in the name of Jesus, or they are not really directed to God but to the audience, or we do not really mean them, or we ask for something that is not good for us.

5. *We may trust the wisdom and love of our heavenly Father.*

"Pray, though the gift you ask for
May never comfort your fears,
May never repay your pleading,
Yet pray, and with hopeful tears;
An answer, not that you long for,
But diviner, will come one day;
Your eyes are too dim to see it,
Yet strive, and wait, and pray."

ADDED POINTS.

1. Don't be ashamed to let others see you pray.
2. There can be no true brotherhood amongst men except under the fatherhood of God.
3. We should cultivate reverence for everything connected with the service of God.
4. We should render prompt and cheerful obedience to all God's commands.
5. Real success in life can only come through God's blessing.
6. Do not cherish resentment against others.
7. Be ready to oblige.
8. God's delays are not always denials.

TEACHING TO PRAY.

As there are no incidents between this lesson and the last, we give here a brief Bible reading on prayer.

The impenitent person cannot offer acceptable prayer. (Prov. 15: 8; 28: 9). We must first repent and believe before we can claim the child's answer from our Father. Therefore we must come to him, 1. *Confessing.* (Ps. 60: 18; 1 John 1: 6). Our first duty is to acknowledge our sin. 2. *Giving thanks.* (1 Tim. 2:1; Phil. 4: 6). Thanks for past mercies should precede new requests. 3. *Adoring.* (Matt. 6: 9; Ps. 95: 6, 7). This is rendering loyal homage and stirs up a devout and reverent spirit. 4. *Supplicating.* (Ps. 6: 9; Luke 11: 5-13). We base our petitions on our need and God's promised grace in Christ Jesus. 5. *Submitting.* (Rom. 8: 26, 27; 1 John 5: 13, 14). Because we have no claim beyond God's good pleasure, and his wisdom and love are infinite. *Interceding*—(John 16: 23, 24; 14: 6). All our prayers are presented in the name of our great High Priest and Intercessor. We plead the merits of his blood and righteousness.

THE BLACKBOARD.

OUR FATHER'S PROMISE.

ASK
SEEK
KNOCK

AND

RECEIVE.
FIND.
ENTER.

"Pray without ceasing."