

# THE DYNAMIC OF ALL-PRAYER

AN ESSAY IN ANALYSIS BY  
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## INTRODUCTION

By

*The Rev. Dr ANDREW MURRAY*

**I** HAVE been requested by the author of this book to write and express my opinion of its value. I have very great pleasure indeed in doing so. I believe that it has been given him of God so to state the case for Prayer as will open the eyes of many to a new vision of its place and power in God's great scheme of redemption. The honour to which God calls us as intercessors is simply inconceivable. All heaven is waiting for the prayers of His Church to bring down the blessings that are stored up there for us, and that God is longing to bestow.

If ministers and Christians could but be brought to realize that God has actually made the coming of His Kingdom and the pouring down of blessing, so that there shall not be room to receive it, dependent on our faithfulness in prayer, they surely would begin to feel that Prayer is,

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*in very deed, the highest expression of our allegiance to God and the chief power that we can exercise in bringing Christ's salvation to men. If people can only be got to read and think out carefully the message this book contains, I feel confident it will lead many a one, not only to acknowledge that he has a new insight into what Prayer is, but deliberately to yield himself to Christ as one of His holy priesthood through whom the blessings of God's grace are to be dispensed to the world.*

*I fervently pray that God may abundantly bless the perusal to His children, and bring many of them to feel that for the first time in their lives, they have entered upon their high calling as links between the throne of God and the souls of men.*

ANDREW MURRAY

*Wellington*

*15th July 1914*

## FOREWORD

THE conception of Prayer has generally been that it is an extraordinary power or agent. The growing conception of to-day is that it is one of the ordinary forces.

This is not to belittle it. Rather is it to give it place beside those mighty forces and agents which are fundamental and elemental. **Prayer is an integral part of the cosmos.** It is the spiritual "token of exchange," whereby the commodities of the unseen are brought into the possession of Man, who lives both in the unseen and the seen.

To-day the world is short of Prayer. Heaven cannot empty itself because there does not exist sufficient of this "medium of exchange." We wish Heaven's blessings, and so we must learn more about Prayer and about its practice.

The compelling motive of the writing of this book has been that I might get to know more fully the inner working, life, and philosophy of this force of Prayer, and that others

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also might share with me in any new light received.

May the Holy Spirit, whose aid in the preparation has been sought and obtained, use it to the glory of God, and to the service of Church and People! Amen.

G. GRANGER FLEMING



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## INTRODUCTION—BACK

### TO THE TRENCHES

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WHEN the Duke of Wellington was confronted by the mighty army of France, under Massena, he cautiously withdrew his forces. Back and back, and yet farther back, until at last he had retired to the lines of Torres Vedras, where he made his stand. No farther back now, for the position was practically impregnable. So thought the French General also, for he soon began to withdraw, and then was Wellington's time to advance, which he did to such good purpose that France soon had to evacuate the territories.

A similar thing has occurred in recent times. In the Balkan War the Turkish army, broken at Lule Burgas and kept on the move, took refuge at last in the lines of Chatalja. To those trenches they probably owed the fact that Constantinople was not then captured and that they were in some measure able to retrieve their position.

There is an analogous position in the religious

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world. In 1910 we had a world-wide Missionary Conference. This was held with the purpose of an advance on all the enemies' outposts. There was great enthusiasm and an evidence of splendid organization. One great note of weakness was, however, struck. The Churches were prepared to invade the world, but it was found that they were **incapable of holding their own** in their present centres in proportion to the increase of population. Everywhere is the sense of need felt. How shall it be met?

We must get back to the trenches! Back to where we are sure. Back to the Word of God, back to Prayer, back to cultivation of the inner life. The Christian in his trench need fear no foe. Given to Prayer and meditation, he is more than equal to all that can come upon him.

