

POINTS ABOUT PRAYER

1. *Pray in Christ's Name.* This clearly means that we ask in His Spirit or in His stead. We must ask what would not be out of place for Him to ask were He here; ask as His servant, bearing His commission, standing in His place. Very much that men commonly ask for is cut off at once when this test is applied. Most prayers are selfish prayers, and Christ never thought of self or pleased self or sought His own glory. It would be impossible to imagine Him offering most of the prayers which His followers present. We can use His name only when we are asking in the interests of His cause just as a servant can use his master's name in making purchases only so far as he buys in the interests of that master and by his authorization. It is the motive in asking that makes all the difference in the world whether our prayers have favorable or unfavorable issue. Wrong motives furnish a fully sufficient explanation for a vast number of unanswered prayers. Christ will not countersign petitions that are offered for the progress of some petty scheme of our own, without reference to the advancement of His kingdom. And no draft will be honored at the bank of heaven that has not Christ's indorsement on it. Lacking that, it is thrown out as an impertinence, if not a forgery.

2. *Pray with Faith.* Just what this means, all do not seem to understand. Genuine belief is never possible without evidence. It must have some basis, some reasonable ground to rest upon. It is a building, not a bird, dependent on a foundation, not at liberty to soar through the air wherever fancy guides. We cannot believe what we please, without regard to the evidence. That is not faith, but sheer fanaticism. What things, then, are there that we can believe we shall receive in answer to prayer? Plainly those things which God has promised to give to those who pray. The evidence for our faith must be the manifested will of God. This is precisely what John says: "If we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us," and we know we have the petitions which we have asked of Him. Not otherwise. Whenever He makes known that it is His pleasure to impart something in answer to prayer, we can believe most fully it will be imparted. But not unless. When our prayer goes beyond that, and we claim in other things the same absolute assurance of bestowment, it is simply the effect of a-disordered brain, a misguided mind. This, then, is the rule of faith: When we pray we must have entire confidence that God will be true to all He has promised, will infallibly carry out His plighted word. God's promises, His declared will, are the keys that unlock all the storehouses of heaven. They cover all our needs.

3. *Be Honest in Prayer.* Our prayers

should be frequently examined, to see whether we are asking for what we really want or only for the things we have an idea we ought to want. There is too much of this unreality and practical dishonesty current both in the closet and in the public prayer room. People sometimes get into quite a glow of pleasurable devotional excitement as they pray: their imagination works finely, they have a good flow of language, and become heated with their own rhetoric, almost eloquent, and as the fine phrases roll trippingly off the tongue they ask for things which they would not only be much astonished to receive, but actually sorry in their cooler moments. What we sincerely desire, we should be fully willing to pay the price for. And there is always a price attached—that is, a condition. If we want to sit on the right hand of Jesus, we must be willing to drink of His cup. There is much more of poetry in some prayers. They sound well; but the Lord, who knows the heart, does not find satisfaction in them.

4. *Avoid Vain Repetitions.* Our Savior's caution about vain repetitions, though directed primarily against the heathen custom of saying the name of their gods a certain number of times and supposing that thereby much merit was created, has still a pertinency in connection with our habits of prayer, both public and private. There is, on the part of many Christians, a senseless multiplication of words in prayer that savors strongly of irreverence and mere formality, though not so meant. It seems as though they thought they must make their prayers especially the public ones, just about so long, and go about such a round, after just about so many preliminaries, and with just about so many perorations. It is certainly better to pause a little first and find out precisely what we want, and then ask directly for it, as though we meant business; and when we really get through, stop short. In great stress of feeling, and where there is a strong burden in the soul, repetitions are no doubt allowable; but such will not be vain, empty things, charged with no special significance. Of the latter, beware.

5. *Do Not Be Lazy.* Coleridge is said to have remarked that he thought the act of praying to be, in its most perfect form, the very highest energy of which the human heart is capable. Paul gives countenance to this conception when he commends Epaphras to the Colossians as one who labored fervently for them in his prayers, and also when he asks converts to "strive together with him in their prayers." We ought certainly to be on our guard against indolence in prayer. Clear and vivid thought precedes intelligent and profound feeling. Lazy postures of body should be avoided, and lazy habits of mind.

