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THE VALUE OF PRAYER IN THE DEVOTIONAL LIFE.

A Sermon preached by REV. JOHN KER, D.D., Rector of Grace Church, Montreal, before the Convocation of Trinity University, Toronto, November 13, 1893.

Above all, pray to the Most High and He will direct thy way in truth.—*Ecclesiasticus, chap. 37, v. 15* (1st lesson Evening Prayer Nov. 13th).

These words, the anticipation of many a like direction in the New Testament, turn our thoughts to the subject of the devotional life: “Above all, pray to the Most High.” Prayer is the mighty strand that runs through the warp and the woof of the Christian life, bringing to it strength and consistency, and adorning it with the beauty of Holiness.

It will be convenient if we consider the subject, very briefly, under the following heads:—

1. The value of prayer, especially private prayer, in the devotional life;
2. Some hindrances and some helps to the devotional life, especially in the Church of England in Canada;
3. The importance of early training in the devotional life;
4. The privilege and the power of intercessory prayer in the devotional life.
- I. Loyal service of God on the part of the individual, and the extension of Christ's kingdom in the world at large, constitutes the most important work that can engage the mind and effort of man. Politics at London, and Paris, and Washington have a passing interest of their own; changes of cabinets and policies are from time to time matters of high moment, yet in truth they are but of trifling account when compared with the progress onward of the Church of Christ, the upbuilding of the city