

TESTIMONIES OF GEORGE MULLER

Compiled by Hector Medina / theaudiokey.com - 2017



That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."--1 Peter, 1 7.

Their Heavenly Father has always helped those who put their trust in Him...I longed to set something before the children of God, whereby they might see, that He does not forsake, even in our day, those who rely upon Him.

Very rarely did I see that there was a stand made for God, that there was the holy determination to trust in the living God, and to depend on Him, in order that a good conscience might be maintained. To this class likewise I desired to show, by a visible proof, that God is unchangeably the same.

My spirit longed to be instrumental in strengthening their faith, by giving them not only instances from the word of God, of His willingness and ability to help all those who rely upon Him, but to show them by proofs, that He is the same in our day. I well knew that the Word of God ought to be enough, and it was, by grace, enough, to me; but still, I considered that I ought to lend a helping hand to my brethren, if by any means, by this visible proof to the unchangeable faithfulness of the Lord, I might strengthen their hands in God;

I, therefore, judged myself bound to be the servant of the Church of God, in the particular point on which I had obtained mercy: namely, in **being able to take God by His word and to rely upon it.**

I, a poor man, simply by prayer and faith, obtained without asking any individual, the means for establishing and carrying on an Orphan-House, (this) would be something which, with the Lord's blessing, might be instrumental in strengthening the faith of the children of God, besides being a testimony to the consciences of the unconverted, of the reality of the things of God.

This, then, was the primary reason for establishing the Orphan-House...that God might be magnified by the fact, that **the orphans under my care are provided with all they need, only by prayer and faith without anyone being asked by me or my fellow-laborers whereby it may be seen, that God is FAITHFUL STILL, and HEARS PRAYER STILL.**

...also by the abundance of fruit that has followed in the hearts of the saints, for which from my inmost soul, I desire to be grateful to God, and the honor and glory of which not only is due to Him alone, but, which I, by His help, am enabled to ascribe to Him."

I only prayed that if it were of the Lord, he would bring it about, but if not that He graciously would be pleased to take all thoughts about it out of my mind...My comfort, however, was, that, if it were His will, He would provide not merely the means, but also suitable individuals to take care of the children, **so that my part of the work would take only such a portion of my time.**

I was reading Psalm 81 and was particularly struck, more than at any time before, with verse 10: "*Open thy month wide, and I will fill it.*" I thought a few moments about these words, and then was led to apply them to the case of the Orphan-House. It struck me that I had never asked the Lord for anything concerning it, except to know His will, respecting its being established or not; and I then fell on my knees and opened my mouth wide, asking Him for much. **I asked in submission to His will, and without fixing a time when He should answer my petition.** I prayed that He would give me a house, i. e., either as a loan, or that someone might be led to pay the rent for one, or that one might be given permanently for this object; further, I asked Him for £1000; and likewise for suitable individuals to take care of the children. Besides this, I have been since led to ask the Lord, to put into the hearts of His people to send me articles of furniture for the house, and some clothes for the children. When I was asking the petition, **I was fully aware what I was doing, i. e., that I was asking for something which I had no natural prospect of obtaining** from the brethren whom I know, but which was not too much for the Lord to grant.

"We propose ourselves for the service of the intended Orphan-House, if you think us qualified for it; also to give up all the furniture, &c., which the Lord has given us, for its use; and to do this without receiving any salary whatever; believing that if it be the will of the Lord to employ us, He will supply all our needs." (Wrote a couple to George Muller some days after)

To-day I gave myself once more earnestly to prayer respecting the remainder of the £1000. This evening £5 was given, so that now the whole sum is made up. To the Glory of the Lord, whose I am, and whom I serve, I would state again, that **every shilling of this money, and all the articles of clothing and furniture, which have been mentioned in the foregoing pages, have been given to me, without one single individual having been asked by me for anything.**

This circumstance now led me to lie low before my God in prayer the whole of the evening, February 3, and to examine my heart once more as to all the motives concerning it.

-This evening I was walking in our little garden, meditating on Heb. 13:8, "*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to-day, and forever.*" **Whilst meditating on His unchangeable love, power, wisdom, &c.--and turning all, as I went on, into prayer** respecting myself; and whilst applying likewise His unchangeable love, and power and wisdom, &c., both to my present spiritual and temporal circumstances:--all at once the present need of the Orphan-House was brought to my mind. Immediately I was led to say to myself, "*Jesus in His love and power has hitherto supplied me with what I have needed for the Orphans, and in the same unchangeable love and power He will provide me with what I may need for the future*". A flow of joy came into my soul whilst realising thus the unchangeableness of our adorable Lord. About one minute after, a letter was brought me, enclosing a bill for £20.

"It is not a great sum, but it is a sufficient provision for the exigency of to-day; and it is for to-day's exigencies, that, ordinarily, the Lord provides. To-morrow, as it brings its demands, will find its supply."

It came upon me within four days afterwards, and which I knew beforehand would come.

Never were we so reduced in funds as to-day. There was not a single halfpenny in hand between the matrons of the three houses. Nevertheless there was a good dinner... When I left the brethren and sisters at one o'clock, after prayer, **I told them that we must wait for help, and see how the Lord would deliver us this time. I was sure of help, but we were indeed straitened...**The brother had called twice while I was gone to the Orphan-Houses, and had I now been one half minute later, I should have missed him. But the Lord knew our need, and therefore allowed me to meet him. I sent off the £5 immediately to the matrons.

To-day a brother from the neighbourhood of London gave me £10, to be laid out as it might be most needed. As we have been praying many days for the School,--Bible,--and Missionary Funds, I took it all for them.

Thus **the Lord, to show His continued care over us, raises up new helpers. They that trust in the Lord shall never be confounded!** Some who helped for a while may fall asleep in Jesus; others may grow cold in the service of the Lord... from one cause or another, **were we to lean upon man, we should surely be confounded; but, in leaning upon the living God alone, we are BEYOND disappointment, and BEYOND being forsaken because of death, or want of means, or want of love, or because of the claims of other work. How precious to have learned in any measure to stand with God alone in the world, and yet to be happy, and to know that surely no good thing shall be withheld from us whilst we walk uprightly!"**

I was informed about the conversion of one of the very greatest sinners, that I ever heard of in all my service for the Lord. Repeatedly I fell on my knees with his wife, and asked the Lord for his conversion, when she came to me in the deepest distress of soul, on account of the most barbarous and cruel treatment that she

received from him... At the time when it was at its worst I pleaded especially on his behalf the promise in Matthew 18: 19: *'Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my father which is in heaven.'* And now this awful persecutor is converted.

(A few months ago) I began to ask the Lord for greater real spiritual prosperity among the saints, among whom I labour in (this city), than there ever yet had been among them; and now I have to record to the praise of the Lord that truly He has answered this request; for, considering all things, at no period has there been more manifestation of grace and truth, and spiritual power among us, than there is now while I am writing this for the press.

Through grace we had learned to lean upon the Lord only, being assured, that, if we were never to speak or write one single word more about this work, yet should we be supplied with means, as long as He should enable us to depend on Himself alone... What better proof, therefore, could we give of our depending upon the living God alone, and not upon public meetings or printed Reports...we still went on quietly for some time longer, without saying anything. We therefore determined, as we sought and still seek in this work to act for the profit of the saints generally.

