

Box A22

The Moment
That Shapes
The Day



By Rev. F. J. Jennings

THE MOMENT THAT SHAPES THE DAY

by

Rev. F. J. JENNINGS.

*"Ten minutes spent in His society every day, aye,
two minutes, if it be face to face and heart to heart,
will make the whole day different."*

—Henry Drummond.

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"PRAY WITHOUT CEASING"

Prayer's Trysting Place

"Pray to thy Father which is in secret."

Read Matt. 6: 5-8.

"Pray in secret, if you would know the secret worth of prayer."

PRAYER

O Father! Thou, who alone "the mystery of my heart can share," give me a fervent desire to be often apart with Thee.

Draw me into the hallowed retreat of undisturbed peace, where I may tell Thee all my heart, and in quietness wait for Thy unveiling.

There, let Thy sacred presence pervade and fill the depths of my longing soul. O, speak in the stillness, that I may find in Thee the answers to all my needs, and Thy guidance into the fullness of Thy perfect will and way.

And do Thou enable me to bear Thine image, and the treasures of the holy place into my open life. May the sanctuary of trysting with God be ever upon me!

The Lord's Prayer

Fatherhood

"Our Father which art in Heaven."

Read Matt. 6: 9-13.

*"God covers all His children, and folds them
in His care. Our heart-beats throb in the heart
of love that finds us anywhere."*

PRAYER

Our Father! We worship and adore Thee with confiding love. Grant that we may continually dwell in Thy holy presence, and find perpetual freedom and joy in Thy parental favour and care. Bless and unite Thy vast household in abiding fellowship. May we be obedient and worthy children of our Father God, who knows, and owns, and loves us all.

The Holy Name

"Hallowed be Thy Name."—Matt. 6: 9.

Read Mal. 1: 11.

*"The sacred name! That heavenly light in our
house of clay."*

PRAYER

Our Father!

Write in me Thy hallowed name,
And, by its deep indwelling,
May worship be the holy flame
That burns in all my thinking.

At all times may I conscious be
Of prayer and praise ascending!
O, Name of names! Encompass me,
And hallow all my living.

The New Kingdom

"THY kingdom come."—Matt. 6: 10.

Read Isaiah 9: 6, 7.

"Now at last a 'Man' was ready, and the Kingdom of God came."

—A. G. Hogg.

PRAYER

Our Father! We rejoice in Thy glorious kingdom, established by Christ. Scatter, we beseech Thee, the evil darkness that enshrouds this world, and deliver us from the rebellion of unbelief and self-enthronement. Purify our hearts, and reign within us in the plenitude of Thy power and blessedness. May the grace and Spirit of the "Prince of Peace" permeate and adorn Thy redeemed people. Hasten it in our time, my King and my God.

God's Will for Men

"Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth."—

Luke 11: 2. Read Psalm 40: 1-8.

"God's will is heaven's extension on earth."

PRAYER

Our Father! Teach us to know, and to do Thy heavenly will, as Jesus did. Let it hold complete sway within our hearts and minds, so that our wills may fully blend with Thine. Cause Thy will to invigorate our souls, and to be our chief delight as children of our Father's house and realm. Hasten the time when all men shall understand and find therein heaven's harmony and peace begun on earth. Thy will in me fulfil!

Our Daily Bread

"Give us this day our daily bread."—Matt. 6: 11.
Read verses 25-35.

*"The bread of the pilgrims was vital; even the
crumbs gave life."*

PRAYER

"Our Father! The cry of Thy children heed.
'Tis an endless plea for an endless need:—
We ask for bread.

Bread for the body, and man's hungry soul;
Both come from Thee to sustain and make
whole:—
Send bread to-day.

For our kith and kin we humbly entreat;
To wayward and weak Thy mercies repeat:—
For all we pray.

We would be thankful, kind Parent above;
Through life's day keep us, content in Thy
love:—
All praise for bread."

Forgiveness

"Forgive us our sins, for we do forgive everyone
who has offended us."—Luke 11: 4.
Read 1 John 2: 1-10.

*"The royal way of heaven—
Forgive, and be forgiven."*

PRAYER

Our Father! We bless Thee for Thy disposition to freely forgive our sins, and that when Thou dost, the offence has forever ceased. We mourn that we so often grieve Thee. Deliver us from an unforgiving spirit that alienates from brotherly love, and that excludes us from seeking Thee in filial penitence and grief. Dispose our hearts always to forgive those who do us ill, and may we all find reconciliation in Christ. Give us the peace and joy of a forgiven heart.

