

THE COLLECT

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve; Pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy; forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. Amen.



1. Read Isaiah 65:24. God tells us that he will _____ before they _____.
2. God is always more ready to _____ than we are to _____.
3. Read in Luke 15:18-24 what the prodigal son says and what his father does upon the son's return home.
 - A. What did the son desire?
 1. to be treated as a hired _____
 - B. The father instead gave him more than he desired or deserved. What did the father give?
 1. the best _____, a _____ on his hand, and _____ on his feet
4. Remembering that the Father in the parable is a symbol of God, and the son is a symbol of us, does it look like the Collect is correct in praying that God is wont to give more than either we desire or deserve? (yes/no)
5. What do we beseech Him to pour down upon us?
 - A. The abundance of His _____
6. What do we beseech Him to forgive us?
 - A. Those things whereof our conscience is _____
7. What do we beseech God to give us?
 - A. Those good things which we are not _____ to ask.



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INTRODUCTION.

The Old Testament Lesson of today is an example of a man encouraged to pray, and of God giving more than he asked. Read 2 Kings 2:1-16



I. THE SUGGESTION.

Elijah was about to leave Elisha. He wanted his work to go on, and he wanted Elisha to carry it on, so he encouraged him to ask for it. This is what our Lord did before He left the earth. He wanted His apostles to carry on His work. So He stirred them up to seek the grace and help they needed. So in earlier days God had stirred up Solomon, who had a great work to do—to seek for wisdom by which he might carry it out. God still encourages us to pray by His promises of answer and by the forgiveness of our sins, removing the hindrance to prayer, “forgiving those things whereof our conscience is afraid.” by the merits of Christ, giving us a sure ground for our prayers, that He may give us “those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits of Christ Jesus our Lord.”

II. THE SUBJECT.

Elisha’s prayer was for the Holy Spirit. No prayer is more pleasing to God than this. No prayer is more certain of an answer.

III. A DOUBLE PORTION.

Elisha asked for a double portion of God’s Spirit, not that he might have more of the Spirit than Elijah, but that he might have the eldest son’s portion; that he might be as the eldest brother among all the young prophets that Elijah left behind him. He did not expect to take Elijah’s place. He was much too humble to think of such a thing.

IV. A HARD THING.

It meant a hard thing for Elisha, for to take any leading part in God’s work did not mean an easy life; it meant danger, persecution, suffering, self-denial, giving up his own will and way. Just as if a soldier should ask his general to be allowed to lead a forlorn hope, or to carry a message for help through the enemy’s lines to his friends on the other side. The general might say, “You have asked a hard thing.” Yet it is worth while to be filled with God’s Spirit. It will be worth more than all the cost and sacrifice.

V. THE SUCCESS.

Elisha received all he asked, and carried on the work of Elijah.

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