There is now the greatest need, and only 4d. in hand, which I found in the box at my house; **yet I fully believe the Lord will supply us this day also with all that is required.**--Pause a few moments, dear reader! Observe two things! We (did it) for God...**but God's way leads always into trial, so far as sight and sense are concerned. Nature always will be tried in God's ways.** The Lord was saying by this poverty, *'I will now see whether you truly lean upon me, and whether you truly look to me.'* Of all the seasons that I had ever passed through since I had been living in this way, up to that time, **I never knew any period in which my faith was tried so sharply, as during the four months** from Dec. 12, 1841, to April

12, 1842...**But the Lord kept us steadfast to the conclusion (and decision), at which we had arrived under His guidance.**

For how awful would be the disgrace brought upon His holy name if we, who have so publicly made our boast in Him, and have spoken well of Him, should be left to disgrace Him, either by unbelief in the hour of trial, or by a life of sin in other respects.

DELAYED BUT SURE

At a time of the greatest need, both with regard to the Day-Schools and the Orphans, so much so that we could not have gone on any longer without help, I received this day £10 from a brother --As our need was so great, and **my soul was, through grace, truly waiting upon the Lord**, I looked out for supplies in the course of this morning. The post, however, was out, **and no supplies had come. This did not in the least discourage me. I said to myself, *the Lord can send means... He may have sent means, though the money is not yet in my hands.*** It was not long after I had thus spoken to myself, when, **according to my hope in God, we were helped;** for the brother who sent us the £10, had this time directed his letter to the Boys' Orphan-House, whence it was sent to me.

This morning our poverty, which now has lasted more or less for several months, had become exceedingly great. I left my house a few minutes after seven to go to the Orphan-Houses, to see whether there was money enough to take in the milk, which is brought about eight o'clock. On my way **it was specially my request that the Lord would be pleased to pity us, even as a father pitieth his children, and that He would not lay more upon us than He would enable us to bear, I especially entreated Him that He would now be pleased to refresh our hearts by sending us help. I likewise reminded Him of the consequences that would result, both in reference to believers and unbelievers, if we should have to give up the**

work because of want of means, and that He therefore would not permit of its coming to nought. I moreover again confessed before the Lord that I deserved not that He should continue to use me in this work any longer. While I was thus in prayer, about two minutes' walk from the Orphan-Houses, I met a brother who was going at this early hour to his business. After having exchanged a few words with him, I went on; but he presently ran after me, and gave me £1 for the Orphans. Thus the Lord speedily answered my prayer. **Truly, it is worth being poor and greatly tried in faith, for the sake of having day by day such precious proofs of the loving interest which our kind Father takes in everything that concerns us.** And how should our Father do otherwise? He that has given us the greatest possible proof of His love which He could have done, in giving us His own Son, surely He will with Him also freely give us all things.

I thought again and again about **this brother's promise**; though I did not, by the grace of God, trust in the brother who had made it, but in the Lord. Thus week after week passed away, and the money did not come. Now this morning it came to my mind, that such promises ought to be valued, in a certain sense, as nothing, i. e., that **the mind ought never for a moment to be directed to them, but to the Oliving God, and to the living God only.** I saw that **such promises ought not to be of the value of one farthing, so far as it regards thinking about them for help.** I therefore asked the Lord, when, as usual, I was praying with my beloved wife about the work in my hands that He would be pleased to take this whole matter, about that promise, completely out of my mind, and to help me, not to value it in the least, yea, to treat it as if not worth one farthing, but to keep my eye directed only to Himself. I was enabled to do so. We had not yet finished praying when I received the following letter:... *please to regard this as a letter of advice that £70 are paid for you. This sum apply as the Lord may give you wisdom.* I shall not send to (such and such) until I hear from you. Thus the Lord rewarded at once **this determination to endeavour not to look in the least to that promise from a brother, but only to Himself.**

"I desire that all the children of God, who may read these details, may thereby be lead **to increased and more simple confidence in God for everything which they may need under any circumstances,** and that these many answers to prayer may

encourage them to pray, particularly as it regards the conversion of their friends and relatives, their own progress in grace and knowledge, the state of the saints whom they may know personally, the state of the church of God at large, and the success of the preaching of the Gospel.

For though every believer is not called upon to establish Orphan-Houses, Charity Schools, etc., and trust in the Lord for means; yet **all believers are called upon, in the simple confidence of faith, to cast all their burdens upon Him, to trust in Him for everything, and not only to make every thing a subject of prayer, but to expect answers to their petitions which they have asked according to His will, and in the name of the Lord Jesus.**

The faith which I am enabled to exercise with reference to the Orphan-Houses and my own temporal necessities, is the self-same faith which is found in every believer, and the growth of which I am most sensible of to myself; for, **by little and little, it has been increasing for the last sixty-nine years.** This faith shows itself in the same measure, for instance concerning the following points: I have never been permitted to doubt during the last sixty-nine years that **my sins are forgiven, that I am a child of God**, that I am beloved of God, and that **I shall be finally saved**; because I am enabled, by the grace of God, to exercise faith upon the word of God, and believe what God says in those passages which settle these matters (1 John v. 1--Gal. 3: 26--Acts 10: 43--Romans 10: 9, 10--John 3: 16, etc.).... Further, **when sometimes all has been dark, exceedingly dark**, with reference to my service among the saints, judging from natural appearances; yea, when I should have been overwhelmed indeed in grief and despair, had I looked at things after the outward appearance; **at such times I have sought to encourage myself in God, by laying hold in faith on His mighty power, His unchangeable love, and His infinite wisdom, and I have said to myself: God is able and willing to deliver me, if it be good for me;** for it is written: "*He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*" Rom. 8: 32. This, this it was which, being believed by me through grace, kept my soul in peace.

When other trials, still greater, but which I cannot mention, have befallen me in connexion with this work, and that at a time when I had to remain absent week after week: at such times **my soul was stayed upon God; I believed His word of promise which was applicable to such cases; I poured out my soul before God, and arose from my knees in peace, because the trouble that was in the soul was in believing prayer cast upon God, and thus I was kept in peace, though I saw it to be the will of God to remain far away from the work.--**

Further, when I needed houses, fellow-labourers, masters and mistresses for the Orphans or for the Day Schools, **I have been enabled to look for all to the Lord and trust in Him for help. From my inmost soul I do ascribe it to God alone that He has enabled me to trust in Him, and that hitherto He has not suffered my confidence in Him to fail. By the grace of God I desire that my faith in God should extend towards EVERY thing, the smallest of my own temporal and spiritual concerns, and the smallest of the temporal and spiritual concerns of my family, towards the saints among whom I labour, the church at large, thank God for the faith which He has given me, and ask Him to uphold and increase it.**

Once more, let not Satan deceive you in making you think that you could not have the same faith but that it is only for persons who are situated as I am. When I lose such a thing as a key, **I ask the Lord to direct me to it, and I look for an answer to my prayer;** when a person with whom I have made an appointment does not come, according to the fixed time, and I begin to be inconvenienced by it, **I ask the Lord** to be pleased to hasten him to me **and I look for an answer;** when I do not understand a passage of the word of God, **I lift up my heart to the Lord, that He would be pleased, by His Holy Spirit to instruct me, and I expect to be taught, though I do not fix the time when, and the manner how it should be;** when I am going to minister in the Word, **I seek help from the Lord, and believe that He, for His dear Son's sake will help me.** And thus in other of my temporal and spiritual concerns **I pray to the Lord, and expect an answer to my requests;** and may not you do the same, dear believing reader? Oh! **I beseech you,** do not think me an extraordinary believer, having privileges above other of God's dear children, do but **stand still in the hour of trial, and you will see the help of God, if you trust in Him.**

You ask, *How may I, a true believer, have my faith strengthened?* The answer is this:--

