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A table of contents for *The Bible Student* can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_bible-student_01.php

and yet 'He ever liveth to make intercession for us' (Heb. 8:23). Moreover, this Servant is as active today—in and with all who serve Him by making Him known to their fellow-men and women, in whatever nation and sphere, who 'go forth to preach, *the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs following*', i.e., in the conversion of souls (see chap. 16:20). Let the prophet's words re-echo in our hearts: '*Behold My Servant*'.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

There are wonderful examples in Scripture of the power of prayer. Nothing seems to be too great, too hard, or too difficult for the power of prayer to do. It has obtained things that seemed impossible and out of reach. It has won victories over fire, air, earth, and water. Prayer opened the Red Sea. Prayer brought water from the rock and bread from heaven. Prayer made the sun stand still. Prayer brought fire from the sky on Elijah's sacrifice. Prayer turned the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness. Prayer overthrew the army of Sennacherib. Well might Mary Queen of Scots say "I fear John Knox's prayers more than an army of ten thousand men." Prayer has healed the sick. Prayer has raised the dead. Prayer has procured the conversion of souls. Nothing seems impossible when a man has the Spirit of adoption. So long as Abraham asked mercy for Sodom, the Lord went on giving. He never ceased to give till Abraham ceased to pray. Think of this. Is not this encouragement?

DR. J. C. RYLE