

Let us take the joy of noon-tide
For its glory passeth soon,
And before its shadows lengthen,
Each new aim and purpose strengthen
Into deeds that shall make lovely
All the golden afternoon.

Conditions of Successful Prayer.

Prayer is natural to man. It springs out of that sense of dependence which, if it be not the essence of all religion, is at least one of the essential conditions of any religion. The soul that is entirely self-centred and self-sufficing may contrive to exist without one ejaculation for assistance. But man who is constantly feeling himself hampered and hindered by the pressure upon him of difficulties without and by the consciousness of his inability to meet and overcome them, cannot help falling back upon the bosom of God. With an instinct as real as that which impels the infant to cry for its appropriate food and an impulse as strong as that which drives the child in the hour of danger to its mother's knee, men are led in their times of helplessness to call upon God. So long as they are at ease and comfortable they may contrive to get along without any appeal to the Most High; but when trouble comes, which no human brother can remove, carelessness is thrown aside, and human theories are forgotten, as they sob out the words which agony always presses to the lips, "My God! My God!" Man can not help himself here. He cannot if he would destroy the feeling which thus powerfully asserts itself. Nor will it do to say that all this is the effect of education; for even among heathen nations there are indications of the fact that prayer has existed from the beginning; while if there be any, which may be gravely doubted, who have lost the idea, their very readiness to receive the truth of the existence of God to whom they may appeal