"I.--Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

James 1: 17. **As the increase of faith is a good gift, it must come from God, and therefore He ought to be asked for this blessing.**

"II.--The following means, however, ought to be used:--1, **The careful reading of the word of God, combined with meditation on it.** Through reading of the word of God, and especially through meditation on the word of God, the believer becomes more and more acquainted with the nature and character of God, and thus sees more and more, besides His holiness and justice, what a kind, loving, gracious, merciful, mighty, wise, and faithful Being He is, and, therefore, in poverty, affliction of body, bereavement in his family, difficulty in his service, want of a situation or employment, **he will repose upon the ability of God to help him, because he has also seen in the word of God how, in a great variety of instances He has proved Himself to be so.** 2, As with reference to the growth of every grace of the Spirit, **it is of the utmost importance that we seek to maintain an upright heart and a good conscience,** and if, in any particular instance, I cannot trust in God, because of the guilty conscience, then my faith is weakened by that instance of distrust; for faith with every fresh trial of it either increases by trusting God, and thus getting help, or it decreases by not trusting Him; and then there is less and less power of looking simply and directly to Him, and a habit of self-dependence is begotten or encouraged. One or the other of these will always be the case in each particular instance. **Either we trust in God, and in that case we neither trust in ourselves, nor in our fellow-men, nor in circumstances,** nor in anything besides; or we DO trust in one or more of these, and in that case do NOT trust in God. 3, **If we, indeed, desire our faith to be strengthened, we should not shrink from opportunities where our faith may be tried, and, therefore, through the trial, be strengthened.** In our natural state we dislike dealing with God alone.

Even as believers, **we have the same shrinking from standing with God alone,--from depending upon Him alone,--from looking to Him alone: --and yet this is the very position in which we ought to be, if we wish our faith to be strengthened.** The more I am in a position to be tried in faith with reference to my body, my family, my service for the Lord, my business, etc., the more shall I have opportunity of seeing God's help and deliverance; and every fresh instance, in which He helps and delivers me, will tend towards the increase of my faith. On this account, therefore, **the believer should not shrink from situations, positions, circumstances, in which his faith may be tried; but should cheerfully embrace them as opportunities where he may see the hand of God stretched out on his behalf, to help and deliver him, and whereby he may thus have his faith strengthened.** 4, The last important point for the strengthening of our faith is, that we **let God work for us, when the hour of the trial of our faith comes, and do not work a deliverance of our own.**

Wherever God has given faith, it is given, among other reasons, for the very purpose of being tried. "Yea, however weak our faith may be, God will try it; only with this restriction, that as in every way, **He leads on gently, gradually, patiently,** so also with reference to the trial of our faith. At first our faith will be tried very little in comparison with what it may be afterwards; for **God never lays more upon us that He is willing to enable us to bear.**

Now when the trial of faith comes, **we are naturally inclined to distrust God, and to trust rather in ourselves,** or in our friends, **or in circumstances.** We will rather work a deliverance of our own somehow or other, than simply look to God and wait for His help. But if we do not **patiently wait for God's help,** if we work a deliverance of our own, then at the next trial of our faith it will be thus again, we shall be again inclined to deliver ourselves; and thus with every fresh instance of that kind, our faith will decrease; whilst on the contrary, **were we to stand still, in order to see the salvation of God, to see His hand stretched out on our behalf, trusting in Him alone,** then our faith would be increased, and with every fresh case in which the hand of God is stretched out on our behalf in the hour of the trial of our faith, our faith would be increased yet more. **Would the believer, therefore, have his faith strengthened, he must especially, give time to God,**

who tries his faith in order to prove to His child, in the end, how willing He is to help and deliver him, the moment it is good for him.

"Though now (July, 1845) for about seven years our funds have been so exhausted, that it has been a rare case that there have been means in hand to meet the necessities of more than 100 persons for three days together; yet I have been only once tried in spirit, and that was on September 18, 1838, when, for the first time the Lord seemed not to regard our prayer. But when He did send help at that time, and **I saw that it was only for the trial of our faith, and not because He had forsaken the work, that we were brought so low,** my soul was so strengthened and encouraged, that I have not only not been allowed to distrust the Lord, but I have not been even cast down when in the deepest poverty since that time."

To-day I was again penniless. But my eyes were up to the Lord. I gave myself to prayer this morning, knowing that I should want again this week at least £13, if not above £20. To-day I received £12 in answer to prayer, from a lady whom I had never seen before.

Monday morning. Neither Saturday nor yesterday had any money come in. It appeared to me now needful to take some steps on account of our need, i. e., to go to the Orphan-Houses, call the brethren and sisters together, state the case to them, **see how much money was needed for the present, tell them that amidst all this trial of faith I still believed that God would help, and to pray with them.**

A PRECIOUS DELIVERANCE. Sept. 17 1838 .

Truly, the Lord has wise purposes in allowing us to call so long upon Him for help. But I am sure God will send help, if we can but wait. Nothing yet, in any way, has been lacking...but being led to go to the Scriptures for comfort, my soul was greatly refreshed, and my faith again strengthened, by the 34th Psalm, so that I went very cheerfully to meet with my dear fellow-labourers for prayer. I read to them the Psalm, and sought to cheer their hearts through the precious promises contained in it.

This afternoon a lady kindly brought me some money. **We had been reduced so low as to be on the point of selling those things which could be spared...** That the money had been so near the Orphan-Houses for several days without being given, is a plain proof that it was from the beginning in the heart of God to help us; **but because He delights in the prayers of His children, He had allowed us to pray so long; also to try our faith, and to make the answer so much the sweeter.** It is indeed a precious deliverance. I burst out into loud praises and thanks the first moment I was alone, after I had received the money. I met with my fellow-labourers again this evening for prayer and praise; their hearts were not a little cheered. This money was this evening divided, and will comfortably provide for all that will be needed to-morrow.

*Mr. Müller ultimately **decided** for that and other reasons, **after much prayerful meditation**, to build an Orphan-House elsewhere to accommodate 300 children, and commenced to ask the Lord for means for so doing. (From "Answers to Prayer", Chapter 2)*

It is now 89 days since I have been daily waiting upon God about the building of an Orphan-House. The time seems to me now near when the Lord will give us a piece of ground, and I told the brethren and sisters so this evening, after our usual Saturday evening prayer meeting at the Orphan-Houses.

I might have called again at his residence, at a later hour having been informed by one of the servants that he would be sure to be at home about eight o'clock; **but I did not do so, judging that there was the hand of God in my not finding him at either place: and I judged it best therefore not to force the matter, but to 'let patience have her perfect work.'**

"Observe the hand of God in my not finding the owner at home last evening! The Lord meant to speak to His servant first about this matter, during a sleepless night, and to lead him fully to decide, before I had seen him."

Now whilst, by God's grace, I would not wish the building to be begun one single day sooner than is His will; and whilst I firmly believe, that **He will give me, in His own time every shilling which I need;** yet **I also know, that He delights in being earnestly entreated, and that He takes pleasure in the continuance in prayer, and in the importuning Him,** which so clearly is to be seen from the parable of the widow and the unjust judge, Luke 18: 1-8. **For these reasons I gave myself again particularly to prayer last evening, that the Lord would send further means, being also especially led to do so, in addition to the above reasons, because there had come in but little comparatively,** since the 29th of last month. This morning, between five and six o'clock I prayed again, among other points, about the Building Fund, and then had a long season for the reading of the word of God. In the course of my reading I came to Mark 11: 24, '*What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*' The importance of the truth contained in this portion I have often felt and spoken about; but this morning I felt it again most particularly, and, applying it to the New Orphan-House, said to the Lord: '**Lord I believe that Thou wilt give me all I need for this work. I am sure that I shall have all, because I believe that I receive in answer to my prayer.**'

After family prayer I had again my usual season for prayer with regard to all the many parts of the work, and the various necessities thereof, asking also blessings upon +my fellow-labourers, upon +the circulation of Bibles and Tracts, and upon +the precious souls in the Adult School, the Sunday Schools, +the Six Day Schools, and + the four Orphan-Houses. Amidst all the many things I again made my requests about +means for the Building. And now observe: About five minutes, after I had risen from my knees, there was given to me a registered letter, containing a cheque.