To form impressive conceptions of God, heaven, eternity, and other spiritual things, and that without aid from the senses, is not easy, especially to untrained minds. But the steady effort to do so will have an educating power, even as the careful study of the Bible is no mean mental discipline. A thorough-going Christian will have an active mind.

6. *Use Frequent Ejaculations.* It is much to form the habit and master the practice of sending little arrows or javelins (Jacula) heavenward all through the day. It is the most natural thing in the world with one to whom the presence of God is real and who cultivates a recollected spirit. He finds occasion for a word of prayer at almost numberless moments, and, if asked how many times a day he prayed, would be utterly unable to make even an approximate enumeration. This does not hinder but help all other business even as it was with Nehemiah, who, between the king's question and the reply that needed to be made, found time to "pray to the God of heaven." Nothing so endears God to us and us to God as this perpetual intercourse. Nothing so sweetens and brightens life as these little messages of love, these small petitions—"Lord help me;" "Lord, grant guidance;" "Show me now the way;" "Keep me now from error;" "Teach me thy will"—which are ever on the wing.

7. *Put Heart Into It.* One of the effects of prayer should be to kindle our emotions. It is not fitting that the great themes which pertain to our relations with God should be treated simply in a cool, didactic way, as we might discuss a point of scientific interest. Our sensibilities should be aroused. There should be some deep feeling to start with, and this feeling should increase as the prayer progresses. It would be better to sacrifice something in clearness of thought than to have no heart shone forth. He from the depths of whose soul something comes hotly welling up that can scarcely find utterance will be of more help to a meeting than the learned philosopher from whose well ordered mind a neat disquisition very calmly proceeds. It is well to have something of effervescence. The Psalms are a better model of style at such times than the Proverbs.—Rev. James Mudge, in *Christian Advocate*.

The Paralyzing Effect of Worry.

Anxiety, worry and fretting destroy nutrition by ruining the digestion and preventing assimilation of the nutriment in the food. Whatever affects the brain cells, the nutritive centers of the body, affects the health, the life. Worry or anxiety injures certain cells of the brain, often beyond repair. The supply of nerve nutriment is cut off, and all the normal processes of the body are disarranged and disordered while one is troubled or worried or anxious. This is why worry kills.—Ex.

—ooo—
"Be a minister and a witness, and not a culture-pot."

LIVING WATER

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EDITORIAL

NOW

I leave with God tomorrow's where and how,
And do concern myself but with the now,
That little word, though half the future's length,
Well used, holds twice its meaning and its strength.

Like one blindfolded, groping out his way,
I will not try to touch beyond today.
Since all the future is concealed from sight,
I need but strive to make the next step right.

That done, the next! and so on, till I find,
Perchance, some day I am no longer blind;
And, looking up, behold a radiant Friend,
Who says, "Rest now, for you have reached the End."

—Ex.

We spent last Saturday and Sunday with
the mission at Lebanon, Tenn. Missions
was stressed and we hope the band there will
support a foreign missionary.

A GRAVE QUESTION

We should be more careful in our teaching
lest we cause people to commit themselves
prematurely against the truth. Sometimes
imprudent and indiscreet persons project meet-
ings in places where the deeper truths of the
Gospel have not been taught, and set the work
back ten years by their blunders. Not being
teachers they only confuse and prejudice the
people so that it will be difficult for anyone to
get a hearing afterwards. First impressions
are the most lasting and how important that
they be correct. Perhaps there is no other
teaching so misunderstood and grossly pervert-
ed as that of the holiness people. Hence great
care should be taken that people should have
the light before they are asked to commit them-
selves. Unwise measures often drive them to
ignorantly oppose the truth and once they are
fortified in that opposition it is doubly hard to
dislodge them. If one will be meek, tender,
gentle, patient and wise, many will be won
who would otherwise be driven away. The
safe teacher will avoid a premature committal
either for or against the truth.

Preach the truth; ask the Lord to give the
light; then firmly, but gently press people to
walk in the light and "the blood of Jesus
Christ His Son will cleanse from all sin."

HIS HABITATION

Napoleon, dying in St. Helena, said, "When
I am dead my spirit will return to France and
throb with ceaseless life in new revolution."
This could only be true of Napoleon in a fig-
urative sense, but after the crucifixion and as-
cension of the Lord Jesus, His Spirit descend-
ed on the day of Pentecost and from that day
He has dwelt in the hearts of His people
quickening, cleansing, comforting, guiding,
and strengthening them. Before Pentecost
the Holy Spirit was with believers but did not
dwell in them. Jesus said, He is with you
now, but shall (after Pentecost) be in you. "In
the old dispensation the Spirit wrought upon
believers, but He did not in His person dwell
in believers."