Temptation

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."—Matt. 6: 13.

Read 1 Cor. 10: 11-13.

"With Temptation BE-SET, but not IN-SET."

PRAYER

Our Father! We would avoid temptation's snare; but, if to win life's best, and to glorify Thee, we needs must do deadly combat with evil, Good Lord equip us, sustain us, and bring us through. Be near us in trial, and make us conscious of our unlimited reserves in Christ. May we become stronger and nobler for conflict! The victors of our God!

A Triad of Reverent Praise

"For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen."—Matt. 6: 13.

Read Rev. 19: 5, 6.

"Thine is the Kingdom!
Great grace is the throne,
Where the needs and the cares of Thy hosts are
made known.
And Thou hearest and carest, dear Father!

Thine is the Power!
Thy laws all transcend,
Thy right and might, and love's dowers ne'er
end,
For Thou rulest and loves, great Father!

Thine is the Glory
That fills the whole world,
With heavenly light and radiance unfurled—
We praise Thee, our God! Our King! Our
Father," Amen.

Increasing Faith

"Lord, increase our faith." Read Luke 17: 1-6.

*"We have but faith: . . .
A beam in darkness; let it grow."*

—Tennyson.

PRAYER

Lord! May we possess a living and growing faith. Faith that continually penetrates into unseen spiritual realities, and more firmly grasps the verities and promises of Thy word. Faith that follows the Christ path, whatever may betide, and seeks to please God in all simplicity and sincerity. Faith, that more clearly sees God, moving in the midst of all contradictions of men and things. Faith, that soars above, and overcomes the world: "Beyond to Him whose love unlocks the heavenly doors."

Prayer for Missions

"Ye shall be witnesses unto me . . . unto the uttermost part of the earth." Read Acts 1: 1-8.

*"Something lost behind the ranges. Over
yonder! Go you there!"*

INTERCESSION

O Lord! We pray for the extension of Thy Kingdom that is without boundaries.

Pour Thy Spirit upon all flesh, and let there be a world-wide ingathering of Thy redeemed race. Give the blind eyes to see, and hearts to receive Thy salvation.

Bless all missionaries whom Thou hast called and sealed for this service. Grant unto them health and strength. Endow them with great grace; and, with far-sighted vision, and moving power. Multiply their opportunities and achievements, and make effective and permanent their witness for Christ and His Cross; and inspire them with courage to press on unto harvest.

Do Thou send forth more labourers, and yet more; and enable us to fill some consecrated part that waits near at hand.

Prayer for the Handicapped

"There was given to me a thorn."

Read 2 Cor. 12: 7-10.

"I never fight, except against difficulties."

—Helen Keller.

PRAYER

Almighty God! I pray to-day for all who are disabled and handicapped. Support them with Thy everlasting arms, so that they fail not, and in Thy gentleness may they rest. Make Thy grace to be greater than their thorn, and awaken in them latent and unrealised possibilities and hopes. Nerve them with courage to wait and achieve and to turn their trials into triumphs.

Secret Sins

"Cleanse Thou me from secret faults."

Read Psalm 19: 7-14.

"No rush of battle atones for sin in the tent."

—G. C. Morgan.

PRAYER

Lord, I humbly seek Thee, laden with my secret sins, for which I mourn, but from which I find no way of escape from within. They have utterly stained my innermost being, nor does any outward good bring inward credit or cleanness. I would not hide them from Thee, who seest all and art our Father, and hast made love's atonement in Christ for all sin. May I know the virtue of His precious blood, and be clean every whit!

Hallowed Labour

"I must be about My Father's business."

Read Luke 2: 46-49.

"O, happy if ye labour as Jesus did for men."

—J. M. Neale.

PRAYER

Father, cause me to know the meaning of hallowed labour. May Jesus be my exemplar. Help me to make my place of toil Thy temple, where, in serving others, I may serve and glorify Thee. Let Christian grace illumine every task, and may all I do be worship. Let the purpose and quality of my daily work praise Thee, O Lord.

Divine Fellowship

"Enoch walked with God." Read Gen. 5: 18-24.

*"With full intent the journey had begun.
They were together in an even stride."*

PRAYER

Father! Keep our feet in the highway of God and let us walk close beside Thee in filial devotion and holy communion. May we ever feel the fervent

"Love that makes our cheerful feet
In swift obedience move."

