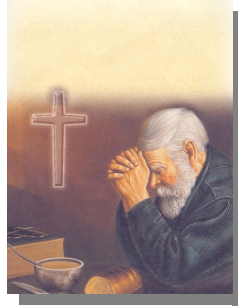


# The Godly Man



**A**LL men are not godly. Alas! The ungodly are the great majority of the human race. When a man is beginning to be godly, this is the first sign of the change that is being wrought in him: "Behold, he prayeth." Prayer is the mark of godliness in its infancy. Until he has come to pleading and petitioning, we cannot be sure that the divine life is in him at all. There may be desires; but if they never turn to prayers, we may fear that they are as the morning cloud and as the early dew, which soon pass away.

But when the man comes to real pleading terms with God, when he cannot rest without pouring out his heart at the mercy-seat, you begin to hope that now he is indeed a godly man. Prayer is the breath of life in the newborn believer. Prayer is the first cry by which it is known that the newborn child truly lives. If he does not pray, you may suspect that he has only a name to live, and that he lacks true spiritual life.—*Charles Spurgeon*