

That a study of this important subject will prove helpful to any Christian, but more especially so to those whose duty it is to lead others in worship. Well indeed has Andrew Murray said, "There is nothing that we so need to study and practice as the art of praying aright."

Every Christian prays, but few Christians make prayer a subject of study. Everybody knows something about prayer, but few know how to exercise the strength of its might.

Every age has had some souls great in prayer; and some ages have been made great by giants of prayer, who put to flight the armies of the aliens, and turned the world upside down. Ages these about which men write and speak and wonder, yet the power which made them possible awaits our possession. If the church had spiritual power proportionate to its numbers, wealth, and prestige, it could speedily subdue the world to Christ. As it is, the church is confronted by defeat just where most she needs victory. In amazement she beholds at both extremes of the social scale masses of humanity almost untouched; reverence steadily waning, and the Sabbath being secularized. In ill-disguised confusion she is asking why such a proportion of the Christian community never enter her doors, and why paralysis seems to have fallen upon the arm which at certain periods of the past wielded conquering power for God? No single answer could