Think of God as being *in* you rather than
with you. It makes a vast difference in our
experience. Think of Him as living in the
very center of your being, in the depths of
your spirit, in the citadel of the soul. He
makes His *home* in the heart. Any heart in
which Jesus lives will be kept clean and full
of holy activities. "Out of His *inward parts*
shall flow rivers of living waters." Hallelujah!

AN HEROIC LIFE

The history of the Church abounds with
striking incidents of self-denial and Christian
fortitude. Every age, nation and caste have
had those who have *left all* to follow Him.
These like glittering stars have shown lumi-
nously amid the prevailing darkness of their
day. The bride of Christ is being gathered
from among all nations. From the hoary cen-
ters of heathenism and the far off islands of
the sea as well as from our own fair land a
little company is being gathered who seek to
follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. In
these days when covetousness is eating like a
canker at the heart of our political, social and
religious life, it is highly imperative that we
imitate Him "who though he was rich yet for
our sakes became poor that we through his
poverty might be rich." The Christian should
stand like a warrior, amid the storm and battle
of sin raging around, absolutely fearless, en-
during hardness as a good soldier, as now
when in pagan China outrages are perpetrated
upon our brethren, the life of one of whom
stands out in bold relief.

We quote from an eminent writer on mis-
sions. "Some twelve years since Lough Fook,
a Chinese Christian, moved with compassion
for the Coolies in the South American mines,
sold himself for a term of five years as a Coolie
slave, and was transported to Demarara, that
he might carry the gospel to his countrymen
working there. He toiled in the mines with
them and preached Jesus while he toiled, till
he had scores of whom he could speak as Paul,
of Onesimus, "whom I have begotten in my
bonds." Noble example of the possible spir-
itual power of "these from the land of Sinim."

Lough Fook died about two years since;
but not until he had won to the Savior nearly

two hundred disciples, whom he left behind in
membership with the Christian Church. Where
in the centuries has that loveliest feat-
ure in the condescension of the Man of Sor-
rows, "*He took upon him the form of a slave*"
—been so literally reproduced as here? Among
all nations have been found those who have
borne the Savior's cross in martyrdom; but
to a Christian Chinaman belongs, so far as we
know, the unique honor of wearing the Sav-
ior's bonds in voluntary servitude."

REJOICE IN HIM

The sainted Fletcher in writing to a friend
said, "Use no forced labor to raise a particu-
lar frame; nor tire, fret, and grow impatient,
if you have no comfort, but meekly acquiesce,
and confess yourself unworthy of it. Lie
prostrate in humble submission before God,
and patiently wait for the smiles of Jesus."

Perhaps while sitting in the sanctuary or
amid life's pressing duties a *tired, fagged*
feeling steals over the spirit.

What should we do? Get right still before
God. Then breathe a prayer like unto this:
Lord I am wholly Thine, and Thou art all
mine. I wait before Thee; give me the bread
that I need for this work, whether it be to sit
in humiliation and self-abasement, or in
agony and travail of soul for others or in the
garden of temptation beset by howling de-
mons, or "in holy quietness gazing into Thy
blessed face," or with the heart leaping with
unutterable joy; I will accept it as my portion
for Thine honor, and will go away rejoicing in
having thus been fed.

But better still, look away from all kinds of
feeling to Him who is thy portion. If thy
life is all given to Him, He dwells in thine
heart. Rejoice in having Him reigning with-
in, and it matters not whether thou art thrilled
with pleasurable emotions or art passing
through severe trial. The Lord is thy treas-
ure, and thou canst rejoice continually in hav-
ing Him as thine own. Brother, when thou
art tempted to feel discouraged, it is because
thou art looking too much at the difficulties;
take thine eyes off these, and fix them on Je-
sus, then thy spirit will be made glad in the
Lord. Peter did not begin to sink till he got
his eyes off Jesus, and went to looking at the
waves rolling about him. The trouble gets
larger the longer we look at it; whatever may
be the depressing influences around thee, keep
thy mind stayed on the Lord, and He will
keep thee in perfect peace. (Isa. 26:3.)