The season of the year is now approaching, when building may be begun. Therefore with increased earnestness I have given myself unto prayer, importuning the Lord that He would be pleased to appear on our behalf, and speedily send the remainder of the amount which is required, **and I have increasingly, of late, felt that the time is drawing near, when the Lord will give me all that which is requisite for commencing the building. All the various arguments which I have often brought before God, I brought also again this morning before Him. It is now 14 months and 3 weeks since day by day I have uttered my petitions to God on behalf of this work. I rose from my knees this morning in full confidence, not only that God could, but also would, send the means, and that soon.** Never, during all these 14 months and 3 weeks, have I had the least doubt, that I should have all that which is requisite.--And now, dear believing reader, rejoice and praise with me. About an hour, after I had prayed thus, there was given to me the sum of Two Thousand Pounds for the Building Fund...-I cannot describe the joy I had in God when I received this donation. It must be known from experience, in order to be felt. 447 days I have had day by day to wait upon God, before the sum reached the above amount. **How great is the blessing which the soul obtains by trusting in God, and by waiting patiently. Is it not manifest how precious it is to carry on God's work in this way**, even with regard to the obtaining of means?"

"It was in November, 1850, that my mind became exercised about enlarging the Orphan Work from 300 Orphans to 1000, and subsequently to 1150; and it was in June, 1851, that this my purpose became known, having kept it secret for more than seven months, whilst day by day praying about it. **From the end of November, 1850, to this day, March 12, 1862, not one single day has been allowed to pass, without this contemplated enlargement being brought before God in prayer, and generally more than once a day. But only now, this day, the New Orphan-House No. 3 was so far advanced, that it could be opened.** Observe then, first, esteemed Reader, **how long it may be, before a full answer to our prayers,** even to thousands and tens of thousands of prayers, is granted; yea, though those prayers may be believing prayers, earnest prayers, and offered up in the name of the Lord Jesus, and though we may only for the sake of the honour of our Lord desire the answer: **for I did, by the grace of God, without the least doubt and wavering look for more than eleven years for the full answer; and I sought only in this matter the glory of God."**

I had daily prayed for the needed helpers and assistants for the various departments. Before a stone was laid, I began to pray for this; and, as the building progressed, I continued day by day to bring this matter before God, feeling assured, that, as in everything else, so in this particular also, He would graciously be pleased to appear on our behalf and help us, as the whole work is intended for His honour and glory.

...day by day, for years, had I asked God to help me in this particular, even as He had done in the case of the New Orphan-House No. 2; **I had also expected help, confidently expected help: and yet now, when help seemed needed, it was wanting.** What was now to be done, dear Reader? Would it have been right to charge God with unfaithfulness? Would it have been right to distrust Him? Would it have been right to say, it is useless to pray? By no means. **This, on the contrary, I did;** I thanked God for all the help, He had given me in connection with the whole of the enlargement; **I thanked Him for enabling me to overcome so many and such great difficulties;** I thanked Him for the helpers He had given me for No. 2; I thanked Him, also, for the helpers He had given me already for No. 3; **and instead of distrusting God, I looked upon this delay of the full answer to prayer,**

only as a trial of faith, and therefore resolved, that, instead of praying once a day with my dear wife about this matter, as we had been doing day by day for years, we should now meet daily three times, to bring this before God. I also brought the matter before the whole staff of my helpers in the work requesting their prayers. *Thus I have now continued for about four months longer in prayer, day by day calling upon God three times on account of this need,* and the result has been, that one helper after the other has been given, without the help coming too late, or the work getting into confusion; or the reception of the children being hindered; and I am fully assured, that the few who are yet needed will also be found, when they are really required."

...and hundreds of times I had with a prayerful eye looked on this land, yea, as it were, bedewed it with my prayers. I might have bought it years ago; but that would have been going before the Lord. I had money enough in hand to have paid for it years ago; but **I desired patiently, submissively, to wait God's own time, and for Him to mark it clearly and distinctly that His time was come, and that I took the step according to His will;** for whatever I might apparently accomplish, if the work were mine, and not the Lord's, I could expect no blessing. **But now the Lord's mind was clearly and distinctly made manifest.** I had enough money in hand to pay for the land and to build one house, and therefore I went forward, after having still asked the Lord for guidance, and being assured that it was His will I should take active steps. I was brought to this point as the result of thousands of times praying regarding this object;

He allows this apparent death-blow to come upon the whole. But thus I have found it hundreds of times since I have known the Lord. **The difficulties, which He is pleased to allow to arise, are only allowed,** under such circumstances, **for the exercise of our faith and patience; and more prayer, more patience, and the exercise of faith, will remove the difficulties.** Now, as I knew the Lord, these

difficulties were no insurmountable difficulties to me, for I put my trust in Him, according to that word: "*The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. And they that know Thy name will put their trust in Thee: for Thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek Thee.*" (Psalm 9: 9, 10). **I gave myself, therefore, earnestly to prayer** concerning all these three especial difficulties which had arisen...

I'm not be discouraged by difficulties, however great and many and varied, but give himself to prayer, trusting in the Lord for help, yea, expecting help, which, in His own time and way, He will surely grant."

How abundantly God answered our prayers, and how plain it is, that **we were not mistaken, after we had patiently and prayerfully sought to ascertain His will. Be encouraged, therefore, yet further and further to confide in the Living God."**

THE NORTH WIND IS CHANGED INTO A SOUTH WIND.

At last **I determined on falling entirely into the hands of God, who is very merciful and of tender compassion**, and I decided on having the brick-chamber opened, to see the extent of the damage, and whether the boiler might be repaired, so as to carry us through the winter. (Ed. Note: They already were in winter)

"The day was fixed, when the workmen were to come, and all the necessary arrangements were made. The fire, of course, had to be let out while the repairs were going on. But now see...What was to be done? The repairs could not be put off. I now asked the Lord for two things, viz., that He would be pleased to change the north wind into a south wind, and that He would give to the workmen 'a mind to work'; for I remembered how much Nehemiah accomplished in 52 days, whilst building the walls of Jerusalem, because 'the people had a mind to work.' Well, the memorable day came. The evening before, the bleak north wind blew still: but,

on the Wednesday, the south wind blew: exactly as I had prayed. The weather was so mild that no fire was needed. The brickwork is removed, the leak is found out very soon, the boiler makers begin to repair in good earnest...."*'We would rather, Sir,'* said the leader, *'work all night.'* Then remembered I the second part of my prayer, that God would give the men *'a mind to work.'* Thus it was: by the morning the repair was accomplished, the leak was stopped, though with great difficulty, and within about 30 hours the brickwork was up again, and the fire in the boiler; and all the time the south wind blew so mildly, that there was not the least need of a fire. **Here, then, is one of our difficulties which was overcome by prayer and faith.**

CONVERSION OF THE ORPHANS.

