

Gatherings.

It well becomes the men of God, with tenderness and concern to inquire about the welfare of their friends and their families.

Ministers of eminent gifts and stations should make themselves familiar with those that are every way their inferiors, and know their character and state. 2 Kings iv.

The holiest and best of men sometimes have their lawful and pious requests denied. God is pleased to answer our necessities rather than our requests. 1 Peter i.

Those who expect God to hear their prayers must be willing to hear reason, to hear a faithful reproof, and to hear the complaints and appeals of wronged innocency. Judges viii.

Divine revelation is one of the first and greatest of divine favours with which the church is blessed; for God restores us to himself by revealing himself to us, and gives us all good by giving us knowledge. Ps. ciii.

Those that would be instrumental in conveying spiritual life to dead souls, must affect themselves with their case, and accommodate themselves to it, and labour fervently in prayer for them.

Prophets should endeavour to make every place they come to, in some way or other the better for them, endeavouring to sweeten bitter spirits and to make barren souls fruitful, by the due application of the word of God.

In the raising of dead souls to spiritual life, ministers can do no more by their own power than to lay the word before their faces: There is neither voice nor hearing till Christ, by his Spirit, comes himself: The letter alone kills, it is the Spirit that gives life: It is not prophesying upon dry bones, that will put life into them: Breath must come from Heaven and breathe upon the slain.

A child of prayer, is, in a special manner, bound to be a good child.

The edifying of the church will be the glorifying of God, and therefore we may be assured it will be done in the set time.

We forfeit the benefit of ordinances if we make an ill use of them. Ps. lii.

Whatever the troubles of the church are, God's mercy is a sovereign remedy. Ps. cxxiii.

God has many ways of disabling wicked men to do the mischief they design against the Church, and shaming their counsels. Ps. cxxix.

God's people have always had many enemies, and the state of the church from its infancy has frequently been an afflicted state.

The delight God takes in his church and the continuance of his presence with his church, are the comfort and joy of all its members. Ps. cxxxii.

God is, and always will be, to his church, a gracious, faithful, wonder-working God; and his church is and will be the same to him; a thankful, praising people; and thus his name *endureth for ever*. Ps. cxxxv.

The poor must pray for those that are kind and liberal to them, and thus requite them, when they are not capable of making them any other requital. Ruth ii.

God gives us leave, in prayer, not only to ask good things in general, but to mention that special good thing which we most need and desire. 1 Sam. i.

It is a comfort to all that lay the interests of God's Israel near their hearts that Israel's God is the same that made the world, and therefore will have a church in the world, and can secure that church in the times of the greatest danger and distress. In him, therefore, let the church's friends put their confidence, and they shall not be put to confusion. Ps. cxxiv.