

in estrangement from any who are "in Christ," we are consenting to remain estranged from Christ himself.

The words of our Lord to his disciples remind us that, if we desire this great gift, we should pray for it. "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?"—*The Christian*.

EXPECTING A BLESSING.

One cannot doubt that those who are "workers together with God" in the present day, are much in prayer for his blessing upon the work; and that a large majority are hoping, nay, longing to see the arm of the Lord revealed, and his power made known in a marked manner in answer to their supplications. But prayers that prevail are prayers that expect—prayers that act upon the expectation, and how little expecting prayer there is, God only knows.

My thoughts were drawn very much the other day to this question: On returning from a meeting where I had been preaching the gospel, I retired to my room to wait upon the Lord for a blessing upon his message, "Come, for all things are now ready." I thought again and again, and I had mentioned it in my address, how that nothing now remained to be done but to accept in Jesus salvation, pardon, life, good works prepared for us to walk in, holiness and power over sin, and also that all things were ready for a blessing except ourselves—are we expecting, looking for, longing for, patiently waiting for, the Lord to work mightily in our midst?

I rose from my knees and opened my Bible, and read where I opened, at the ninth chapter of Daniel—the prophet's prayer for his people. I read it again and again, strove to make it my prayer for my people and my country, strove to make it expecting the blessing.

Should not this prayer be the prayer of the Lord's own in the present time? Oh! if we would only day by day, and hour by hour, pour out our hearts, "confessing our sin, and the sin of our people, identifying ourselves with our country in transgression, and imploring a blessing in the attitude of expectation, "presenting our supplications before God, not

for our righteousness, but for his great mercies," with the words, "O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, harken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name." Oh! should we not, while we are speaking in prayer, find that "at the *beginning* of our supplications the commandment *had gone forth*," and that the blessing was amongst us before we had *hardly* ended our prayer? May the Spirit of reality and expectation fill our hearts while in prayer, then "God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him."

—S. W. POYNTER.

REPENT, OR PERISH.

SOME years ago, when changing tracts in my district, as I came to one door, I paused to ask myself this question, "Had I not better cease leaving tracts here?" There were more reasons than one for replying in the affirmative, *but* some hidden whisper, "Persevere" was attended to. A few weeks after, J. S—, on entering his house, noticed the title of the tract, "Repent, or Perish." The Good Spirit used only the title. It arrested him, and demanded an answer. His account of it was as follows:—

"It was just those words that startled me. I could not shake them off. For days I tried hard to forget the question; but I could not. I felt I must decide which it should be. Repent, or perish! At last I was so unhappy that I determined when I went home that I would decide. My wife had gone to bed. I throw myself on the settle and resolved I would not leave it until I had said which it should be. Thank God, He helped me. I went upstairs. I threw myself on my knees, and told Jesus I had decided. I would repent of my past life, and turn to Him; and now, ma'am, I want to tell you this: A man may never say that the Lord will not hear him; let him *fully* resolve to give up that which hinders him, and the Lord *will* save him from his sins, from himself, and from the devil. I had not prayed many minutes when peace came; and, bless the Lord, I have never repented entering his service."

This man is now a useful Christian, and a Sabbath-school teacher.