"May 26, 1860.--Day after day, and year after year, by the help of God, we labour in prayer for the spiritual benefit of the Orphans under our care. These our supplications, which have been for 24 years brought before the Lord concerning them, have been abundantly answered, in former years, in the conversion of hundreds from among them. We have, also, had repeated seasons in which, within a short time, or even all at once, many of the Orphans were converted. Such a season we had about three years since, when, within a few days, about 60 were brought to believe in the Lord Jesus; and such seasons we have had again twice during the first year. The first was in July, 1859, when the Spirit of God wrought so mightily in one school of 120 girls, as that very many, yea more than one-half, were brought under deep concern about the salvation of their souls. This work, moreover, was not a mere momentary excitement; but, after more than eleven months have elapsed, there are 31 concerning whom there is full confidence as to their conversion, and 32 concerning whom there is likewise a goodly measure of confidence, though not to the same amount, as regarding the 31. There are therefore 63 out of the 120 Orphans in that one School who are considered to have been converted in July, 1859. **This blessed and mighty work of the Holy Spirit** cannot be traced to any particular cause. **It was however, a**

most precious answer to prayer. As such **we look upon it, and are encouraged by it to further waiting upon God.** The second season of the mighty working of the Holy Spirit among the Orphans, during the past year, was at the end of January and the beginning of February, 1860. The particulars of it are of the deepest interest; but I must content myself by stating, that this great work of the Spirit of God in January and February, 1860, began among the younger class of the children under our care, little girls of about 6, 7, 8 and 9 years old; then extended to the older girls; and then to the boys, so that within about 10 days above 200 of the Orphans were stirred up to be anxious about their souls, and in many instances found peace immediately, through faith in our Lord Jesus. They at once requested to be allowed to hold prayer-meetings among themselves, and have had these meetings ever since. Many of them also manifested a concern about the salvation of their companions and relations, and spoke or wrote to them, about the way to be saved."

We again gave ourselves to prayer, as we had done for more than twenty years before, concerning this thing, **instead of advertising,** which, in all probability, would only bring before us masters who desire apprentices for the sake of the premium. We remembered how good the Lord had been to us, in having helped us hundreds of times before, in this very matter. **Some weeks passed, but the difficulty remained. We continued, however, in prayer,** and then one application was made, and then another; and since we first began to pray about this matter, last summer, we have been able to send out altogether 18 boys ; **the difficulty was thus again entirely overcome by prayer,** as every one of the boys, whom it was desirable to send out, has been sent out.

SICKNESS AT TIMES VISITED THE HOUSES.

"During the summer and autumn of 1866 we had also the measles at all the three Orphan-Houses. After they had made their appearance, our especial prayer was: 1.

That there might not be too many children ill at one time in this disease, so that our accommodation in the Infirmary rooms or otherwise might be sufficient. This prayer was answered to the full; for though we had at the New Orphan-House No. 1 not less than 83 cases, in No. 2 altogether 111, and in No. 3 altogether 68; yet God so graciously was pleased to listen to our supplications, as that when our spare rooms were filled with the invalids, He so long stayed the spreading of the measles till a sufficient number were restored, so as to make room for others, who were taken ill. 2. Further **we prayed, that the children, who were taken ill in the measles, might be safely brought through and not die.** Thus it was. We had the full answer to our prayers; for though 262 children altogether had the measles, not one of them died. 3. Lastly **we prayed, that no evil physical consequences might follow this disease,** as is so often the case; this was also granted. All the 262 children not only recovered, but did well afterwards. I gratefully record this signal mercy and blessing of God, **and this full and precious answer to prayer, to the honour of His name."**

. I wrote therefore a cheque for £280, though I would have gladly sent £476, yet felt thankful, at the same time, that I had this amount in hand for these brethren. Having written the cheque, as the last occupation of the day, **then came my usual season for prayer, for the many things which I daily, by the help of God, bring before Him; and then again, I brought also the case of these preachers of the Gospel before the Lord, and besought Him that He would even now be pleased to give me yet a goodly sum for them,** though there remained but three days to the close of our year. This being done, I went home about nine o'clock in the evening, and found there had arrived from a great distance £100 for Missions, with £100 left at my disposal, and £5 for myself. I took, therefore, the whole £200 for Missions, and thus had £480 in hand to meet the £476 which I desired for this object. Those who know **the blessedness of really trusting in God, and getting help from Him,** as in this case, in answer to prayer, will be able to enter into the

spiritual enjoyment I had in the reception of that donation, in which both the answer to prayer was granted, and with it the great enjoyment of gladdening the hearts of many devoted servants of Christ.

... this donation of One Thousand Pounds came to hand - for Mission Work in China -. This precious answer to prayer for means should be a particular encouragement to all who are engaged in the Lord's work, and who may need means for it. It proves afresh, that, **if our work is His work, and we honour Him, by waiting upon and looking to Him for means, He will surely, in His own time and way, supply them.**

...This Christian gentleman, whom I have never seen, and who is engaged in a very large business in London, had sent me several times before a similar sum. A day or two before I received this last kind donation, **I had asked the Lord, that He would be pleased to influence the heart of this donor to help me again,** which I had never done before regarding him; and thus I had the double answer to prayer, in that not only money came in, but money from him. The reader will now see the meaning in the donor's letter, when he wrote '*I believe that it is through the Lord's actings upon me that I enclose you a cheque...*' Verily it was the Lord who acted upon this gentleman, to send me this sum.

...he undertook the long journey, and I had an interview with him, through which I saw his most trying position in business. Having fully conversed with him, I gave him the following counsel: 1, **That he should day by day, expressly for the purpose, retire with his Christian wife, that they might unitedly spread their business difficulties before God in prayer, and do this, if possible, twice a day.** 2, That he should look out for answers to his prayers, and expect that God would help him. 3, That he should avoid all business trickeries, and that, if he did so, he could not reckon on the blessing of God. 4, I advised him further, **to set apart; out of his profits, week by week, a certain proportion for the work of God, whether his income was much or little, and use this income faithfully for the Lord.** --The reader will feel interested to learn, that ...his returns had been... £2,528 15s. 2d

more than the year before ...(and) he had been enabled to put aside during the previous year £123 13s. 3d. for the work of God or the need of the poor.

...the spiritual condition of the Orphans generally gave to us great sorrow of heart, because there were so few, comparatively, among them, who were in earnest about their souls, and resting on the atoning death of the Lord Jesus for salvation.

This our sorrow led us to lay it on the whole staff of assistants, matrons and teachers, to seek earnestly the Lord's blessing on the souls of the children. This was done in our united prayer meetings, and, I have reason to believe, in secret also; **and in answer to these our secret and united prayers, in the (next) year 1872, there were, as the result of this, more believers by far among the Orphans than ever...** In the New Orphan-House No. 3, it showed itself least, **till it pleased the Lord to lay His hand heavily on that house, by the small-pox;** and, from that time the working of the Holy Spirit was felt in that house also...At the end of July, 1872, I received the statements of all the matrons and teachers in the five houses, who reported to me, that, after careful observation and conversation, they had good reason to believe that 729 of the Orphans then under our care, were believers in the Lord Jesus. This number of believing Orphans is by far greater than ever we had, for which we adore and praise the Lord! See **how the Lord overruled the great trial, occasioned by the small-pox, and turned it into a great blessing!** See, also, how, **after so low a state, comparatively, which led us to prayer, earnest prayer, the working of the Holy Spirit was more manifest than ever!**

