

that lip service in which we deliberately permit our minds to wander, and in which we think neither of God or of what we say is far from pleasing to Him. We must endeavor to keep recollected in the presence of the great God with whom we converse, and, then, if to our prayer be joined humility and contrition of heart, confidence in His goodness, resignation to His will, and if, persevering in prayer, we present our petitions before God in the name of His adorable Son, Jesus Christ, our prayers will infallibly be heard, provided what we ask be conducive to our salvation. "Amen, amen, I say to you, if you ask the Father anything in my name, He will give it you." — *John XVI.*, 23.

Let us never weary in prayer, but continue to implore the Almighty to hear us even though weeks and months should elapse without our receiving any apparent answer. Oftentimes He is pleased to refuse us what in itself is good and holy because it may be unsuited to our present condition, and, in answer to our prayer, He imparts to us another and more necessary grace, the grace, for example, to withstand some particular temptation. It may also happen that, what we demand, may not be really conducive to our salvation, although we may think it is, and God, on this account, mercifully withholds His favors. In such circumstances, let us be patient and resigned. He only intends our greater good. His infinite wisdom knows how to promote it better than we do. Subject as we are to weakness of mind and will, to ignorance of the future and proneness to err, we are safest when we place ourselves in God's hands with perfect trust in His wisdom and love. "True prayer," says a spiritual writer, "is based on the condition, implied or expressed, that God's will be done, that our request be for His glory and our own good, and such prayer is always heard. But when supplication is merely selfish and touched with human passion, no one should be disappointed at its want of success."

God is our Father; let us go to Him with the confidence of little children. Day and night, at all times and in all places, His ear is attentive to the voice of our supplications. As our