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MARY SLESSOR ON PRAYER

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Pardon and Purity

Pardon and purity are the two hemispheres of evangelical religion. Pardon and purity are the two wheels to the chariot of New Testament salvation, while faith and love are the celestial steeds that draw this chariot along the King's highway to heaven. Pardon and purity are the two posts on which the gates of pearl swing back to admit us to the city of light.

Pardon takes away the guilt of all sinful acts, words and purposes; purity takes away the uncleanness of sinful tempers and desires, which are often not shaped into acts or purposes.

Pardon will publish itself in the actions of a man; purity will publish itself to the keen inner feelings of his heart.

Pardon harmonizes me with the law of God; purity harmonizes me with the character of God.

Pardon introduces me to the kingdom of peace; purity introduces me to the kingdom of power.

Pardon places me in the kingdom of God; purity places the kingdom of God in me.

Pardon puts in my hand a title-deed to heaven; purity puts into my heart a moral fitness for heaven.

Pardon must precede purity, just as the birth of a child most certainly must precede the curing of hereditary disease.

Pardon and purity are both received by separate, specific acts of faith, are both instantaneously wrought by acts of the Divine will; are both attested by the Holy Ghost; are both retained by constant submission, unwavering trust and obedience up to all our spiritual light; are both requisite to a happy, useful life; are both absolutely essential to admission to heaven. —G. D. Watson.

PRAYER FOR SUPERNATURAL POWER

If you would make the greatest success of your life and discover what God is doing in your time, and fling yourself into the accomplishment of His purpose and will.

On the threshold of today's most marvelous opportunity, shall we hesitate to go forward under the leadership of the Holy Spirit? Conditions for reaping an abundant harvest are dead ripe.

We must take this opportunity at flood-tide!

Let us turn from all unbelief and cry out for that supernatural power that will carry through the Great Commission without defeat and with great triumph.

On! On! Evangelize the world in our generation!

Awake O Church of the Master! Put on thy strength!—Lettie B. Cowman.

My life is one long, daily, hourly record of answered prayer. For physical health, for mental overstrain, gor guidance given marvelously, for errors and dangers averted, for enmity to the gospel subdued, for food provided at the exact hour needed; for everything that goes to make up life and my poor service, I can testify with a full and often wonderstricken awe that I believe God answers prayer. I know God answers prayer. I have proved during long decades while alone, so far as man's help and presence are concerned, that God answers prayer. Cavilings, logical or physical, are of no avail to me. It is the very atmosphere in which I live and breathe and have my being, and it makes life glad and free and a million times worth living. I can give no other testimony. I am sitting alone here on a log among a company of natives. My children, whose very lives are a testimony that God answers prayer, are working round me. Natives are crowding past on the bush road to attend palavers, and I am at perfect peace, far from my own countrymen and conditions, because I know God answers prayer. Food is scarce just now. We live from hand to mouth. We have not more than will be our breakfast today, but I know we shall be fed, for God answers prayer.—Selected.

A LOST ART

The Scripture speaks of prayer as toil and labor. Prayer taxes all the resources of the mind and heart. Jesus Christ wrought many mighty works without any sign of effort. There is in His marvelous works the ease of omnipotence, but of his prayers it is said, "He offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears." All who have shared His intercessions have found it a travail of anguish; great saints have always been the outcome of pain. They wrestled in agony with breaking hearts and weeping eyes, until they were assured that they had prevailed. They spent cold winter nights in prayer, they lay on the ground weeping and pleading, and came out of the conflict physically spent but spiritually victorious. They wrestled with principalities and powers, contended with the rulers of Satan's kingdom, and grappled with spiritual foes in the heavenly sphere. A lost art! Prayer has become a soliloquy instead of passion. The powerlessness of the church needs no other cause. To be prayerless is to be both passionless and powerless.—Samuel Chadwick.

Never permit other things, however seemingly urgent, to quench your spirit of prayer.

The Undelivered Message

Several years ago, F. S. Eitelgeorge of Higginsville, Missouri, related an incident which, as an illustration, seems to have particular force and point right now during the month of special prayer and giving for foreign missions.

"There lived a family in Ireland some years ago. By hard work and economy they made ends meet and got along fairly well. They had a comfortable little home and a small farm. But one day they got into financial straits—sickness entered the home and there were expensive medicine and doctor bills to be paid, so a mortgage was placed against the property. They had hoped to pay the debt shortly, but the income was too small and the man who held the mortgage pressed them for payment.

"They had a rich uncle in Canada to whom they appealed for help. He was well to do and willing to help them. He wrote out a check covering the indebtedness and gave it to a neighbor to drop into the mail box but the neighbor straightway forgot it. Days and weeks went by, and one day his wife found it in his pocket. He was greatly humiliated and posted it at once. But it came too late. The property had been sold. They had lost everything."

Is it not true that the church has frequently carried about an undelivered message? Have not many of us, as individuals, done the same thing? The Apostle Paul also has a word for us in this connection. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tiidings of good things!" (Romans 10:13-15).

It is true we can and should go to our fellow townsmen and as many others as possible; but we can also send the Word of life to the spiritually neglected of other lands. Christ's "Go ye" takes in the whole world.—Pilgrim Holiness Advocate.

GENTLENESS

The heart in which the Holy Spirit dwells will always be characterized by gentleness, lowliness, quietness, meekness, and forbearance. The rude, sarcastic spirit, the brusque manner, the sharp retort, the unkind cut—all these belong to the flesh, but they have nothing whatever in common with the gentle teaching of the Comforter.

The Holy Dove shrinks from the noisy, tumultuous, excited, and vindictive spirit, and finds His home in the breast of the peaceful soul. "The fruit of the Spirit is gentleness, meekness."—A. B. Simpson.