

d principle in its expressions to God. As the spirit of prayer moves up,
a there is true spiritual elevation, as it goes down there is depression.
f As is the spirit of devotion and communion with God, such is the
I man. "In every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving,
f let your requests be made known unto God, and the peace of God which
b passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds in Christ
a Jesus."

t III. Another cause of religious declension is a lack in benevolence.
I God still loves a cheerful giver, but for want of time I cannot enlarge
s —2 Cor. ix. The cure of religious declension is already sufficiently
t indicated in what has been said. If we study and meditate upon
t the truths of God until they become part of our inner lives, and
I comprehend the true purpose for which the Bible was given, and
v place all the doctrines side by side as being of equal importance, we
h shall grow in grace and in the knowledge of our God and Saviour
J Jesus Christ. Like the Christians at Thessalonica, "ye shall also
t thank God without ceasing, because ye have received the Word of
b God which ye heard from us. Ye received it not as the word of
A men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh
k also in you," adding the words of Peter, "Being born again not of
li corruptible seed, but incorruptible, by the Word of God that liveth
and abideth forever." When believers in church feel the burden of
f their petitions at the Throne of grace, and receive the cure for all sin,
and agonies with God for spirituality, even to the breaking of bones
and the dislocating of joints, then swift messages will come from
r heaven. Enjoy thy prayers and they alone come up for a
a memorial before God.

t When every man who enters into church covenant shall lay aside
r on the first day of every week a portion of his income as God hath
o prospered him, not of necessity, but as a bounty, there will be a
y higher type of Christian manhood in our churches, and the doers
h may expect a hundredfold in this life and in the world to come life
everlasting. "Brethren, meditate upon these things, give thyself
a wholly to them that thy profiting may appear to all. For if these
E things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be
i barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."