

What various hindrances we meet

In coming to the mercy seat;

--William Cowper, *Olney Hymns*

What various hindrances we meet

In coming to the mercy seat;

Yet who that knows the worth of prayer,

But wishes to be often there.

--William Cowper, *Olney Hymns*

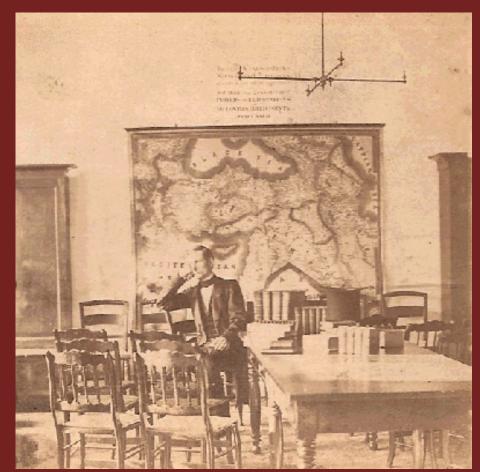
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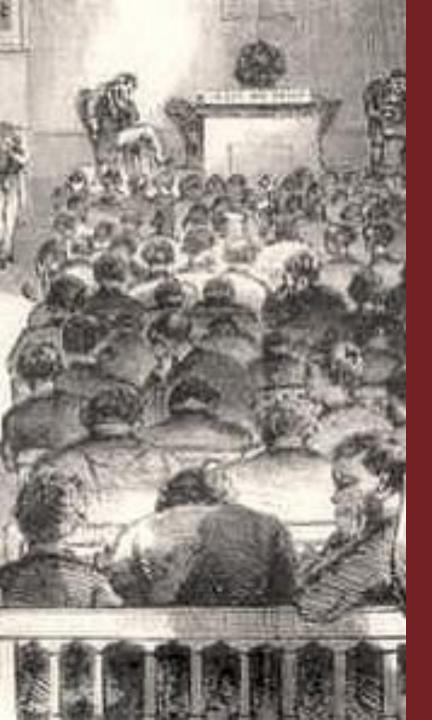
In praying, the principal object to be sought, is to be alone with God.

--J. C. Ryle



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For, as for my heart, when I go to pray, I find it loth to go to God, and when it is with him, so loth to stay with him, that many times I am forced in my prayers, first to beg of God that he would take mine heart, and set it on himself in Christ, and when it is there, that he would keep it there.

--John Bunyan, A Discourse on Prayer

- 1. Because prayer is a giving out rather than a taking in.
- 2. Because generally there is no *immediate* return.
- 3. Because we mistake the primary *purpose* for praying.
- 4. Because of our sin.
- 5. Because of spiritual opposition.
- 6. Because of the discouragement of fitfulness.

If my prayers were written down on paper, and then my vain, distracting thoughts in time of duty interlined, O, what incoherent nonsense would there be! I am ashamed, Lord, I am ashamed! O, pity and pardon!

--Philip Henry (Feb. 19, 1657)

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Matthew 6:6a (NASB)

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Luke 18:1a (NASB)

Devote yourselves to prayer...

Colossians 4:2 (NASB)

1. By Obedience.

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By submitting to this **law**, we immediately discover **liberty**.

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2. By Realization.

Remember the rebuke I once got from old Mr. Dempster of Denny after preaching to his people.

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"I was highly pleased with your sermon, but in prayer it struck me that you thought God Remember the rebuke I once got from old Mr. Dempster of Denny after preaching to his people.

"I was highly pleased with your sermon, but in prayer it struck me that you thought God <u>unwilling to give</u>."

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Revelation 3:20

It is, it seems to me, the key which opens the door in the holy and blessed realm of prayer. To pray is to let Jesus come into our hearts. This teaches us, in the first place, that it is not our prayer which moves the Lord Jesus. It is Jesus who moves us to pray. He knocks.

To pray is to open the door unto Jesus.

--O Hallesby, Prayer

- 1. By Obedience.
- 2. By Realization.

3. By Preparation

- 1. By Obedience.
- 2. By Realization.
- 3. By Preparation

4. By Praying First about the Obvious

- 1. By Obedience.
- 2. By Realization.
- 3. By Preparation
- 4. By Praying First about the Obvious

5. By Making a Beginning

- 1. By Obedience.
- 2. By Realization.
- 3. By Preparation
- 4. By Praying First about the Obvious
- 5. By Making a Beginning

6. By Dependence

- 1. By Obedience.
- 2. By Realization.
- 3. By Preparation
- 4. By Praying First about the Obvious
- 5. By Making a Beginning
- 6. By Dependence

7. By Patience