Give to our steps an even balance, and save us any lingering timidity or fear. Inspire us with the delights of healthy, spiritual adventure; and, because the future is Thine, may we advance each day strong and valiant in Thee!

Light All the Way

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Read Psalm 119: 105-112.

*"Because the way was steep and long,
And through a dark and lonely land,
He set upon my lips a song,
And put a lantern in my hand."*

—Joyce Kilmer.

PRAYER

O Lord, help us to be Thy faithful lamp-bearers, and wilt Thou so establish its light within us that there shall be no part dark. May its reality be our constant confidence and joy! Cause the light to dispel every doubt and untoward evil, and to reveal, at each step, Thy safe and ordered way. Graciously grant, O Father, that, by its radiance, we may behold Thy shining form, near and clear, yet ever leading on!

The Juniper Tree

"What doest thou here, Elijah?"

Read 1 Kings 19: 1-18.

*"If you think you are beaten, you are;
If you think you dare not, you don't."*

PRAYER

Good Lord, preserve us from self-pity, through nursing our failures and fears, and from losing heart by magnifying our difficulties. Sustain us in our discouragements and in the still hours call us back to our work. May we count on Thy reserves as we endeavour to fulfil our high calling in Christ. Let us realise that Thy purpose for us is never a wilderness of despair, but the triumphant chariot of fire.

Strength for the Day

"The Lord is the strength of my life."

Read Psalm 27: 1-6.

"I go forth in God's strength to-day."

—John McNeal.

PRAYER

Almighty Father, may I begin this day in the power of Thy might! Endow me with strength that outmeasures all demands, and endures the heaviest strain; strength that rises to each emergency, and is never surprised or taken unawares; strength that exults in every challenge, and that still keeps the heart buoyant and glad; strength that abides—"The Everlasting Strength."

Woeful Worry

"Fret not thyself." Read Psalm 37: 1-7.

"Worry is waste! It worketh ill, and spendeth all for nought."

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, deliver us from all fretting cares, and brooding fears that wear and weaken life. Show us the worthlessness of worry, and the unworthiness of distrust in Thy faithfulness and word. Let the memory of Thy unfailing goodness and support renew our confidence and cheer, and remind us that, in all things, Thou dost order and control what is best for Thy children. May we continually abide Thy time in patience, and possess the perfect rest and peace!

The Adventure of Faith

"Abraham . . . obeyed, and went out, not knowing whither he went."—Heb. 11: 8.

Read Gen. 12: 1-5.

"God kindly veils mine eyes."

—D. J. Burrell.

PRAYER

Lord, make strong our faith and courage to pursue Thy ordered, though at times hidden, way. Reassure us that Thou art as wise and good in the unknown, as in the plain path, and enable us to rejoice, alike, in Thy withholding secrets and glorious surprises, with which Thou dost bless Thy children. Cause us to know the pilgrim's romance; that our Leader is always within hail; that life's findings are sure.

The Soul's Retreat

"In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength." Read Isaiah 30: 15-18.

PRAYER

Father, let the spell of Thy presence be upon me in this quiet hour, that I may catch clear guidance for another busy day. Here, let me inhale the refreshing, heavenly breeze, and drink deep from the well of life, that I may gather strength and grace to express Thee, and Thy will from morning till evening. O grant that I may know much of love's sacramental hush and power.

Life with Wings

"They shall mount up with wings as eagles."

Read Isaiah 40: 26-31.

*"O life, how blessed, how divine!
High life, the earnest of a higher."*

—W. T. Matson.

PRAYER

O God, may our souls not grovel but soar! We long to ascend the spiritual heights, yet mourn, that we, so often have fainted and failed. Forgive, and deliver us from our weakness, and the downward tendencies to the earth pull. Hitherto, Thou hast made us to rejoice in strength's renewals. Strengthen us again, while we now wait for Thee. The wings of God are my lifting power. Upwards I fly.

God-encompassed

"Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid
Thine hand upon me." Read Psalm 139: 1-5.

*"Within Thy circling power I stand,
On every side I find Thy hand:
Awake, asleep, at home, abroad,
I am surrounded still with God."*

—I. Watts.

MEDITATION

God standeth Guardian between our days and years! His outstretched hand redeems us from the past. In mercy, He covers and closes the records of evil; and, because of His goodness, we continue in the blessedness of life. His hand reaches forth to open the gates of dawn. In His righteousness and might, He subdues every portending foe and fear, and sets our spirits free; and, in lovingkindness, God holds His children fast. Evening and morning, and at noon will I pray, "and under the covert of His hand will I wait in safety and strength."

