

great end, must be accounted beautiful. And just in proportion as our life makes approaches to fulfilling the Divine will, does it become truly beautiful.

Men make mistakes often in their estimate of what the Divine will requires, as many make mistakes with regard to what constitutes true holiness. They form exaggerated and sometimes twisted conceptions of what constitutes a holy life, and then present, as their idea of it, what is neither graceful nor beautiful. If one, not endowed with any delicate appreciation of musical harmonies, who thinks that almost any noise is music, should devote himself to writing music, he would be likely to introduce a good many discords. And any great composer would shudder to think that such a jangle should be written for music. We have seen attempts at poetry that were enough to make all the Muses crazy. After the same manner a morally depraved being is liable to give, as his ideal of a holy life, a plan of living so lacking in beauty as to make an angel shiver! And probably our best ideals fall infinitely short of the Divine idea of the great beauty of a perfectly holy life.

The most beautiful life the world has seen was that of Jesus Christ, whose holiness shone not merely in the avoidance of sin, but in prayer and praise, in loving words and deeds of helpfulness. He spoke the truth in love—the love of truth, the love of souls. His life shows how truly beautiful a life may be, even in this world of sin. It illustrates the true way of solving the problem of sin; that is, by overcoming evil with good, in the manifestation of good-will to the erring. Those most attractive colours, which make his life so beautiful, are to be woven into our Christian life, and array our souls in a beauty not of earth but heaven. When our life, hid with Christ in God, becomes all beautiful, because flowing from that fountain of benevolence, it will commend to the world our Christianity as nothing else can do. A beautiful life, like a beautiful act, is impressive beyond all comparison. It brings heaven near, and fills our ears with celestial singing.—*Golden Rule.*

THE POWER OF PRAYER.

"Praying always" (Eph. vi. 18). The soul of man is like a kindled brand—so long as the air breathes on it it will retain