BREAD CAST UPON THE WATERS

That kind word, gentle smile, warm hand-
shake, and earnest prayer will bear fruit. You
will not see the results just now, but they
will be manifest sooner or later. May be that
your soul has long been in travail for a cer-
tain victory, and yet you see no answer. Be of
good cheer. God lives, and in His own time
and way He will reward thee for thy long
waiting.

OUR Young People

"Those that seek me early shall find me."
—Prov. 8:17

Address all communications for this
Department to Mrs. John T. Benson,
Eastland Ave., Nashville, Tenn.

LETTERS WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED UNLESS
WRITTEN ON ONE SIDE OF THE SHEET ONLY

Kedron, Tenn.

Dear Cousin Eva:—I am a little girl eleven years of age. I have a sister and one brother living and one brother and father in heaven. Mother takes LIVING WATER and I enjoy reading the children's page. We have a little pet dog named Banks Dean, we love him very much. Sister and I send twenty-five cents for missions. Your cousin,
Kate Foster.

Kedron, Tenn.

Dear Cousin Eva:—Mamma takes LIVING WATER and I like to read the children's page. I am nine years of age. I have two sisters and one brother on earth. I have one brother and father in heaven. I have no pets but two dolls. If I see this in print I will write again. Your new cousin,
Matilda E. Foster.

Dear little girls, did you get tired looking for your letters? Well, they look very nice in print, if you did have to wait, don't they? I wonder if you are going to meet papa and brother in heaven. You can, if you will. How? Why Jesus has fixed things so that we can go to heaven if we want to, if we will to. Now, of course we can't go *anyway* we may will. Thousands of people are doing that. They want to go, but go their own way, and just leave Jesus and His way out of the question. Well, that won't do. Such people are deceived, and lost. But oh, when we decide in our hearts to belong to God; when we look up and say, "Lord, I am yours, and I ask you give me a new heart, for Jesus sake," then, God begins to deal with us.

Our kind Lord doesn't want us to be lost, and He gladly saves us when we come to Him. Won't you ask the Lord to save you? And, dear children, won't you decide in your hearts for Jesus, so that God can save.

Dear Cousin Eva:—Here comes a little black-eyed girl twelve years old. I was converted December 29th, 1904, while Bros. Martin and Roby were holding a meeting at Tarr School. I go to school every day. My teacher's name is Miss Ida Redmon. I go to Sunday-school too. Well as this is my first time, I will close.
Lottie Lucas.

How glad I am that the Lord called Bros. Martin and Roby to go out and preach the gospel, for thus it was this little girl got saved. We don't appreciate as we should the men who have given up their own plans in life, to go tell others about Jesus. Praise God for men who are doing His work among a lost and dying people. The Lord help you always to be an obedient listener to His messages.

Bonita, Texas.

Dear Cousin Eva:—I want to join your happy band of cousins. I am a little girl fifteen years old. I go to school and Sunday-school. Mamma takes LIVING WATER and I like to read the children's page. I am not a Christian but want you to pray for me that I may be some day.
Lida Shelby.

Gallatin, Tenn.

Dear Cousin Eva:—I am a little boy seven years of age and want to join your band of cousins. I have for pets a little shepherd dog and a white kitten named Snowball. I have been going to school this fall and studied the second reader and speller. I am not a Christian but want to be soon. Your new cousin,
Percy Seay Caldwell.

Percy and Lida, let me have a talk with you together. "Some day," "soon," these are the words in your letters that I am thinking of. Why not say, "I want to be a Christian *now, today!*" I wonder if you really do want to settle it, or put it off till "some other day, soon" Let me tell you something I have learned about people. *Our hearts like to put off making a decision for God*, yes, this is true. We like to *put it off*. We find it easy to *wait*, and think of some other time in the future. And while the devil knows this about us well, and so gets us to just put it off, and put it off, we don't know how we are, and so we don't see the danger. Satan knows it *gets easier* all the time to put it off, and *harder* to yield to God, as the days go by. What a wise enemy he is! What silly things we are! Get down on your knees and ask Jesus to help you settle it *now*.

Art, Ala.

Dear Cousin Eva:—I am a little boy eleven years old. I go to school and my teacher's name is Prof. James A. Howell and I like him very much. My brother takes LIVING WATER and I like to read the children's page and your answers very much. Your little cousin,
Zenas Newton.

