

THOUGHTS OF PRAYER

"Prayer and provender hinder no man's journey."

"Trouble and perplexity drive me to prayer, and prayer drives away perplexity and trouble."

"He who runs away from God in the morning will scarcely find Him the rest of the day."

"Prayer is not eloquence, but earnestness; not definition of helpfulness, but the feeling of it; not figures of speech, but earnestness of soul."

"The prayer that begins with trustfulness, and passes on into waiting, will always end in thankfulness, triumph and praise."

"I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me, seemed insufficient for the day."

"God hears no more than the heart speaks; and if the heart be dumb, God will certainly be deaf."

"They never sought the Lord in vain who sought the Lord aright."

"If you cannot pray over a thing, and cannot ask God to bless you in it, don't do that thing. A secret that you would keep from God is a secret that you should keep from your own heart."

"The man who misses the deep meanings of prayer has not so much refused an obligation; he has robbed himself of life's supreme privilege—friendship with God."

"As children of God, our prayer-life is our real life. If this is intermittent, formal, thoughtless, or selfish, the outward expression of our Christian life will be intermittent, formal, thoughtless, and selfish. If this is constant, sincere, devout and godly, the outward life will be correspondingly constant, sincere, devout and godly."—Sel.

"Satan dreads nothing but prayer. The Church that lost its Christ was full of good works. Activities are multiplied that meditation may be ousted, and organizations are increased that prayer may have no chance. Souls may be lost in good works as surely as in evil ways. The one concern of the devil is to keep the saints from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray."—Stephen Chadwick.

"It is easy to let the family altar die. Perhaps the members of the household eat breakfast at different times. There is often much of hurry. Also some of the children or one of the parents may not be interested. But do not take this easy path. If it is a continual struggle, ask God's help and keep that altar-fire burning. Can a home be Christian without a family altar? Can you and the children have the help you need for the day without it?"—The Church and Holiness Banner.

No one ever heard of a man whose fortune was impaired, whose health was broken down, or whose marality was undermined by keeping Sunday for God. But we have heard of many whose health has been impaired, whose fortune has been wrecked and whose morals were undermined by taking that day just like every other day, for self.—C. Macartney.

NEVER DISPUTE ABOUT IT

Many excellent people have hindered the cause and hurt their own souls by disputing with opposers of holiness.

The argument from the scripture and experience is unanswerable, but what is the use to present it to one who refuses to be candid? The best argument in the world on any subject never convinced an uncandid mind. Religion and politics are much alike in that few have ever been convinced by disputing.

Many people are not in a spiritual condition to see the truth. What is the use to try to convince a blind man of the beauty of the rainbow by argument? He will tell you he cannot see it. What is the value of argument with a deaf man? Many people have hurt their souls by arguing with the spiritually deaf. Pious William Law pertinently says, "Let me add my request that as you value the peace which God has brought forth by His Holy Spirit in you, as you desire to be continuously taught by an unction from above, that you would on no account enter into any dispute with any one about the truths of salvation: give them every help except that of debating with them; for no man has fitness for the light of the gospel until he finds a hunger and thirst, and want of something better than that which he has and is by nature."

The best argument is a clear testimony backed by a genuine experience.—The Christian Witness.

THE BIBLE

It is the one Book in the world that reveals a God infinitely above our own natural imaginings, worthy of our love and worship, and inexhaustible in His wonderful nature. The heart of man the whole world over hungers for God. Augustine cried, "Lord, Thou has made us for Thyself, and restless are our hearts until the rest in Thee." The Bible message is God's perfect answer to that despairing cry of our Spirit-starved humanity.

The Bible is a miracle—one coherent message written by God's prophets over a period of centuries, comparable to nothing else on earth. It treats nature with a dignity and comprehension comparable to no other book ever penned. It treats the book of nature, too, as a world of parables of the spiritual life, as the spirit of man, disclosed in his language of metaphor, type, parable, and allegory, has always unpremeditatedly held it to be.

Alone does it reveal sin as the act of a traitor in rebellion against God. It reveals God's righteousness in Christ, His judgment of sin, and His great mercy to every sinner who trusts Him. It is an intimate revelation of Christ, God-man, the only Saviour of the world, to all His followers the Way, the Truth, and the Life. It reveals God's gift of His Holy Spirit—our ever-present Guide on our earthly pilgrimage. It is the one Book in the world which is always young and fresh and inspiring.

The Bible has stood the persistent assaults of Satan and all its enemies through all ages and it goes on shining with ever-increasing luster. Whatever there is in civilization that is worthwhile rests on the Bible's precepts. If only half the people would accept and apply the Bible wholeheartedly, myriads would be won to Christ, the terrors which threaten our nation would vanish, and peace

with her attendant blessings would reign. Everywhere and in all its teachings the Bible claims to be the authoritative Word of God, and as such I accept it.—Howard A. Kelley, in Ex.

IS THY GOD ABLE?

The story of Daniel is always good reading. When evil takes on great strength; when it is popular to be wicked and worldly; when God's cause seems to be confronted with insuperable difficulties; when the battlefront of the faithful has shrunk to a thin line of heroic souls that would rather die in the faith than give it up—the story of Daniel is good to read and ponder.

This question was asked by Nebuchadnezzar, the king, when he appeared at the lions' den early in the morning after the prophet had been cast in among the beasts. He cried out lustily: "O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?" The answer of the prophet was to the effect that God had sent His angel to protect him and he was still alive and unhurt.

The question suggests a sincere study of the problems of our day in the light of our confident faith that God is able for every difficulty that His cause and people are called upon to face. The facts that we offer for the encouragement of the faith of God's people are these; this is God's world, He has a plan for it, He will carry out His plan, and happy are we if we will find a place in His plan.—Selected.

One Sunday night in Chicago, Dwight L. Moody chose for his text, "What shall I do with Jesus, who is called Christ?" and his closing words to his immense congregation were, "I wish you would take this text home with you and turn it over in your minds during the week, and next Sunday we will decide what to do with Jesus of Nazareth." That night the great fire broke out and many of his audience perished. Mr. Moody never forgot the impression thus made upon him of the lost opportunity, and in all his work afterwards he never said, "We will decide next week," but rather, "We must each decide now."—Selected—The Wesleyan Methodist.

THE FLIGHT OF TIME

One-fourth of the human race dies before reaching the seventh year, one-half before the seventeenth year. Out of one hundred persons, only six live to be sixty years old. Out of five hundred, only one lives to be eighty years old. Is it safe to put off deciding the greatest of all questions till a more convenient season?—The Wesleyan Methodist.

READ BOOKS

For some six thousand years the fruits of man's thinking have been recorded in books. Printing from movable type was begun in 1450. In the brief space since then the mind of man has made more progress than in all the ages that went before. Books have brought mental food to the masses. Where one man in ancient times was free to think, today millions are free to draw upon the accumulated experience of all written history as it is recorded in books and made free at our great libraries. Love books; own as many as you can; select them carefully; use and encourage libraries.—Selected.