

A GUIDE TO PRAYER

A Guide to Prayer

OR

A FREE AND RATIONAL ACCOUNT OF THE
GIFT, GRACE, AND SPIRIT OF PRAYER;
WITH PLAIN DIRECTIONS
HOW EVERY CHRISTIAN MAY ATTAIN THEM



BY

DR. ISAAC WATTS

Lord, teach us to pray.—LUKE 11:1.

CURIOSMITH
MINNEAPOLIS

Published by Curiosmith.
Minneapolis, Minnesota.
Internet: curiosmith.com.

Previously published by EMANUEL MATTHEWS in 1715.

Supplementary content, book layout, and cover design:
Copyright © 2018 Charles J. Doe

ISBN 9781946145321

CONTENTS



PREFACE . . . 7

INTRODUCTION . . . 13

CHAPTER 1—THE NATURE OF PRAYER . . . 15

SECTION I—OF INVOCATION . . . 15

SECTION II—OF ADORATION . . . 16

SECTION III—OF CONFESSION . . . 18

SECTION IV—OF PETITION . . . 20

SECTION V—OF PLEADING . . . 23

SECTION VI—OF PROFESSION OR SELF-DEDICATION . . . 27

SECTION VII—OF THANKSGIVING . . . 30

SECTION VIII—OF BLESSING . . . 32

SECTION IX—AMEN, OR THE CONCLUSION . . . 33

CHAPTER 2—OF THE GIFT OF PRAYER . . . 35

SECTION I—WHAT THE GIFT OF PRAYER IS . . . 35

SECTION II—OF FORMS OF PRAYER, OF FREE OR CONCEIVED
PRAYER, AND PRAYING EXTEMPORE . . . 36

SECTION III—OF THE MATTER OF PRAYER . . . 46

SECTION IV—OF THE METHOD OF PRAYER . . . 57

SECTION V—OF EXPRESSION IN PRAYER . . . 61

SECTION VI—OF THE VOICE IN PRAYER . . . 75

SECTION VII—OF GESTURE IN PRAYER . . . 80

SECTION VIII—GENERAL DIRECTIONS ABOUT THE GIFT OF PRAYER . . . 88

CHAPTER 3—OF THE GRACE OF PRAYER . . . 93

SECTION I—WHAT THE GRACE OF PRAYER IS, AND HOW IT DIFFERS
FROM THE GIFT . . . 93

SECTION II—GENERAL GRACES OF PRAYER . . . 96

SECTION III—GRACES THAT BELONG TO PARTICULAR PARTS OF
PRAYER . . . 98

SECTION IV—DIRECTIONS TO ATTAIN THE GRACE OF PRAYER . . . 101

CONTENTS (*Continued*)

CHAPTER 4—OF THE SPIRIT OF PRAYER . . . 105

SECTION I—PROOFS OF THE ASSISTANCE OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD IN
PRAYER . . . 106

SECTION II—HOW THE SPIRIT ASSISTS US IN PRAYER . . . 113

SECTION III—CAUTIONS ABOUT THE INFLUENCES OF THE SPIRIT . . . 123

SECTION IV—DIRECTIONS TO OBTAIN AND KEEP THE SPIRIT OF
PRAYER . . . 131

CHAPTER 5—A PERSUASIVE TO LEARN TO PRAY . . . 139