

is full of instances of the prevalence of prayer. 2 Chron. xxxii. 20; and James v. 17, 18; are conspicuous examples. And without doubt when the history of the Church is surveyed from the glory, it will be seen that every wave of blessing to saints, and salvation to sinners, has been preceded by the effectual fervent prayers of many whose labours are better known in heaven than on earth. Men and women like Epaphras, Col. iv. 12, who have prevailed with God in their closets, and like Jabez, 1 Chron. iv. 10, have had granted to them that which they required.

Again—and brother beloved, I would press this upon you with all the earnestness of which I am capable, *meditate upon the unspeakable need of the present moment.* Look at the appalling condition of the Church of God. That which was the wondrous subject of His counsels long before the world's foundations were laid—destined to be the magnificent display of His glory to admiring myriads of His unfallen creatures in ages yet to come—even now, in spite of its ruin, the object of His unceasing solicitude, and His measureless love. Oh! brother, think of the Church! Torn asunder by a hundred factions; paralysed by a practical infidelity; stupefied by the deadening influence of an indifference to Christ, which is as general as it is deplorable; bound hand and foot with tradition, organization, and human arrangement; desolated by worldliness; and shorn of that HEAVENLY aspect and beauty which is her own peculiar portion, she