A godly City Missionary came to me one day, greatly tried, because he had six sons, for whose conversion he had been praying many years, and yet they remained unconcerned about their souls, and he desired me to tell him what to do. My reply was, '**Continue to pray for your sons, and expect an answer to your**

prayer, and you will have to praise God.' Now, when after six years I was again in the same city, this dear man came to me and said he was surprised he had not seen before himself what he ought to do, and that **he had resolved to take my advice and more earnestly than ever give himself to prayer. Two months after he saw me, five of his six sons were converted within eight days, and have for six years now walked in the ways of the Lord, and he had hope that the sixth son also was beginning to be concerned about his state before God.** May the Christian reader be encouraged by this, should his prayers not at once be answered; and, **instead of ceasing to pray, wait upon God all the more earnestly and perseveringly, and expect answers to his petitions.**

It had been laid on my heart, and on the hearts of some other brethren among us, **to ask the Lord that he would be pleased to honour us,** as a body of believers, by **calling forth from our midst brethren, for carrying the truth into foreign lands.** But this prayer seemed to remain unanswered. Now, however, the time was come when the Lord was about to answer it, and I, on whose heart particularly this matter had been laid, was to be the first to carry forth the truth from among us. About that very time the Lord called our dear brother and sister Barrington...When we ask God for a thing, such as that He would be pleased to raise up labourers for His harvest, or send means for the carrying on of His work, the honest question to be put to our hearts should be this: *Am I willing to go, if He should call me? Am I willing to give according to my ability?* For we may be the very persons whom the Lord will call for the work, or whose means He may wish to employ.

From our own midst, as a church - the Scriptural Knowledge Institution, 1896 - sixty brethren and sisters have gone forth to foreign fields of labour, some of whom have finished their labour on earth; but there are still about forty yet engaged in this precious service. **Why should not the great and crying need for workers in Asia, Africa, and other parts of the world be thus met by thousands of churches in Europe and America** following this divine plan of praying the Lord

of the harvest that He would send forth labourers from among them? Surely **they may expect GOD to answer their prayers** as He did the prayers of this Bristol church.

*"For the obtaining of fellow-workers we took the MASTER'S direction, '**Pray ye the LORD of the Harvest.**' As for the first five before the Mission was formed, so for the twenty-four for whom we first asked for the C.I.M.; for further reinforcements when they were needed; for the seventy in three years, for the hundred in one year, and for further additions from time to time, we have ever relied on this plan. Is it possible that in any other way such a band of workers from nearly every denomination, and from many lands, could have been gathered and kept together for thirty years with no other bond save that which the call of GOD and the love of GOD has proved--a band now numbering over seven hundred men and women, aided by more than five hundred native workers."* Hudson Taylor - 1897

In no degree the honour is due to the instruments, but to the Holy Spirit alone; yet these facts are stated, in order that it may be seen, **what delight God has in answering abundantly the believing prayer of His children.**

(Ed. Note: George Müller shows the ordering of God in his meeting with and subsequent marriage to his first wife, Mary Groves)

"In giving her to me, I own the hand of God; nay, His hand was most marked; and my soul says, '**Thou art good, and doest good.**'"

I saw, for many reasons, that it was better for me, as a young Pastor, under 25 years of age, to be married. The question now was, to whom shall I be united? Miss Groves was before my mind; but **the prayerful conflict was long, before I came to a decision;** for I could not bear the thought, that I should take away from Mr. Hake this valued helper, as Mrs. Hake continued still unable to take the responsibility of so large a household. **But I prayed again and again. At last this decided me,** I had reason to believe that I had begotten an affection in the heart of Miss Groves for me, and that therefore I ought to make a proposal of marriage

to her, however unkindly I might appear to act to my dear friend and brother Mr. Hake, and to ask God to give him a suitable helper to succeed Miss Groves. On Aug. 15th, 1830, I therefore wrote to her, proposing to her to become my wife, and on Aug. 19th, when I went over as usual to Exeter for preaching, she accepted me. **The first thing we did, after I was accepted, was, to fall on our knees, and to ask the blessing of the Lord on our intended union.** In about two or three weeks the Lord, in answer to prayer, found an individual, who seemed suitable to act as housekeeper, whilst Mrs. Hake continued ill; and on Oct. 7, 1830, we were united in marriage. Our marriage was of the most simple character. We walked to church, had no wedding breakfast, but in the afternoon had a meeting of Christian friends in Mr. Hake's house and commemorated the Lord's death; and then I drove off in the stagecoach with my beloved bride to Teignmouth, and the next day we went to work for the Lord. Simple as our beginning was, and unlike the habits of the world, for Christ's sake, so our Godly aim has been, to continue ever since.

Let me here add a word of Christian counsel. **To enter upon the marriage union is one of the most deeply important events of life. It cannot be too prayerfully treated.** Our happiness, our usefulness, our living for God or for ourselves afterwards, are often most intimately connected with our choice. Therefore, **in the most prayerful manner, this choice should be made.** Neither beauty, nor age, nor money, nor mental powers, should be that which prompt the decision; but 1st, **Much waiting upon God for guidance should be used;** 2nd, **A hearty purpose, to be willing to be guided by Him** should be aimed after; 3rd, **True godliness without a shadow of doubt, should be the first and absolutely needful qualification, to a Christian,** with regard to a companion for life. In addition to this, however, it ought to be, at the same time, calmly and patiently weighed, **whether, in other respects, there is a suitableness.**

Parents know what an only child, a beloved child is, and what to believing parents an only child, a believing child must be. Well, the Father in Heaven said, as it were,

by this His dispensation, *'Art thou willing to give up this child to me?'* My heart responded, *As it seems good to Thee, my Heavenly Father. Thy will be done.* But as our hearts were made willing to give back our beloved child to Him who had given her to us, so He was ready to leave her to us, and she lived. *'Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.'* Psalm 37: 4. The desires of my heart were, to retain the beloved daughter if it were the will of God; the means to retain her were to be satisfied with the will of the Lord. Of all the trials of faith that as yet I have had to pass through, this was the greatest; and by God's abundant mercy, I own it to His praise, I was enabled to delight myself in the will of God; for I felt perfectly sure, that, if the Lord took this beloved daughter, it would be best for her parents, best for herself, and more for the glory of God than if she lived: this better part **I was satisfied with; and thus my heart had peace, perfect peace, and I had not a moment's anxiety.**

My soul said: ***'I will now look out for the way in which the Lord will deliver us this day again; for He will surely deliver.'*** Many Saturdays, when we were in need, He helped us, and so He will do this day also.' Between nine and ten o'clock this morning I gave myself to prayer for means, with three of my fellow-labourers, in my house. WHILST WE WERE IN PRAYER, there was a knock at my room-door, and I was informed that a gentleman had come to see me. When we had finished prayer, it was found to be a brother from Tetbury, who had brought from Barnstaple... for the Orphans. Thus we have... with which I must return the letter-bag to the Orphan-Houses, looking to the Lord for more.

Only one farthing was in my hands this morning. Pause a moment, dear reader! Only one farthing in hand when the day commenced. Think of this, and think of nearly 140 persons to be provided for. You, poor brethren, who have six or eight children and small wages, think of this; and you, my brethren, who do not belong to the working classes, but have, as it is called, very limited means, think of this! May you not do, what we do, under your trials? Does the Lord love you less than He loves us? **Does He not love all His children with no less love than that, with**

which He loves His only begotten Son, according to John 20: 20-23? Or are we better than you? Nay, are we not in ourselves poor miserable sinners as you are; and have any of the children of God any claim upon God, on account of their own worthiness? Is not that, which alone can make us worthy to receive anything from our Heavenly Father, the righteousness of the Lord Jesus, which is imputed to those who believe in Him? Therefore, dear reader, as we pray in our every need, of whatever character it may be, in connection with this work, to our Father in Heaven for help, **and as He does help us, so is He willing to help all His children who put their trust in Him.**

It was the coldest morning we have had the whole winter. In my morning walk for prayer and meditation I thought how well I was supplied with coals, nourishing food, and warm clothing, and how many of the dear children of God might be in need; **and I lifted up my heart to God to give me more means for myself, that I might be able, by actions, to show more abundant sympathy with the poor believers in their need;** and it was but three hours after when I received this £10 for myself.

