

Theological Prayers

by Peter Taylor Forsyth

True Christian prayer must have theology, and theology must be capable of being prayed to keep each other great, and wide, and mighty.

Scripture: Psalm 119:105, Jeremiah 33:3, Colossians 4:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, James 5:16

Topics: "Christian Prayer", "Theology"

Description

Peter Taylor Forsyth emphasizes the importance of prayer as a direct connection with God, likening it to original research in science. He highlights the significance of using the Bible as a source of inspiration for prayer, encouraging a deep understanding of its teachings to cultivate a universal gospel in our prayers. Forsyth stresses the intertwining of theology and prayer, stating that true Christian prayer must contain theology, and vice versa, to maintain their greatness and depth.

Transcript

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not"

(Jer. 33:3).

Prayer is for the religious life what original research is for science--by it we get direct contact with reality. The soul is brought into union with its own vaster nature--God. Therefore, also, we must use the Bible as an original; for, indeed, the Bible is the most copious spring of prayer, and of power, and of range. If we learn to pray from the Bible, and avoid a mere cento of its phrases, we shall cultivate in our prayer the large humane note of a universal gospel. Let us nurse our prayer on our study of our Bible; and let us, therefore, not be too afraid of theological prayer. True Christian prayer must have theology in it; no less than true theology must have prayer in it and must be capable of being prayed. 'Your theology is too difficult,' said Charles V to the Reformers; 'it cannot be understood without much prayer.' Yes, that is our arduous puritan way. Prayer and theology must interpenetrate to keep each other great, and wide, and mighty. The failure of the habit of prayer is at the root of much of our light distaste for theology.

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