

NECESSITY OF PRAYER.

WE cannot be truly armed — we cannot be prepared to conquer, unless we pray. Many a soul, full of confidence, by neglecting this, has been overcome. The soul must seek its strength in God ; it must look to the infinite ; it must pant for the absolute good. Nothing short of this is, or can be, a permanent stay. Every human prop will crumble. All earthly foundations are as dust. We must drink in divine influences from on high ; we must have Christ formed within us, and become partakers of the divine nature, or our virtues are as wells without water, or shadows without substance.

Yet are there not those who are satisfied with a merely outward life, — who feel that if not guilty of scandalous sins they are acceptable Christians ? — that the height of Christianity is temperance in diet, or, at most, the mechanical observance of certain forms and ordinances ? Alas, that men should ever so grossly mistake the nature of religion ! As if virtue were an outside appendage, or could be truly ours unless rooted in the soul : as if religion were not indeed the very essence of life in the inward spirit, an immediate fellowship with God, by spiritual intercourse between our spirits and his.

If there is one moment more holy to a Christian than another, it is when in the act of prayer. Then he makes his nearest approach to the Divine being ; then he communes with God, and God with him ; then come rays of light from the central sun, streams of living water from the inexhaustible Fountain, revelations of wisdom from the all-Perfect, additions of strength from the great Jehovah. The same God who guided Moses, will guide