

men and of learned men he pronounced incapable of executing his ideal of prayer.—*Still Hour.*

The prophet's sad lament over the feeble prayers of the Church: "There is none that.....stirreth up himself to TAKE HOLD OF THEE." Isa. lxi. 7.

3. A GLORIOUS DAYLIGHT, vers. 26-28. The glorious dawn rising over the hills of Gilead finds Jacob still struggling with the "MIGHTY STRANGER." He asks the patriarch's NAME, that Jacob might be reminded of his life-long, self-seeking self-confidence. Now, humbled thoroughly, strong in meekness, mighty in prayer, abounding in faith, he shall no longer be called JACOB, *heel-catcher, supplanter*. The dawn seems to have a promise and a joy in every coming sunbeam.

Blessed awaking in the morning at Bethel—to find the cold ground and the hard stone none other than the house of God and the gate of heaven! Now the sleepless night merges into a yet more resplendent morn, as "wrestling Jacob" finds not only heaven's gate, and God's house, but the very face of God! Bethel's deliverance was rescue from a brother's rage. The blessing at the fords of Jabbok turns that rage into a brother's love; it gives Jacob a new vision, a new name, and a NEW HEART.

The prayer of a good man.....His spirit is becalmed, made even as the brow of Jesus, and smooth like the heart of God: and then it ascends to heaven upon the wings of a holy dove, and dwells with God till it returns, like the useful bee, laden with a blessing and the dew of heaven.—*Jeremy Taylor.*

All the world has heard how the audience of the elder President Edwards was moved by his terrible sermon on "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God;" some of them even grasping hold of the pillars of the sanctuary, from feeling that their feet were actually sliding into the pit. But the secret of that sermon's power is known to but very few. Some Christians in that vicinity (Enfield, Mass.) had become alarmed, lest, while God was blessing other places, he should in anger pass them by; and so they met on the evening preceding the preaching of that sermon and spent the whole of the night in agonizing prayer.—*Dr. H. C. Fish.*

4. THE NEW NAME OF VICTORY, vers. 28, 30. ISRAEL. PRINCE OF GOD. "Israel" seems to be a double play on the word *Sarah*, "to be a prince," and also "to fight." [Stanley: *Genesis*.] POWER WITH GOD. Jacob received power from God to contend with God. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. iv. 13. The prayer of the righteous "availeth much." James v. 16. Prayer tends to make men God-like—even in power. WITH MEN. He that hath God on his side shall surely win men. PRE-VAILED. Jacob is thoroughly conquered himself before he prevails with God. Thus God brings the sinner to utter nothingness in his own sight before the penitent's cries prevail. THY NAME. A question that all the ages have asked from the great deep of man's soul. The heavenly stranger will answer it in his own divine mode. HE BLESSED HIM. This is the answer! To feel the blessing of the Almighty is better than the knowledge of the term by which he is called. To know God is an infinitely higher knowledge than to simply know his name. The blessing is full of heaven, with hope of all real joy. PENIEL. Face of God. (The Samaritan Pentateuch gives the form Penuel—which is the usual form.) Five hundred years later Gideon, in pursuing the Midianites, finds a city and a tower occupying the site of Peniel. Judges viii. 8. I HAVE SEEN GOD FACE TO FACE, that is, without any medium. Jacob at first thought the Stranger to be a man, ver. 24; now he knows him to be God. But it was God as "declared" by "the only begotten Son," for "No man hath seen God at any time." See John i. 18. Jesus, the "mystery of godliness," is the "Mighty God, the everlasting Father." Compare Isa. ix. 6; John i. 1, 2.

All may be *spiritual wrestlers*. Christ's praying ones are not only "sons of God," (1 John iii. 1, 2,) but "princes;" and shall be "kings," if steadfast in faith. Rev. i. 6; v. 10.

To him that overcometh will I give..... a new name. Rev. ii. 17.

My prayer hath power with God: the grace

Unspeakable I now receive;

Through faith I see Thee face to face—

I see Thee face to face and live!

In vain I have not wept and strove—

Thy Nature and thy Name is Love.

—C. Wesley.