



**Thomas Goodwin**  
**(1600-1679)**

14  
THE  
RETVRNE  
OF  
PRAYERS.

A Treatise,  
VVHEREIN THIS CASE

[How to discerne Gods Answers to our Prayers]  
is briefly resolved:

WITH  
Other Observations upon Psalm 85.8.  
concerning Gods speaking Peace, &c.

By THO: GOODWIN, B.D.

HAB. 2. 1.

*I will watch to see what he will say to me.*

L O N D O N,  
Printed by M. F. for R. Dawlman. 1643.

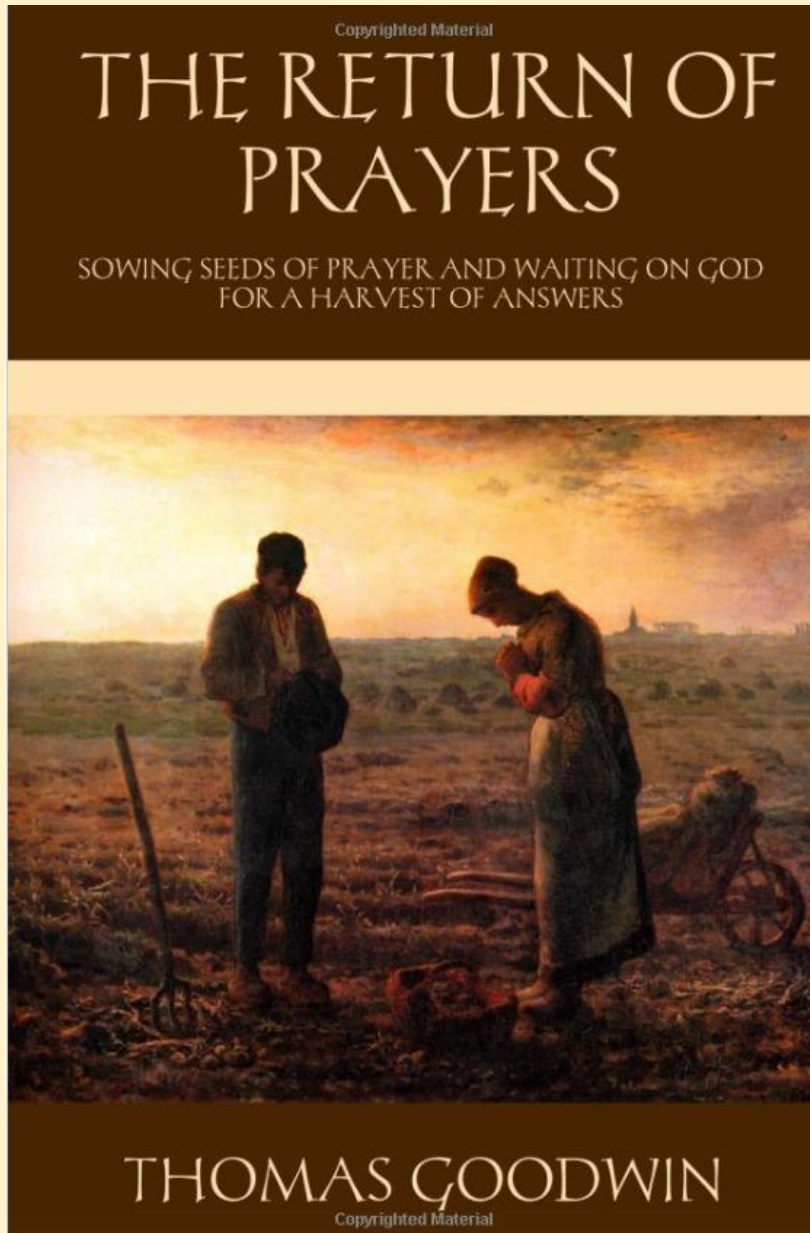




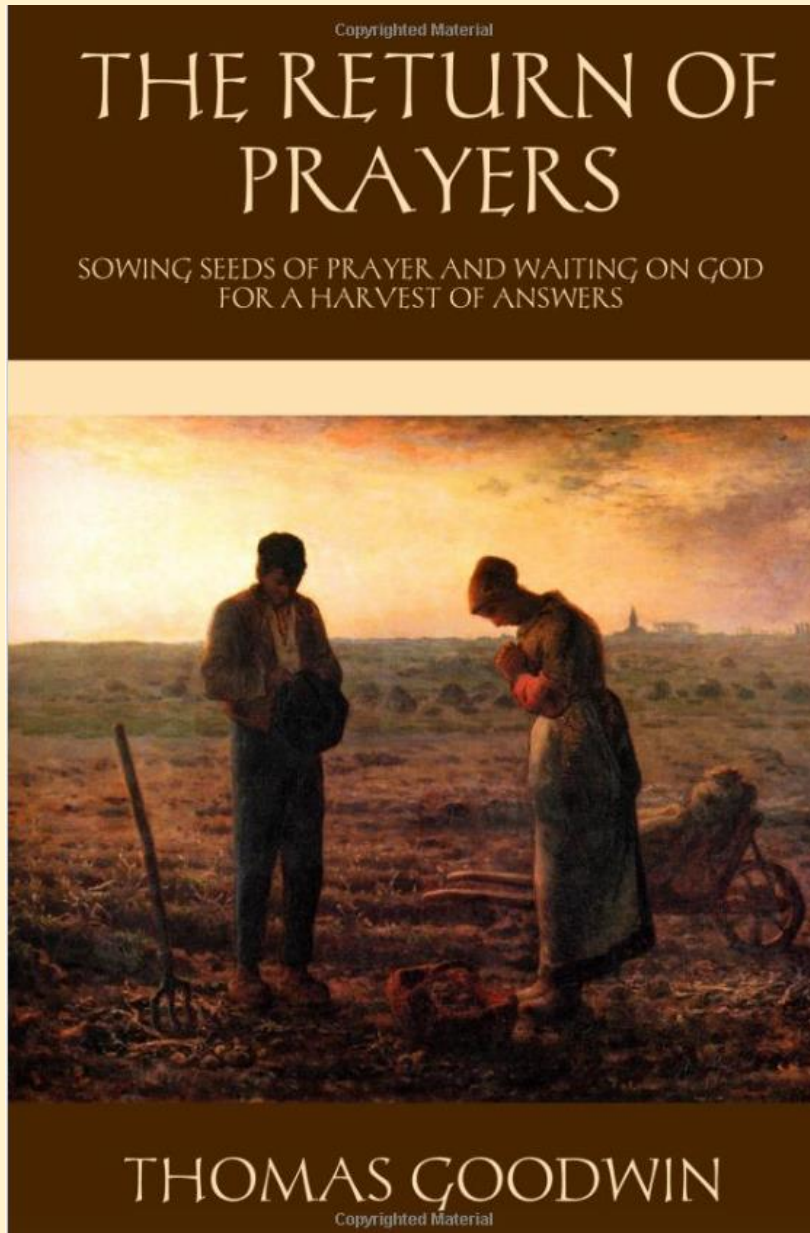
By permission of 'National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

***Yet many who are true investors in prayer neglect to watch for the return of answers. When the voyage of their prayers proves long, they grow discouraged, as though their ships were lost at sea.***

