

communion with God. What examples of simple and unwavering trust in the naked promise of God are recorded in the annals of early Methodism! How frequent, and how fervent, and how confident, and how expectant were their prayers! They looked for answers and they got them. God honoured their faith. Remarkable and immediate answers to prayer were frequent and inspiring. The worldling saw it, and wondered, and feared, and was convinced, and converted. The formalist saw it, and distrusting his own external performances, became convinced of the power of scriptural Christianity, and embraced it. God saw it and was pleased with their sincerity, and seconded their efforts. Do we still retain, to the same extent, this simple and unaffected piety—do we maintain the same intercourse with God—exercise the same faith in His promises and power? Do we expect and receive immediate and direct answers to prayer? We seldom receive larger spiritual blessings than we expect—"according to your faith so shall it be done unto you." If then our faith is weak is it any wonder that our receipts are small? "If ye shall ask anything in my name I will do it." If we restrain prayer is it any wonder that we are spiritually unfruitful, and that we do not see the cause of God more extensively prosperous?

The early Methodists were distinguished for *their love to those who were over them in the Lord*. No one can read attentively the writings of former times without being struck with this peculiarity in their spirit and practice. This trait is characteristic of true piety everywhere, and in all ages. It is commanded in scripture and exemplified in the lives of the pious. The history of the Church universal does not perhaps furnish a more beautiful exhibition of this principle than may be found in the annals of early Methodism. It has often reminded me of the apostle's statement in regard to his spiritual children—"For I bear you record that if it had been possible you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me." The early Methodist preachers lived in the affections of their people. What an influence did John Wesley exert over his vast and extended societies during his entire life! Perhaps no man in modern times has gained the esteem and secured the love of so many people as the founder of Methodism. This confidence and love was very largely enjoyed