

"I never heard my parents pray; I may have heard them curse, and swear, and tell lies, but not pray." Other children may say, "We have heard our parents pray,—for they said the Lord's prayer; the very first word of which was a lie in their mouths. They knew that God was not their '*Father*;' they neither loved nor served him, but were *of their father the devil*." O, my friends, this *outside*, this *formal* religion, will not do; we must get it into our hearts. Then our prayers will be acceptable to God, and useful to ourselves.

"IN EVERY THING GIVE THANKS." What! for a bad debt, or a broken leg? for parish pay? for a dinner of herbs? for a thatched cottage? Aye, praise God for *all things*. He knows what is best for us. We have more than we deserve; and we should neither take a bite of bread, nor a drink of water, without giving thanks for them. If we were more thankful for our mercies, God would give us more: but we are by nature so very ungrateful—either murmuring against providence, or expecting so much more than common food and raiment, that we need a positive command, before we will give thanks for what God gives to us out of his free bounty.—You must give thanks, then; "*for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you*." Now, the *will* of God should be the *law* to MAN; and you hear, that it "*is the will of God in Christ Jesus*," that Christian men should "*rejoice evermore; pray without ceasing; and in every thing give thanks*." Another part of the text is,

"QUENCH NOT THE SPIRIT." You that have the Spirit of God, see that you do not quench it. Grace is a very tender plant, and may easily be destroyed. You need not go to bed drunk, to quench the Spirit. It may be quenched by *neglecting* prayer, by giving your minds to foolish and trifling objects, by attending to earthly things, by refusing to do good, by not praying with your families.—The master with whom I was an apprentice, never used family prayer: I have often thought of it