

How little we have used this privilege! How little we have understood the laws of prevailing prayer. One law that must be observed to release this power is harmony with the will of God; another is united petition by those who follow Christ; a third is faith—that God can and will grant the petition. What might not be wrought by means of the spiritual forces released in prayer if only we understood and used them; if only the Christians of the world would **unite** in believing intelligent prayer, in harmony with God and His program.

This is the purpose of the **World's Day of Prayer**, set for March 4th next, by the Federation of Women's Boards of Foreign Missions of North America and the Council of Women for Home Missions. On this day Christians all over the world—of every race and nation, of every name and class, high and low, rich and poor, young and old—are asked to unite in petition to Almighty God for new spiritual light and power to solve the great problems that are perplexing the world. In churches and halls, in homes and offices, and by the wayside, men and women are asked to gather and to dedicate themselves anew to God's service for the pulling down of strongholds that oppose His progress, praying that His sway may be extended over the hearts and lives of men.

Is it not worth while to join with Christians all over the world, in worship and praise, in confession and petition to God so that the greater works, promised by our Lord, may be performed in our day and in all lands? Already this plan has been enthusiastically received.

The committee of the International Missionary Council, at its meeting in Sweden last July passed the following resolution:

"Realizing the inadequacy of present efforts to meet the needs of the world, the members of the Committee are deeply convinced that only as new tides of spiritual life begin to flow within the Church can the waiting tasks be fulfilled. They have been greatly encouraged by the account given by the Bishop of Salisbury of the movement of

prayer within the Church of England. Believing that the undertakings in which they desire to co-operate can be accomplished only as they are begun and continued in prayer, they resolve to enter afresh into an experience of sustaining and victorious prayer, to dedicate themselves anew to a life of which communion with God is the inspiring principle and to co-operate in every way possible in extending the fellowship of prayer."

Three conditions of effective prayer are mentioned by the Committee: (1) Receptiveness, the throwing open of the whole personality to the influence of God's Spirit; (2) Obedience, a genuine desire and purpose to do God's will as it is revealed and at any cost; (3) Definiteness, showing clear and consecrated comprehension as to what is needed in the world and what we desire of God.

The following objects for concentrated prayer are suggested by the Committee of the International Missionary Council:

1. **For a Missionary Spirit.**—That the Church may see the whole world's need of Christ, and may be ready for any sacrifice in order to make Him known to all mankind.
2. **For a Spirit of Prayer.**—That Christian people may learn to pray as Christ prayed and taught His disciples to pray; and that an ever-increasing number of interceders may be raised up until the whole Church is awakened to prayer.
3. **For a Spirit of Sacrifice.**—That the Church may be willing at whatever cost to follow and to bear witness to the way of Christ as she learns it.
4. **For a Spirit of Unity.**—That the whole Church of Christ may desire and experience a new unity in Christ.
5. **For the Gift of Interpretation.**—That the Church may learn to preach the eternal Gospel by word and life in terms that the men and women of this age will understand.
6. **For Courageous Witness in Moral Questions.**—That the witness of the Church in the moral questions of our day may truly reflect the mind of God and may be known and felt throughout the world.