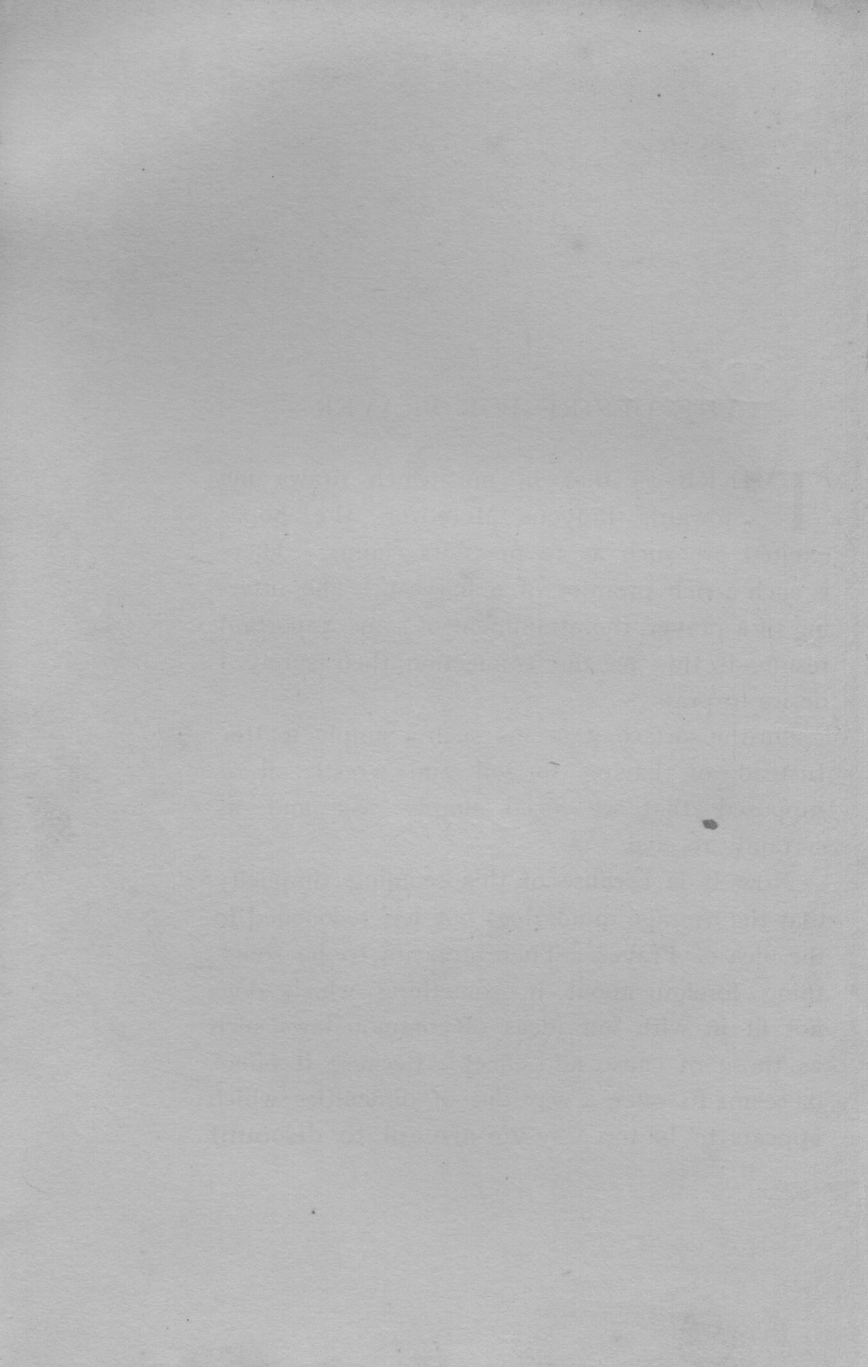
What is wanted to-day is more intensity, more reality, more of the hidden work of grace. If we get right with God we shall soon be right with men. If we become men of the Word and of Prayer, we shall soon prove our worth in the field of action and practical service.

*The*

*Desire*

*for*

*Prayer*



# I

## THE DESIRE FOR PRAYER

**T**HERE is that in me which draws me towards Prayer. Moreover, the hopes excited are such as to press its claims. There is such a rich promise of a harvest. The uttering of a prayer, the attainment of some important result—if this be the connection then surely I desire to pray.

On the surface it seems such a simple matter. Instead of having to toil and wrestle, it is supposed that we need simply ask and as certainly receive.

Now it is because of this seeming simplicity that the average mind does not feel reconciled to the idea of Prayer. There appears to be something foreign about it, something which does not fit in with our ideas of common laws, such as those of cause and effect. Because it offers, or seems to offer, a way out of difficulties which appears to be too easy **we are apt to discount**

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its operations, and to regard it as mainly a theoretical proposition.

Aye, pray and pray, say the public, but after all you will have to get down to hard work. You may maintain that you can remove mountains by Prayer, but we find, say they, that we get best results from the use of dynamite.

All agree that there are difficulties to be met and conquered. The mountains are no doubt there. The evidence of their existence is too palpable. But can Prayer remove them, or is dynamite required? And if dynamite, is there any place for Prayer at all? Is the explosive and operative agent to be a blend of dynamite and Prayer, or is the latter sufficient in itself to do the work?

**The mountains are certainly there.** Mankind is always confronted by difficulties. The spiritual man, like the natural, is matched against foes. They are of no mean order. They tower above and threaten to crush him. The armies of Israel have many a Goliath to make them afraid. The simple, strong soul of the shepherd-lad David is not the possession of either Saul or his soldiers.

If, however, these mountains of difficulty can be demolished by Prayer, I desire to pray. If

these foes, who are too mighty for me, can be overcome for the asking, then will I ask.

Yes, I desire to pray, and the more I realize the need the more do I desire. For the need is great. There is an awakening in knowledge and general interest among the people, but there is no corresponding awakening to God and His claims. The cry amongst the spiritual of all lands is for rain. They recognize the drought. They sigh because the heavens appear to be as brass. A sadness comes over them as they perceive men neglecting God and thousands deliberately turning from Him.

There is divergence of views as to the cause, but there is general agreement as to the fact of this increasing godlessness of men. **The churches are crying out about it.** Some of the most able men are giving up the work in despair. Many churches are held together by custom, or a sense of duty or respectability. The stream of Divine Life, energy, and joy is not coursing through our congregations.

Truly the need is so great that if prayer of mine will alter it, I must pray. More, I **will** pray, **if I know how.**

I desire to pray, and I am not alone. Thousands are like myself. They also recognize the need and desire the blessing.



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It is because of its great potentiality that Prayer is worthy of study. It is because it offers the great solution to all difficulties that it is worth our while to inquire diligently into its nature, in confidence that the Spirit Himself will direct us.

*The*

*Final*

*Incentive*