

PRAYING HEAVEN'S PRAYERS

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you" (John 15:7).

The best praying man is the man who is most believably familiar with the promises of God. After all, prayer is nothing but taking God's promises to Him, and saying to Him, "Do as Thou hast said."

You still may say you do not quite see why a man who abides in Christ, and in whom Christ's words abide, should be allowed to ask whatever he wills, and it shall be done for him. It is because in such a man there is a predominance of grace which causes him to have a renewed will, one that is in accordance with the will of God.

Suppose a man of God is in prayer, and he thinks that such and such a thing is desirable, yet he remem-

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bers that he is nothing but a babe in the presence of his all-wise Father, and so he bows his will, and asks as a favor to be taught what to will. Though God bids him ask what he wills, he shrinks and cries, "My Lord, here is a request. ... As far as I can judge, it is a desirable thing, and I will it; but, Lord, I am not fit to judge for myself, and therefore I pray Thee, give



by **Charles Haddon Spurgeon**

not as I will, but as Thou wilt." Do you not see that, when we are in such a condition as this, our real will is God's will?

It becomes safe for God to say to the sanctified soul, "Ask what thou wilt, and it shall be done unto thee." The heavenly instincts of that man lead him right; the grace that is within his soul thrusts down all covetous lustings and foul desires, and his will is the actual shadow of God's will. The spiritual life is master in him, and so his aspirations are holy, heavenly, Godlike. As the echo answers the voice, so does the renewed heart echo the mind of the Lord.

You clearly see that the holy God cannot pick up a common man in the street, and say to him, "I will give you whatsoever you will." What would he ask for? He would ask for a good drink, or permission to enjoy himself in evil lust. But when the Lord has taken a man, and has new-made him, has quickened him into newness of life, and has formed him in the image of His dear Son, then He can trust him!

Do not your mouths water for this privilege of prevailing prayer? Do not your hearts long to get at this? It is by the way of holiness, it is by the way of union to Christ, it is by the way of a permanent abiding in Him, and an obedient holding fast of His truth, that you are to come to this privilege.

What an army would you be if you all had this power with God in prayer! ■

Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, New King James Version.

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Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1893), often called "The Prince of Preachers," preached more than 3,000 sermons over a long ministry at London's Metropolitan Tabernacle.