"How wise, how strong His hand."

In Deep Waters

"When thou passest through the waters I will be with thee." Read Isaiah 43: 1-7.

"Be content to wade through the waters holding His hand fast; for He knoweth all the fords."

—S. Rutherford.

PRAYER

Father, let me feel Thy handclasp in the time of flood. Reassure me that trials are but passage ways of Thy far-reaching plans. Support me when buffeted and spent. If Thou be near I shall not sink, for there are no depths beyond Thee, and Thou dost bring Thy people through. May I abide, safe and satisfied, in Thy strength and care!

Armour Clad

"Put on the whole armour of God."
Read Ephesians 6: 11-17.

"The invincibles of the King were all clad in light; at their approach the darkness died."

PRAYER

My beloved Captain, reclothe me with Thy complete and impenetrable armour, and give me courage to go forth with Thee and Thy hosts this day to battle against all evil. Help me to guard against trusting in my own defences, and to be watchful and alert for every adventure and foe. May I be worthy of Thee in warfare—Thy soldier, both valiant and true.

The Upper Gateway

"He built the higher gate of the house of the Lord." Read 2 Kings 15: 32-35.

"I'm going by the upper road, for that still holds the sun."

—W. J. Dawson

PRAYER

Lord, bless all who are helping souls to life's higher levels, and wilt Thou restrain and frustrate those who make downward roads of evil attractive and easy. Inspire us to build gateways heavenward—gateways that lead to Christ and the Father's house—gateways, safe and sunlit by the face of God. And as we build may we climb, and point others to the uplands of all good, and to Thee.

Christian Integrity

"Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man which built his house upon a rock."

Read Matthew 7: 24-29.

"Principle is the principal thing."

PRAYER

Master! Teach us as Thou didst Thy disciples. Incline our hearts to heed Thy words, and make us wise to rightly interpret and do them. So establish us in the principles of Thy perfect law of love, that no ill-power shall be able to sway or swerve us from Thee or them. May our stability be as firm as the rock on which we build!

The Abiding Joy

"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." Read John 15: 7-11.

"The river of God's unseen joys has flowed from bank to brae over my soul."

—S. Rutherford.

PRAYER

Help us, O Christ, to dwell in Thy blessed covenant of Thy love, and to open wide our hearts, that the inflow of Thy joy may abound within us continually.

Joy transcendent, that flashes and splashes with holy gladness and that deepens into heaven's sweetest harmony.

Joy that swells; and that reaches to others in its overflow.

Joy, untouched by earth's shadows, nor lessened with age or years.

May our joy be in Thee and of Thee, and ever extol Thy great name!

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Christian Citizenship

"So shall ye be my disciples."

Read John 15: 5-20.

"Is my goodness helping others? Is it a private luxury, or is it telling upon the city?"

—H. Drummond

PRAYER

Master, give us a clear sense of Christian discipleship. Lay the city's good upon our hearts. Enable us to serve our fellows after Thy pattern and precepts, and may "the fruits of the Spirit" be amplified in and through us. Help us to uphold whatever breathes of Thy law and love, and to spread peace and good will to all. May our discipleship permeate the civic life and honour God!

Page Thirty-three

Grace Without Measure

"He giveth more grace." Read James 4: 1-6.

*"The grace of God is without boundaries.
It never fails nor wanes."*

PRAYER

Lord, we thank Thee for Thy wondrous grace, and for what has been vouchsafed to us of its unceasing and increasing blessedness. O, that it may abound within us more and yet more! May grace rescue and refine us from all fleshly and worldly lusts, and transform us into Thy likeness. Let grace be unfolded in our outward lives from day to day. May it adorn all our ways of service and influence, and make every hard road smooth.

Pray Without Ceasing

"Praying always with all prayer."

Read Ephesians 6: 18, 19.

*"It is sometimes so with me that I will rather
die than pray."*

—T. Shepard.

PRAYER

Father, when we find it hard to pray, help us to feel that Thou art patiently waiting for us. May we not fail or delay to keep tryst, or to hasten rudely away from an unfinished audience in Thy holy presence. May love's urge enable us to break through all spiritual depression to be with Thee; and wilt Thou inspire in us prayer thoughts and impulses, both, for ourselves and others, and may we know the grace and power of instant prayer.

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