

SECRET AND PREVAILING PRAYER.

The great majority of professors never pray in secret; then a less number go through with a form because they feel it is their duty and consequently brings relief of conscience; then still a less number enjoy secret prayer, but only do enough of it to keep saved and free from condemnation; and there is still a less number who go beyond this, and know how to hold on and prevail with God.

Yea, the majority of holiness professors have never learned the secret of prevailing prayer. In every generation there have only been a few, one here and there, who continually outgrew themselves, outstripped their sluggish brethren, and kept it up making rapid strides in growth in grace.

jasmodic efforts will not produce lasting results. Some get stirred up on this line, and do very well for several weeks or months, but influenced by others, or having compared themselves with the generality of professed Christians, they finally slack up on their oars, and though they may still hold their own, their aggressive, penetrating power has departed.

It seems it is not in some souls to keep up a steady aggression without the help of others. It is so easy for them to come to a standstill, and feel contented with the thought that they are not degenerating, rather than being pushed forward by a longing desire to test all the possibilities of grace. They are too easy-going and aimless in their make up; they do not stir themselves and push out, only as they have to. Such souls may finally get to heaven if they have some one to accompany them and keep them from settling down in the lap of carnal ease.

No one becomes a mature saint in a day or week. It requires time to be changed from glory to glory, from faith to faith, until our whole behaviour and lives are lost and swallowed up in God. True, the work of pardon or purity is instantaneous, but the moulding and fashioning into the image and likeness of Jesus goes on from the altar to the throne.

One reason that souls do not have a relish or delight for approaching unto God is that they do not want to look at the thing that He invariably calls their attention to; that grieves the Spirit and separates between them and His face. It is a pretty sure sign of being backslidden in heart when you do not love to look forward for an opportunity to get alone with Jesus.

Don't be in a hurry to get through tarrying in the holy of holies. After you get complete victory over all the rush and noise, then you are only getting into a proper attitude for God to draw near and speak His wonderful secrets. Many times you are about to arise from your knees when another floodgate is opened that deluges your soul.

It pays to hold on and wait upon the Lord. Satan is aware that he who does this is sure to renew his strength, so he sets himself to fill that mind with cares, wandering thoughts and a thousand suggestions; and if one is successfully resisted, and put aside, he will put something else in its place, and in every way possible, try to divert the mind.

"He may try to accuse you of some wrong, for he is the accuser of the brethren; and since in the presence of God the praying one wants to be entirely honest, he will perhaps be induced to dissect the accusation of the devil and assure himself that his motives are right and that he did no wrong. This is all the devil wants. He will get you to dwell on some imagined wrong until you lose for the time all desire for real earnest prayer, since you cannot do the two things at once. As a last resort the devil may tell you that you cannot afford to spend much time in your closet. This sounds reasonable to the inexperienced, but it is a great mistake. We must take time for secret prayer. Time spent alone with God is always profitable, beside, work done for God cannot be effectual unless we keep in close touch with Him."

"One of the holiest men that ever lived expressed his regret that he had spent so little time with God and so much time with men and things. We all commune with God too little, and are too much engrossed with distracting cares. Daniel knelt before God three times a day. David in his better years had seven regular seasons for prayer each day. Jesus was much in prayer. Robert Murray McChesney allowed that 'he ought to spend the best hours of the day in communion with God.' 'It is my noblest and most fruitful employment,' said he, 'and is not therefore to be thrust into a corner.' Secret prayer is the key to success in public Christian work. Fifteen minutes with God is the best qualification for an hour with men. Rapt communion with the Divine begets holy trust for contact with the human. 'They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.' The mightiest Christians that ever lived, like Jacob, Moses, Paul, Peter, Luther, Fletcher and Asbury, were often and long on their knees waiting for the baptism."—Repairer.

SWORD THRUSTS BY BILLY SUNDAY.

You can't hang on to one sin and be a Christian.

Don't think because you don't believe in hell that that puts the fire out.

Letting a boy do as he pleases is the same as giving him a through ticket to hell.

John the Baptist had a backbone bigger than the whole body of some preachers I know.

Don't be a bright light on Sunday and then be like a London fog the rest of the week.

The best society is not made up of the beer-drinking, card-playing, theatre-going Christians.

I would rather be a small match for Jesus than to be a 5000 candle-power light that has gone out.

I don't like to see a woman wear a \$250 seal-skin coat and then drop five cents in the collection basket.

If you would kiss some of those little matinee-idol-worshipping sissies you would die of painter's colic.

You find people on the outside more susceptible to religion than the church is burdened with a desire to save them.—Drawn Sword.

SABBATH EXCURSIONISTS.

Sight-seeing and cheap rates for Sunday excursions are bringing throngs of people to the city. Virtually the holy Sabbath has been displaced with most, for a day of business and pleasure. Among this company are many professing Christians, some holiness professors, some preachers and others who do not really mean to set aside God's Word, "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy," Ex. 20:8, but for convenience take these excursion trains and so are numbered with the God-defying pleasure seekers. Their mouths are closed against reproving sin, their influence gone for its good effect and themselves under condemnation from their own consciences as well as from the law of God.

How are the Mighty Fallen!

The Sabbath as a day of worship, this cornerstone of national perpetuity, is fast being obliterated. This professedly Christian nation is becoming infidel and heathen.

Stop the Tide.

Who can? You preacher! You professing Christian! You men and women of principle! You young people who want a good character! All who want law and order and the blessing of God. All who want to avert the wrath of God, put away Sabbath business and pleasuring and turn to the worship of the true God, before He comes in judgment and sweeps into eternal destruction those who despise His mercy and trample His law under their feet.—Vanguard.

THE GREAT MESSAGE.

The highest success in preaching lies in fully presenting the Atonement. Poul's keynote struck amid the idolatries of Corinth and in defiance of Caesar's lictors at Rome, has been the secret of converting power everywhere.

Luther preached this Gospel of Atoning Blood to slumbering Europe, and it awoke the dead.

Amid all his emphasizing and defenses of the Divine Sovereignty, Calvin never ignored or belittled the Atonement.

Cowper sang of it in sweet strains among the water-lilies of the Ouse; and Bunyan made the Cross the starting point for the Celestial City.

John Wesley proclaimed it to the colliers of Kingswood, and the swarthy miners of Cornwall.

Moody's bells all chimed to the keynote of Calvary.

Spurgeon thundered his doctrine of vicarious Atonement into the ears of peer and peasant with a voice like the sound of many waters.

The heart of God's Church has in all ages held to this as the heart of all Christian theology—"Christ Jesus died for our sins."

This sublime central truth is no more obsolete today than yonder sun in the firmament. To every young brother who is about entering the ministry, I would point the example of the mightiest of all preachers, and would say to him, follow Paul, and plant your pulpit on Calvary, and let the uplifted Christ draw all men unto Him.—Sel.