

best of words prayer, although the spirit of true prayer will often so fill every avenue of our being as to impel vocal expression. It is an earnest aspiration or yearning of the soul after the highest good, in harmony with the divine spirit which is continually working in us to will and to do of the father's good pleasure, and making intercession with our spirits, accompanied with feelings of satisfaction that cannot be uttered. And the mind that is thus exercised, that has been brought into living, loving communion with a wisdom and power higher and greater than its own, realizes the homage is due to Him, who is the "resurrection and the life," and who thus appears to the adoring soul, "chief among ten thousand and altogether lovely."

If we were watchful enough, even while our hands are engaged about our lawful, daily avocations, we may follow Jesus' counsel, to enter into the closet of the heart, and shutting the door against all that would hinder, "pray to thy Father which is in secret, and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly"—with a knowledge of what he would have us to do.

Such communion with the divine would add beauty and sweetness to our daily life, would give new zest to every innocent pleasure, and rob pain and disappointment of their bitterest sting. We should walk along in the way of His requirem<sup>ts</sup> day by day, feeling that our hand was closely clasped in the hand of an ill-wise and beneficent friend and helper, who cares for his children, bears their burdens on his own shoulders, and strengthens and shapes their lives.

Should we feel at times disheartened and discouraged, a confiding thought, a simple opening of the doors to the heavenly visitant, will renew our powers, and whatever may be demanded of us, he will give us at the moment the strength and courage we need.

Whatever is petitioned for in such a state of the soul, with a continuous,

calm, steady, watchful consciousness will be in harmony with the divine mind, and will be answered, for such is the asking to which the promise applies, "ye shall receive," such is the seeking that shall find true faith, the faith that expresses itself in action.

God works by instruments in the outward affairs of men. He has created us social beings, and placed in our hearts feelings of kindness and sympathy that prompt us to immediate word or action whenever occasion may require.

A person in a stream of deep water, or in any outward difficulty or danger, cannot be extricated without the practical aid of himself or others. His own prayer or the united prayers of all mankind cannot save him, unless such prayer brings forth wise and timely action in his behalf.

Or we may be brought into a close communion with the Father of Spirits, and sensibly enjoy His favor, but straightway turning aside, allowing the mind to be wholly occupied with the pleasures, business or cares of the world, *forget* the "pattern shown us in the mount," and so make void its operations, to our own great loss, and to the omission of those duties whose ever widening influences might have been a blessing to mankind.

The prayer that *availeth*, enables us to *act* as best wisdom may direct, makes us willing to co-operate with the divine Father through the means He has so graciously provided for our own welfare, and for the good of others, gives us courage to labor, and strength to endure. He puts it into the hearts of His obedient children to be hands and feet for him, and minister to the relief, assistance or necessities of those who need aid. Hence the many testimonies to the efficacy of fervent prayer in its immediate answer for the relief of both spiritual and temporal needs.

Should we not keep in mind the responsibility resting upon us, and maintain a condition of watchfulness that we may become, in the Father's own