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YOU MUST PRAY.

BY THE REV. J. C. RYLE, B. A.

READER, if you wish to have your soul saved, there is one thing which you must never forget to do, *you must pray.*

Prayer alone cannot save your soul. Only Christ Jesus can do that. His blood and nothing else can cleanse away sins. But prayer is the only way by which men can make known their wants to God. If a man wants his sins pardoned, he must pray.

Of all the means of grace, prayer is by far the most important. A man may reach heaven without learning, or books, or knowledge, but no man ever reached heaven without prayer.

Prayer is the life-breath of a man's soul. Without it we may have a name to live, and be counted Christians, but we are dead in the sight of God. The feeling that we must cry to God for mercy and peace is a mark of grace, and the habit of spreading before him our soul's wants is an evidence that we have the spirit of adoption.

Prayer is the appointed way to obtain relief of our spiritual necessities. It opens the treasury, and sets the fountain flowing. If we have not, it is because we ask not.

Prayer is the way to procure the outpouring of the Spirit upon our hearts. Jesus has promised the Holy Ghost, the Comforter. He is ready to come down with all his precious gifts, renewing, sanctifying, purifying, strengthening, cheering, encouraging, enlightening, teaching, directing, guiding into all truth. But then "He waits to be entreated."

Reader, believe me, if your soul is to be saved, you must pray. God has no dumb children. If you are to resist the world, the flesh, and the devil, you must pray: it is vain to look for strength in the hour of trial, if it has not been sought for. You may be thrown with those who never do it; you may have to sleep in the same room with some one who never asks anything of God; still, mark my words, "you must pray."

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