

**DOES GOD
ANSWER PRAYER?**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649383238

Does God answer prayer? by R. McCheyne Edgar

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DOES GOD ANSWER PRAYER?

BY THE REV.

R. MCCHEYNE EDGAR, M.A.,

AUTHOR OF "THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE CROSS," ETC.

London :

HODDER AND STOUGHTON,

27, PATERNOSTER ROW.

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TO THE
REV. HENRY WALLACE,

PROFESSOR OF CHRISTIAN ETHICS IN THE PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE, BELFAST,
AUTHOR OF "REPRESENTATIVE RESPONSIBILITY, A LAW OF THE DIVINE PROCEDURE
IN PROVIDENCE AND REDEMPTION," ETC.

DEAR PROFESSOR WALLACE,—

I deem it a great privilege to be allowed to associate your name with this little book. By all who know you well, you are regarded as the greatest living master of the art of analogical reasoning. Butler's method is not deemed by you, as it is by some less thorough thinkers, an anachronism in our present stage of progress; on the contrary, you believe it capable of most profitable extension, and still the great philosophical defence of the Christian faith. It is the analogical argument which is employed in the present essay. You have been good enough to read over the proofs and to express your approval of the general course of argument they contain. You say most truly that "verification is the great difficulty" and, in venturing to handle this part of the subject, I have not been unmindful of the circumstance that the outstanding facts, which I maintain fairly imply the efficacy of prayer, have received explanations excluding the idea of its efficacy altogether. All we can do in such circumstances is to abide by the *more reasonable explanation*. But as everything depends on the *moral attitude* we take up in the inquiry, I would respectfully solicit attention to the "Epilogue" before judgment is passed upon the "Verification."

You have expressed yourself very cordially about the value of Note H, in the Appendix, in which the proposed *Hospital Test* is treated more fully than was possible when drafting the text. It was written in 1872, when the proposal was made, but has lain among my papers until now. I am grateful for your verdict on it, and hope it may secure attention to it, though it has been relegated to the Appendix.

It only remains for me to tender to you in this public manner the gratitude I feel for the encouragement and sympathy you have extended to me for a long series of years.

I remain, dear Professor Wallace,

Yours most faithfully,

R. MCCHEYNE EDGAR.

DUBLIN, *September 24th*, 1883.

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