

same peace of God, partake of the same hope of glory, and exercise the same patience of faith for the promises made to the believer. If we could but lose sight of the barriers, nations and individuals have placed in our midst, and see the *Family of Jesus*, as it is seen by the admiring Angels, and by the "promoted members," from the windows of heaven, what a beautiful sight would we behold! A whole family moved by the one holy desire to please each other,—to honor the Head, to advance in all things pure, holy, and ennobling, becoming more and more free from everything which could dishonor their Saviour, disgrace themselves, or discourage their fellows.

Let us, then, do what we can to make known this blessed truth, that God's people are *one* family, being born of the same spirit, influenced by the same motives, led by the same principles, cheered by the same blessed hope—travelling the same narrow but pleasant way to the same haven where they would be—soon to enter the same glorious heaven of love and rest, and crown the same glorious Saviour, and be called "Children," "mine," "blessed," by the same heavenly Parent.

Thus we see the essential unity of Christ's Church, and are prompted by the encouraging view to manifest it, on all suitable occasions, and to hail such opportunities as evidences of the Saviour's nearness—of the blessed season when His kingdom shall come, and His blessed will be done, with that cheerfulness, thankfulness and universality with which it is accomplished in the upper sanctuary, in the church triumphant.

Look at the "Week of Prayer" just ended. What a spectacle for men and angels to behold! What a jubilee in Heaven as those happy spirits saw the whole church on her knees before God, in mighty prayer and prevailing supplication; what a revenue of praise came to the treasury of Heaven; and how much richer the earth is to-day, for the prayers sent up, thus bringing Heaven in its debt, for every petition of faith is honored, every such demand either met at once, or the petitioner is credited to that amount. "Praying breath is never spent in vain."

Let us rejoice and take courage. The truth is mighty and must prevail; the powers of darkness may have a season in which they seem to rule with despotic sway and blight every beautiful thing in grace; but their days are numbered. *He* will come whose right it is to reign, and they must give way before the brightness of His presence, as the morning mist fleeth at the rising of the glorious orb of day. Blessed

are the children of the light—the children of the day—for His coming is their salvation and their joy.

But there is no salvation out of this Christ of which we have been speaking. How sad it is to know that there are those who contend for the *externals*, the outward correctness, and yet have not the substance themselves—have not Christ in them, the hope of glory. Fellow sinner, out of this Church, which is the body of Christ, there is no fellowship with the Head, even Christ Himself, and "out of Christ, God is a consuming fire." We tremble for the unsaved one, because he trembles not for himself. Christ stands with *welcome* written on His brow, with *reconciliation* smiling in His countenance, and with *invitation* expressed in his every attitude! Be persuaded,—let not such loveliness be despised,—let not such kindness be slighted. Come, give Him your heart, and thereby receive His love; give Him your life, and thereby secure His. Come, enter the Church of God; stand not on the porch any longer; tarry not at the threshold; enter by the "door"—Christ; come through the "way"—Christ; accept the "truth"—Christ; enter into the "life,"—Christ, and take your "seat in Heavenly places," in Christ. Do you say:—

"Oh, depths of mercy, can it be
That gate is left ajar for me?"

Yes, and more than ajar; the gospel gates stand open wide, and the King Himself comes to invite you in! Wondrous love, what greatness of mercy does it manifest! Eternity is needed to tell of God's love in redemption. But to despise it, to refuse, to heed not the call, to obey not the invitation, to appreciate not the salvation: Eternity is needed to atone for such a crime.

God forbid that any of you who occupy seats in this earthly church to-day should be shut out from a seat in the heavenly church hereafter. Does your heart respond an honest *amen*? Then the work is done: so quickly may a soul be born of God—so quickly pass from death unto life. *To will*, is to be. "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh and whither it goeth; so is every one that is born of the Spirit." "Thy people shall be *willing* in the day of thy power." A man is what he wills to be in God's sight.

Who will thus join the church to-day? Who will thus unite with Christ? Remember, hearer, you are the one to be benefited by accepting this invitation. Christ can do without you, but you cannot do without Christ. For your sake He