

rituals. The fundamental purpose of this magic was selfish. It was to compel the supernatural to become the servant of mankind. Many people who are nominally Christians have a magical idea of Christianity. They think that if a person goes through a certain form of baptism, or performs a certain ritual, he will thereby bring certain good things to himself. Through a phrase or a rite man compels God to bless him. This is utterly at variance from the Christian idea of faith. Nothing we can do can compel God to bless us. God is ready and anxious to bless us. But He can do so only as we are in a condition to receive His Blessing. As we come to pray in the desire that our wills may be so sunk in His Will, our beings so sunk in His Being, that what He grants will give us the utmost pleasure, only so can we come into the relation with Him which may be described as that of having faith in Him. The prayer of faith is the prayer which looks to God as all-powerful, able to do far beyond all that we can conceive of, all-loving anxious to do what is for the very best, and all-wise, knowing what is best and what He can will do for us.

One of the prophets depicts God weeping over His people, declaring how He would have blessed them if they would let Him. The companion picture is found in the New Testament "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not." (Matth. 23: 37)