I prayed for means for present use, though not confining my prayers to that. About a quarter of an hour after I had risen from my knees, I received a letter, with an order for £5. The donor writes, that it is 'the proceeds of a strip of land, sold to the railway company.' **What various means does the Lord employ to send us help, in answer to our prayers!**

("Answers to Prayer" Ed. N: *With the enlargement of the work, by which some 330 persons needed to be provided for, the trials of faith continued. Mr. Müller writes...*)

"If we formerly had no certain income, so now have we none. **We have to look to God for everything in connection with the work**, of which often, however, the pecuniary necessities are the smallest matter; **but to Him we are enabled to look, and therefore it is, that we are not disappointed.**"

...though much had come in, since the commencement of this new period, yet **our expenses had been greater than our income**, as every donation almost of which the disposal was left with me, had been put to the Building Fund. Thus the balance in hand ... notwithstanding the large income since then, was reduced to about £8. **I therefore gave myself particularly to prayer for means, that this small sum might be increased.**

This morning Luke vii came in the course of my reading before breakfast. While reading the account about the Centurion and the raising from death the widow's son at Nain, I lifted up my heart to the Lord Jesus thus: **'Lord Jesus, Thou hast the same power now. Thou canst provide me with means for Thy work in my hands. Be pleased to do so.'** About half an hour afterwards I received £230 15s. The joy which such answers to prayer afford, cannot be described. **I was determined to wait upon God only, and not to work an unscriptural deliverance for myself.** I have thousands of pounds for the Building Fund; but I would not take of this sum because it was once set apart for that object...I would not thus step out of God's way of obtaining help. At the very time when this donation arrived, I had packed up £100 which I happened to have in hand; received for the Building Fund, in order to take it to the Bank, as I was determined not to touch it, but to wait upon God. My soul does magnify the Lord for His goodness.

It was therefore desirable, humanly speaking, to have £100 for these heavy extra expenses, besides means for the current expenses. But I had no human prospect whatever of getting even 100 pence, much less £100. In addition to this, to-day was Monday, when generally the income is little. **But, in walking to the Orphan-House this morning, and praying as I went, I particularly told the Lord in prayer, that on this day, though Monday, He could send me much.** And thus it was. I

received this morning £301 for the Lord's service, as might be most needed.--The joy which I had cannot be described. I walked up and down in my room for a long time, tears of joy and gratitude to the Lord raining plentifully over my cheeks, praising and magnifying the Lord for His goodness, and surrendering myself afresh, with all my heart, to Him for His blessed service. I scarcely ever felt more the kindness of the Lord in helping me.

Even now the children of God are often in greater trial than ever, just before help and deliverance come.

A Christian gentleman called and gave me £1 for the Orphans and £200 for foreign missions. He had received these sums from an aged Christian woman, whose savings as a servant, during her WHOLE life, made up the £200, and who, having recently had left to her a little annual income of about £30, felt herself constrained, by the love of Christ, to send the savings of her whole life for foreign missions. Our especial prayer had been again and again, that the Lord would be pleased to send in means for missionary brethren, as I had reason to believe they were in much need of help.

All of them (the children of God) may, yea, are called upon to trust in God, to rely upon Him, in their various positions and circumstances, and apply the word of God, faith, and prayer to their family circumstances, their earthly occupation, their afflictions and necessities of every kind, both temporally and spiritually... Make but trial of it, if you have never done so before, and you will see how happy a life it is.

Truly I prefer by far this life of almost constant trial, if I am only able to roll all my cares upon my Heavenly Father, and thus become increasingly acquainted with Him, to a life of outward peace and quietness, without these constant proofs of His faithfulness, His wisdom, His love, His power, His over-ruling providence, and so forth.

Received from Clerkenwell £50 to be used one-half for missions, and the other half as I thought best. I took the one-half for the support of the Orphans... **What a precious answer to prayer!' Since... we have been day by day coming to the Lord for our daily supplies.** Precious, also, on account of Missionary brethren, whom I seek to help, for whom there was nothing in hand when this donation was received.

Never, since the work has been in existence, has there a meal-time come, but the Orphans have had good nourishing food in sufficient quantity: and never have they needed clothes, but I have had the means to provide them with all they required. Never since the Orphan work has been in existence have I asked one single human being for any help for this work; and yet, **unasked for, simply in answer to prayer, from so many parts of the world, as has been stated, the donations have come in, and that very frequently at a time of the greatest need.**

Every Wednesday evening I meet with my helpers for united prayer; and day by day I have stated seasons, when I seek to bring the work with its great variety of spiritual and temporal necessities, before the Lord in prayer, having perhaps each day 50 or more matters to bring before Him, and thus I obtain the blessing. I ask no human being for help concerning the work. Nay, if I could obtain £10,000 through each application for help; by God's grace, I would not ask. And why not? Because **I have dedicated my whole life cheerfully to the precious service of giving to the world and to the church, a clear, distinct, and undeniable demonstration, that it is a blessed thing to trust in, and to wait upon, God; that He is now, as He**

ever was, the Living God, the same as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and that if we know and are reconciled to Him through faith in the Lord Jesus, and ask Him in His name for that which is according to His mind, **He will surely give it to us, in His own time, provided that we believe that He will.** *Nor has God failed me at any time. Forty years have I proved His faithfulness, in this work.*

There came in the course of my reading, through the Holy Scriptures, Isaiah 26: 4, **'Trust ye in the Lord for ever; for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.'**--I laid aside my Bible, fell on my knees, and prayed thus: *I believe that there is everlasting strength in the Lord Jehovah, and I do trust in Him; help me, O Lord, for ever to trust in Thee. Be pleased to give me more means this day, and much this week, though only so little now has come in...* and in the course of the week altogether £457 came in; thus **Jehovah again proved, that in Him is everlasting strength, and that He is worthy to be trusted.**--Dear believing reader, **seek but in the same way to trust in the Lord, if you are not in the habit of doing so already,** and you will find as I have found thousands of times, **how blessed it is... the first, and most important thing, such a one has to do, is to trust in the Lord Jesus for the salvation of his soul, that he may be reconciled to God, and obtain the forgiveness of his sins.**

During the coming year I expect the expenses to be considerably greater. **But God, who has helped me these many years, will, I believe, help me in future also.** You see, esteemed reader, how the Lord, in His faithful love helped us year after year. With every year the expenses increased, because the operations of the Institutions were further enlarged; **but He never failed us.** You may say, however, 'What would you do, if He should fail in helping you?' My reply is, that cannot be, as long as we trust in Him and do not live in sin...'*If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.*' Psalm 66: 18. **Hitherto, by God's grace, I have been enabled to continue to trust in Him alone; and hitherto, though failing and weak**

in many ways, yet, by God's grace, I have been enabled to walk uprightly, hating sin and loving holiness, and longing after increased conformity to the Lord Jesus.

