

Another sure sign of true conversion to Christ, is a spirit of fervent prayer. Prayer is the darting out of the whole soul to God in one grand pathetic desire. In right prayer our understanding will, and affections approach to God, and enter into a lively converse with His divine perfections shining on us through Christ. In prayer we are forced to feel our entire dependence on the Lord Jesus for continued acceptance with God, and we equally feel our dependence on the Holy Spirit for real assistance in all our approaches to Deity. Prayer improves our rational powers; harmonizes and sweetens our best affections, calms our conscience, and brightens our imagination. Prayer makes all the graces of the Holy Spirit to flourish in the soul; it strengthens the personal and divine graces, and the Christian thrives and grows in the exercise of prayer. Prayer invigorates correct habits and excites to good acts. It sends us to our studies with serene joy, and cheerful hope of success in all things,

Nothing can be done correctly without prayer; no vital religion can prosper in the soul without prayer; no studies in divinity can flourish without prayer. Not even the study and attainments of human sciences can be happily prosecuted without prayer. A learned writer very justly observes, that he "never advanced well in human learning without prayer, and that he always made the most proficiency in his studies when he prayed with the greatest frequency and fervor."

Depend upon it, there never was, there never will be a useful and honorable Parish Priest or Preacher, with-

out constant fervent prayer. His effectual fervent daily and nightly prayer availeth much: James 5: 16.

Every good man must feel the worth of the soul that can never die but will live, think, and act through all eternity. The man who has no deep and serious sense of the worth of his own soul, will never have any just conviction of the infinite worth of the souls of mankind; and consequently he has no fitness for a student of divinity; and if he ever enters the Priesthood or ministry, he will be a trifling, worthless creature, and cannot be otherwise than an infamous character in the Church of God. Above all things, Christ's ambassadors should study the worth of the soul. This ought to be the prime object of our most fixed attention.

The ORIGIN of the soul shews its immortality; it came from God, he is the father of Spirits; Heb. 12: 9. It is, we are told in Gen. 2: 7, the breath of God, and who dare say that the breath of God is mortal or dying, or perishing breath! The very nature of the soul evinces its immortality. It is a spiritual, invisible, and immaterial substance, endued with life and action. The great Creator of all souls declares there is a spirit in man: Job 32: 8, and that spirit has not flesh and bones which are perishable substances. Luke 24: 39. It is God, we are told that formeth the spirit of man within him. Zech. 12: 1, and the spirituality and activity of the soul resemble God the Father of Spirits: Heb. 12: 23.

The amazing powers of the soul prove its immortality. The understanding can conceive of the eternity and infinite perfections of God, which