Excerpt from The Philosophy of Prayer

This class of writings, with few exceptions, is singularly lacking in scientific method. The approach to its themes is not the intellectual approach. It is more the poetic method of drifting into things by way of meditation. It may be contended that the cold-blooded scrutiny of scientific method or the apparently colorless treatment of philosophical reasoning is out of place in a consideration of the subject of prayer. Prayer is a matter of the heart. It lies in the realm of feeling, of mysticism, of intuition. But just so long as such an attitude is taken just so long must the general thought of prayer remain vague and confused. What is the reason for this assumption? May not prayer submit to analysis and still retain its mysticism, its emotional content, its intuitional aspect, if these can be shown to be in accord with reality? Our devotional attitude will lose nothing in fervency or in sincerity by clarifying the meaning of prayer. Anything that can throw light on matters of spiritual life is of service to religion. Anything that will help us to a better understanding of what we are doing. About the Publisher

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