

and of power. At first his will was opposed to that of God, but in the end he saw God's plan was best, gave up his own and took the plan of God instead. That is true prayer. It is not the bending of God's will to ours! it is the bowing of our will to God. Prayer is communion of the human soul with the divine. This is the close sweet intercourse of God and man together, wherein the Father tells his loving purpose to his little child, and the child on his part listens, accepts it, and whispers it back into the Father's listening ear.

How much this view relieves the subject of the difficulties that environ it and make it hard for us to pray! How easy to ask God for the very blessings He suggests and is anxious to bestow! With what confidence we can offer the desires he implants. Prayer, viewed in this way, is like the bloom of our gardens in the early Spring, which grows from bulbs we planted in the Fall. God has sown the seed and quickened it by sun and rain. The Holy Spirit is abundantly poured out. God is more willing to grant His influences to those that ask him than earthly parents to give good gifts unto their children. That Spirit is able to enlighten and inspire every heart. In ways we feel, but do not understand, unseen, but mighty as the wind, He breathes on willing minds, as southern breezes blow upon ice-fettered streams and fields of snow.

"The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit, neither can he know them, for they are spiritually discerned." "Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, nor heart conceived the things that God hath prepared for them that love Him, but God hath revealed them by His Spirit." He makes us new creatures in Christ Jesus, and causes us to love what we had hated and hate what we had loved. Once we rebelled against the government of God, now we obey it and rejoice in it, and pray "Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven." Now does it seem to any hearer, that this doctrine destroys prayer, and makes of it a poor vain thing? Are some of you ready to say, we thought that our petitions would be heard and granted because they were so earnest and importunate. We supposed that if we only wanted a blessing strongly enough, and pleaded for it often and urgently enough, we would surely get it. We read the parable of the unjust judge, and it seems to teach that we may weary God into acceptance and answer of our prayers. If what you say is true, we cannot really gain the things we want, but only what God wills. If they are in His plan will He not send