As the days come, we make known our requests to Him...but though the expenses have been so great, He has never failed us. We have indeed, as to the outward appearance, like the 'Burning Bush in the Wilderness;' yet **we have not been consumed.** Moreover, we are full of trust in the Lord, and therefore of good courage, though we have before us the prospect, that, year by year, our expenses will increase more and more. **Did all my beloved fellow disciples, who seek to work for God know the blessedness of looking truly to God alone, and trusting in Him alone, they would soon see how soul refreshing this way is, and how entirely beyond disappointment, so far as He is concerned.** Earthly friends may alter their minds regarding the work in which we are engaged; but **if indeed we work for God, whoever may alter His mind regarding our service, He will not.** Earthly friends may lose their ability to help us, however much they desire so to do; **but He remains throughout eternity the infinitely Rich One.... He is able, in all directions, though the requirements were multiplied a million times, to supply all that can possibly be needed, and does it with delight, where His work is carried on, and where He is confided in...He lives for ever, He cannot die...** I have especially, during the past 40 years, in connection with this Institution, seen the blessedness of trusting in the Living God alone... nor ten, but **many more, who once helped me much with their means, have been removed by death; but have the operations of the Institution been stopped on that account? No. And how came this? Because I trusted in God, and in God alone.**

From August, 1838, to April, 1849... **we had day by day, almost without interruption, to look to Him for our daily supplies, and, for a great part of the time, from meal to meal...**the Institution is now twenty times larger, than it was then, and our purchases are to be made in a wholesale way... **I am comforted by the knowledge, that God is aware of all this.** If this way be for the glory of His name, and for the good of His church and the unconverted world, I am, by His

grace, willing to go this way, and to do it to the end of my course...**God, our infinitely rich Treasurer, remains to us. It is this which gives me peace.**

Two Thousand and One Hundred persons not only daily at the table, but with everything else to be provided for...189 Missionaries to be assisted; about one hundred schools, with about nine thousand scholars in them, to be entirely supported; about Four Millions of Tracts and Tens of Thousands of copies of the Holy Scriptures yearly now to be sent out...**God, who has raised up this work through me, God who has led me generally year after year to enlarge it, God who has supported this work now** for more than forty years, **will still help, and will not suffer me to be confounded, because I rely upon Him, I commit the whole work to Him, and He will provide me with what I need, in future also, though I know not, whence the means are to come.'**

"What was now to be done, dear reader, under these circumstances, when all the money for the School, Bible, Missionary and Tract Fund was again gone? I reply, we did what we have done for 47 years, that is, **we waited continually upon God. My dear fellow-labourers in Bristol, and my dear wife and myself in America, brought our necessities again and again before the Lord. Besides our habitual daily prayer for help, we had especial seasons 4, 5, and 6 times a day additionally, for pouring out our hearts before our Heavenly Father, and making known our requests unto Him, being assured that help would come: and we have not waited upon the Lord in vain. This plan may be despised by some, ridiculed by others, and considered insufficient by a third class of persons; but, under every trial and difficulty, we find prayer and faith to be our universal remedy; and, after having experienced for half a century their efficacy, we purpose, by God's help, to continue waiting upon Him, in order to show to an ungodly world, and to a doubting Church, that the Living God is still able and willing to answer prayer, and that it is the joy of His heart to listen to the**

supplications of His children. In Psalm 9: 10, the Divine testimony regarding Jehovah is, '*They that know thy name will put their trust in Thee.*' We know Him, by His grace, and do therefore put our trust in Him.

The income has been for some time past only about the third part of the expenses. Consequently, all we have for the support of the Orphans is nearly gone; and for the first four Objects of the Institution we have nothing at all in hand. **The natural appearance now is, that the work cannot be carried on. But I BELIEVE that the Lord will help, both with means for the Orphans and also for the other Objects of the Institution, and that we shall not be confounded; also, that the work shall not need to be given up. I am fully expecting help, and have written this to the glory of God, that it may be recorded hereafter for the encouragement of His children. The result will be seen.**

(Editor's Note: '***The result has indeed been seen and will be seen.***' – writes the compiler of "Answers to Prayer" - '***For more than 20 years since those words were written and Mr. Müller had thus recorded his confidence in the Lord's help, God HAS sustained the work.***' - **more than £500,000 were received and expended** in that time span)

The balance for the Orphans is now reduced lower than it has been for more than twenty-five years. This sum we have in hand to meet the daily expenses in connection with 2,100 persons. It is only enough for the average outgoings of 4½ days. **But our eyes are upon the Lord. I look to my heavenly Provider.**

He also gives proof, that **when we were so low as to funds, it was only for the trial of our faith and patience**, and not in anger; nor did He thereby mean to indicate, that He would not help us any more. **For my own part, I expected further great help from God, and I have not been confounded.**

Think of this, dear reader! Day by day about 2,100 persons are to be provided for in the Orphan Institution, and £10 2s. 7d. was all that was in hand to do this. You

see that we are just in the same position in which we were 46 years since as to funds. God is our banker. In Him we trust, and on Him we draw by faith.

"God is pleased continually to vary His mode of dealing with us, in order that we may not be tempted to trust in donors, or in circumstances, but in Him alone, and to keep our eye fixed upon Him. This, by His grace, we are enabled to do, and our hearts are kept in peace.

For about 21 months with scarcely the least intermission the trial of our faith and patience has continued. Now, to-day, the Lord has refreshed our hearts. This afternoon came in, for the Lord's work, £1,427 1s. 7d. as part payment of a legacy of the late Mrs. E. C. S. For 3 years and 10 months this money had been in the Irish Chancery Court. Hundreds of petitions had been brought before the Lord regarding it, and now at last, this portion of the total legacy has been received." This is the largest donation I have ever received at one time... **I kept on praying, however, and for six years prayed day by day that the money might be paid, believing that God in His own time (which is always the best), would help at last...** In the present case, too, **after faith and patience had been sufficiently exercised, God granted this request likewise."**

Under what particular trials we entered upon the last financial year of the Institution...but we trusted in God; with unshaken confidence we looked to Him, and we expected that we should somehow or other be helped. While thus we went on, my heart was at peace habitually, being assured that all this was permitted by God, to prepare a blessing for thousands, who would afterwards read the record of His dealings with us.

...putting aside the Bible... I fell on my knees and asked God that He would graciously be pleased to repeat His former kindness, and to supply me again more abundantly with means. Accordingly in less than half an hour, I received...and had thus £152 in all, this day, as the result of prayer.

I am never discouraged by very little only coming in, but say to myself, and also to my dear helpers, '**More prayer, more patience, and more exercise of faith will bring greater blessing**'; for thus I have invariably found it, since... now 63 years ago, when I first began this life of entire dependence upon God for everything.

The beginning of the day was darker as to outward appearances than ever: but we trusted in God for help.

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FIVE CONDITIONS OF PREVAILING PRAYER

1.--Entire dependence upon the merits and mediation of the Lord Jesus Christ, as the only ground of any claim for blessing. (See John 14: 13, 14; 15: 16)

2.--Separation from all known sin. If we regard iniquity in our hearts, the Lord will not hear us, for it would be sanctioning sin. (Psalm 66: 18.)

3.--Faith in God's word of promise as confirmed by His oath. Not to believe Him is to make Him both a liar and a perjurer. (Hebrews 11: 6; 6: 13-20.)

4.--Asking in accordance with His will. Our motives must be godly: we must not seek any gift of God to consume it upon our lusts. (1 John 5: 14; James 4:3.)

5.--Importunity in supplication. There must be waiting on God and waiting for God, as the husbandman has long patience to wait for the harvest. (James 5 7; Luke 18: 1-8.)

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