Till, Ala.

Dear Cousin Eva:—I am a little ten year old boy. I have been in school all the winter but it is out now. I am in the fifth grade. I have no pets except a pig. I was converted four years ago and I try to do no harm but all the good I can. I cannot preach now but I can sing of the Love of Jesus and His power to save. I hope I may be used of the Lord to do great good to my fellowmen. I often sing "I'll go where you want me to go." Pray for me. Your humble little Christian cousin,
Elvin Till.

Cousin Eva is taking you in "pairs" this week. But that keeps you from getting lonesome, doesn't it? I am wondering just how many little boys eight, ten and eleven years old, there are in the world. "O," you say "thousands and thousands." Yes, I am sure of it, hundred of thousands. Why think of the dusky boys in Africa, the brown-skinned in crowded India, the yellow ones in densely populated China, not to mention Cubans, South Americans, Laplanders, Europeans, English, American, and South Sea Islanders. Dear me, there is no end to them. They must be *pretty common*, don't you think? As common as thistles and weeds. Do you suppose, then, a boy is worth much? Listen, I can tell you. He is worth Jesus dying to save him. God takes note of every sparrow, the commonest of birds. Surely then, boys, however common they may be, however plentiful,

must be valuable in God's eyes. Yes, God loves *every boy in the world*. He wants to *save every boy in the world*. Do you believe it? The Lord doesn't mind a boy's noise and trouble as much as people do. He looks straight through it all at the soul of the boy, and oh, how He loves it, and wants the boy for His own. God doesn't get out of patience with boys. No, He really loves them, and desires so much to save them from sin, and the devil. Dear boys, Zenas, Elvin, can you afford to turn from such a friend?

I am so glad God loves you. I am so glad it is His will to save you this moment. I am so glad Jesus suffered, was punished for your sins, and so you can go and freely ask God for pardon. Won't you? Won't you turn to Him in your hearts this moment?

Branch, W. Va.

Dear Cousins:—I will try to write a few lines to all the cousins this evening. I am fifteen years old. As for pets I haven't any. I am a Christian and I love the Christian life. I was converted Dec. 4, 1904. My pastor's name is Rev. J. D. Dickey. He commenced his protracted meeting in November and I promised the Lord that I would go to the altar the third night but I denied my Lord and left it off until the fourth night. I knelt at the altar and was there for several nights. It seemed that I could not get right with God. I kept on seeking after he closed the meeting. One Sunday I was in the little village of Upper Tract where the parsonage was and I could not be satisfied until I went in. I seemed lonesome. There was no one there but his wife, who is a very good woman. We got to talking and she asked me if I was a Christian, and my head dropped and the answer was no. We dwelt in prayer half an hour and then the Lord forgave me of my sins and I left the house rejoicing over my Savior. I am trying to serve God the best I know how. I was appointed secretary of the Sunday-school at my home. I have three brothers and four sisters. One of my sisters is deaf and goes to the Deaf and Blind School at Ramney. One of my brothers taught school two winters and is now going to school at Shepherdstown. My father and three of my sisters are Christians. My mother is dead. Dear Cousin Eva, pray that I may see a brighter light and that it may shine in my soul. I am praying for it.

If a task is once begun,
Never leave it till it's done
Be the labor great or small,
Do it well or not at all.

I want to be a worker for the Lord. Pray for me
Your new cousin,
Oliver A. Kimble

I am glad to have this testimony. Oliver, if you had gone the first night God convicted you, it is likely you would have found it easy to trust for salvation. God loves for us to *obey promptly*. O, the sad lessons I learned before I saw the value of minding the Spirit at once. Let this truth be *burned into your heart*. Don't trifle with God. Yield at once. It pays. I am so glad you kept seeking and found Him. I praise God for your desires to serve Him. Pray for light, that you may be fitted for work.

Prescott, Ark.

Dear Cousin Eva:—I am a little girl nine years old. I like to go to Sunday-school and mamma is my teacher. I am not a Christian but would like to be. We have prayer-meeting every Saturday night and I like to go. Well I will close. Your new cousin,
Maggie Lee Butcher.

Wagoner, I. T.

Dear Cousin Eva:—A little eight year old boy from Indian Territory wants to join the band of cousins and