

SUGGESTIONS ON PRAYER

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649398058

Suggestions on Prayer by L. H. M. Soulsby

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L. H. M. SOULSBY

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BY
L. H. M. SOULSBY
Lucy Helen Muriel

NEW IMPRESSION

LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.
39 PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON
NEW YORK AND BOMBAY

1905

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21 Nov 50 Missionary Community J.F.

PREFACE

THIS is no attempt to add to the already abundant supply, for those of full age, of books on prayer. But there may be beginners who would find help by concentrating their efforts for a few weeks on this special branch of the Christian life, and though they may find the thoughts here presented too simple to avail them much, yet, to fill up these outlines by thoughts of their own might be profitable to some.

The Bishop of Oxford said that "more broken resolutions cluster round the subject of prayer than round any other branch of the Christian life," and it may be that others (besides actual beginners) may find a few elementary suggestions useful, either in Lent or Advent, or at the New Year, or on a birthday—in short, at any time of the year when the impulse, or the Call, comes to them to begin again and to do better.

Most of us know the depressing feeling that

though we are doing nothing definitely wrong, yet that we are not making any definite progress. Possibly more feel discouraged by this than by difficulties with positive faults.

Or it may be that we have lost energy and interest in life, that vigour and vitality seem to ebb, and the heart goes out of our work. Definite progress and conscious power are the needs of so many, and where can we find either except in prayer?

I have left these papers in their original shape, fully conscious of the many defects of such talks when printed; but they have no novelty of thought to excuse them if they present themselves as a book, and I feel that they appeal almost entirely to their original hearers, who may prefer them in a form that will bring back past days and past resolutions.

L. H. M. SOULSBY.

BRONDESBURY,
Lent, 1902.

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* Compiled from various sources.

" He who has learnt to pray has got the secret of a holy life."

BISHOP WILSON.

" Pray often and you shall pray oftener."

JEREMY TAYLOR.

" He who omits a customary prayer, even on considerable cause, suffers considerable loss."

JEREMY TAYLOR.

" Hurry is the death of prayer."

S. FRANCIS DE SALES.

" If for any wish thou dar'st not pray,
Then pray to God to cast that wish away."

HARTLEY COLERIDGE.