

**HELPS TO A  
LIFE OF PRAYER**

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Helps to a Life of Prayer by J. M. Manning

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**J. M. MANNING**

**HELPS TO A  
LIFE OF PRAYER**



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H E L P S

TO

A LIFE OF PRAYER.

BY

REV. J. M. MANNING, D. D.,

PASTOR OF THE OLD SOUTH CHURCH,  
BOSTON.

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*From the books of Miss Manion Abbot*

## PREFACE.

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MY own study of the subject of Prayer, some of the results of which are here gathered up, has brought to me a fuller experience of the nearness and love of God than I once had; and my earnest wish, in offering this volume to the public, is, that others may find the same blessed experience, or have it deepened within them if it be already theirs.

J. M. M.

OLD SOUTH PARSONAGE,  
December, 1874.

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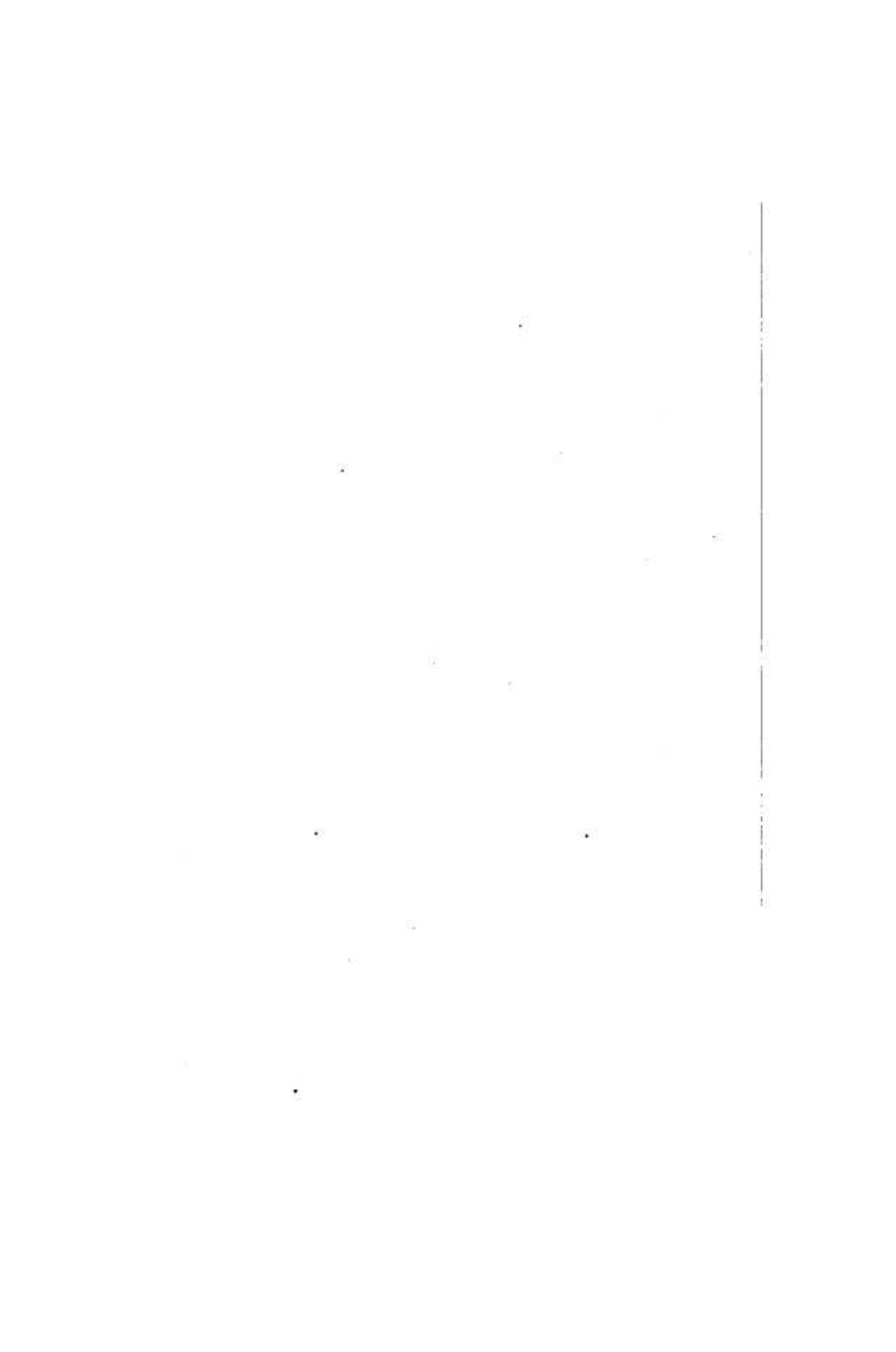
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# P R A Y E R .

## CHAPTER I.

### THE NATURE OF PRAYER.

General  
definition  
of the word  
"prayer." THE word "prayer" denotes, in its most general sense, any form of petition; and it may be offered to equals or inferiors no less than to superiors; not only to our Maker, but also to our fellow-man. Yet the devout Christian is not pleased to hear the term used in merely human relations; it is a consecrated word, set apart from secular to sacred uses. We do, in form at least, admit a kind of sovereignty in those to whom we address our prayer. Ostensibly we bow down before them, and lift up our eyes reverently unto them, as those who hold our destiny in their hand.