

THE SPIRIT OF PRAYER

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The spirit of prayer by Hannah More

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HANNAH MORE

**THE SPIRIT
OF PRAYER**



Yours &c
H More

London, 1780

THE
SPIRIT OF PRAYER.

BY
HANNAH MORE.

SELECTED AND COMPILED BY HERSELF;
FROM
VARIOUS PORTIONS EXCLUSIVELY ON THAT SUBJECT,
IN
HER PUBLISHED VOLUMES.

“Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle,”
“I will endeavour that you may be able after my decease
to have these things always in remembrance.”

2 Peter, ch. i.

Eleventh Edition.

LONDON:
T. CADELL, STRAND.
1813.

PREFACE.

FROM a sick, and, in all human probability, a dying bed, the writer of these pages feels an earnest desire to be enabled, with the blessing of God, to execute a little plan which has at different times crossed her mind, but which she never found leisure to accomplish, till the present season of incapacity.

“The importunity of friends,” — that hackneyed apology for works of inferior merit, is not, in the present instance, the less true for being worn threadbare. By many partial friends she

has frequently been desired to write a volume exclusively on Prayer. With this request she has always declined complying; because, among other reasons, she was aware that she had previously exhausted—not the subject itself, which is indeed inexhaustible,—but the slender resources of her own mind.

In her, perhaps too numerous, printed works, written on different subjects, and at distant periods, there are very many volumes, in which not only some reference has been made, but some distinct portions assigned, to the all-important subject of Prayer.

It is now her latest and warmest wish to be permitted to collect and examine some of those portions which treat more directly of this great duty; to unite the scattered members into one compact body, and to bring each under its proper head, into one point of view. All she is herself able to do is to bear these extracts

read by kind friends, and to adopt such passages as she may think proper for selection.

Perhaps the silence and solitude of her present nightly watchings may, through Divine grace, impress her own heart with a still deeper sense of the unspeakable importance and value of Prayer, and of the support and consolation which may be granted in answer to this exercise, when every other support and consolation must inevitably fail.

However small may be the use of this little volume to the reader, the writer at least is already reaping one benefit herself from what she has presumed to suggest to others, — the benefit of feeling, as she reviews these pages, how sadly she herself has fallen short in the duties she has so repeatedly recommended. In this re-examination she has sensibly felt how easy it is to be good upon paper, and how difficult in practice.

At the same time, she humbly trusts that her very failures may have enabled her to touch these subjects more experimentally than she might have done, had her own deficiencies been less powerfully recollected, and less acutely felt.

The Author ventures to hope that her valued friends, to whom this little volume is more especially dedicated, will consider it as the last bequest of one, who, about to quit this transitory scene, and feeling the deepest interest in their spiritual prosperity, as also for that of all her fellow-Christians, is desirous, by this her final act, to testify at least her affectionate anxiety for their eternal happiness.

The present weak state of the Author must apologise for inaccuracies and repetitions.

Barley-Wood.

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