

3. The third point relates to the subject of prayer. Prayer keeps alive a sense of dependence on God. It brings the child consciously into the Divine presence, as a creature of God's care and love. It is essentially a grateful, trusting, submissive consciousness of dependence on God. It connects earth with heaven, and the blessings of life with their Author. It awakens in the soul the habitual feeling, that over its daily paths and over its midnight sleep is the care of the Infinite Father; and never can the child learn too early to look for protection and guidance and help to that Being to whom we must all look, and on whose mercy parent and child are alike dependent. The prayer of a child may be no more than a sentence, than the verse of a hymn; but, if possible, let it be able never to remember the time when it did not feel that there was one Being to whom it might look up, not only as the most powerful and wise, but the most beneficent, Being of the universe. Let it be able never to remember the time when it did not habitually pray to God.

The great object in all these cases is to awaken certain sentiments, to give direction to the thoughts, and to lead the child to form certain habits of act and thought for itself,—so that throughout its days it may feel that it is a child of God, living under a heavenly care, and in every just and useful and truthful purpose sure of the approval and favor of God.

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ADVERSITY is sometimes hard upon a man; but for one man who can stand prosperity, there are a hundred that will stand adversity.—*Carlyle*.