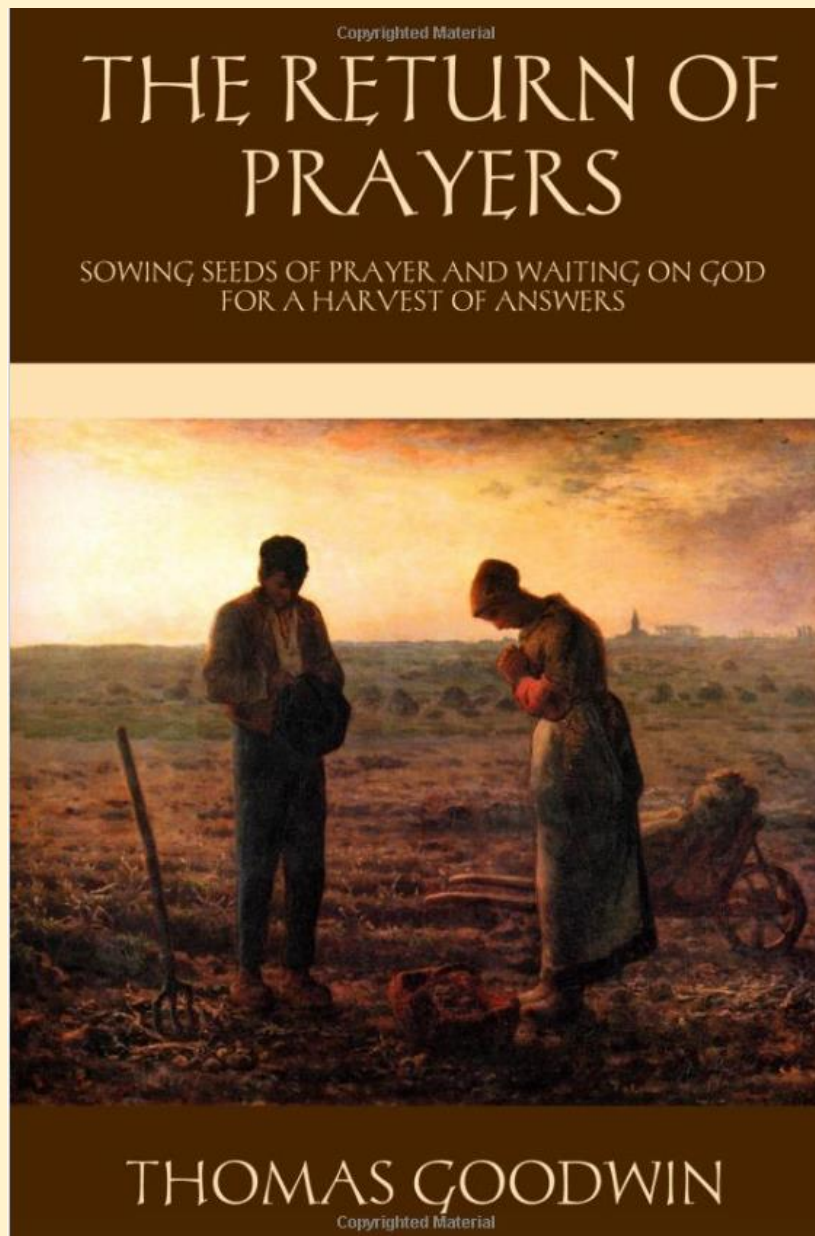




***The main observation  
and subject of this  
discourse . . . That  
God's people are  
diligently to observe  
the answers to their  
prayers.***



***A reproof of those  
that pray, but look not  
after the return of  
their prayers;***



*A reproof of those that pray, but look not after the return of their prayers; the causes of this neglect.*

***To show you why even in your own hearts you are discouraged after you have prayed, as if they [your requests] would not be answered, although God does answer them.***





**I. Your assurance is weak  
that God accepts you.**



# **I. Your assurance is weak that God accepts you.**

***If a man comes to sue any man whose mind he knew not, whether he loved him or not, he would have small hope or expectation of having his suit granted, though he came again and again.***

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.



These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life. <sup>14</sup> And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life. <sup>14</sup> And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that He hears us *in* whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him (1 Jn. 5:13-15 NAS).



**II. You are discouraged  
about the weakness of  
your prayers.**

**1 God does not hear us for our prayer's sake.**





## **II. You are discouraged about the weakness of your prayers.**

**1 God does not hear us for our prayer's sake.**

**John 15:16**

# REQUISITION

# **R E Q U I S I T I O N**

**To present an official authorization for  
the use or supply of something.**



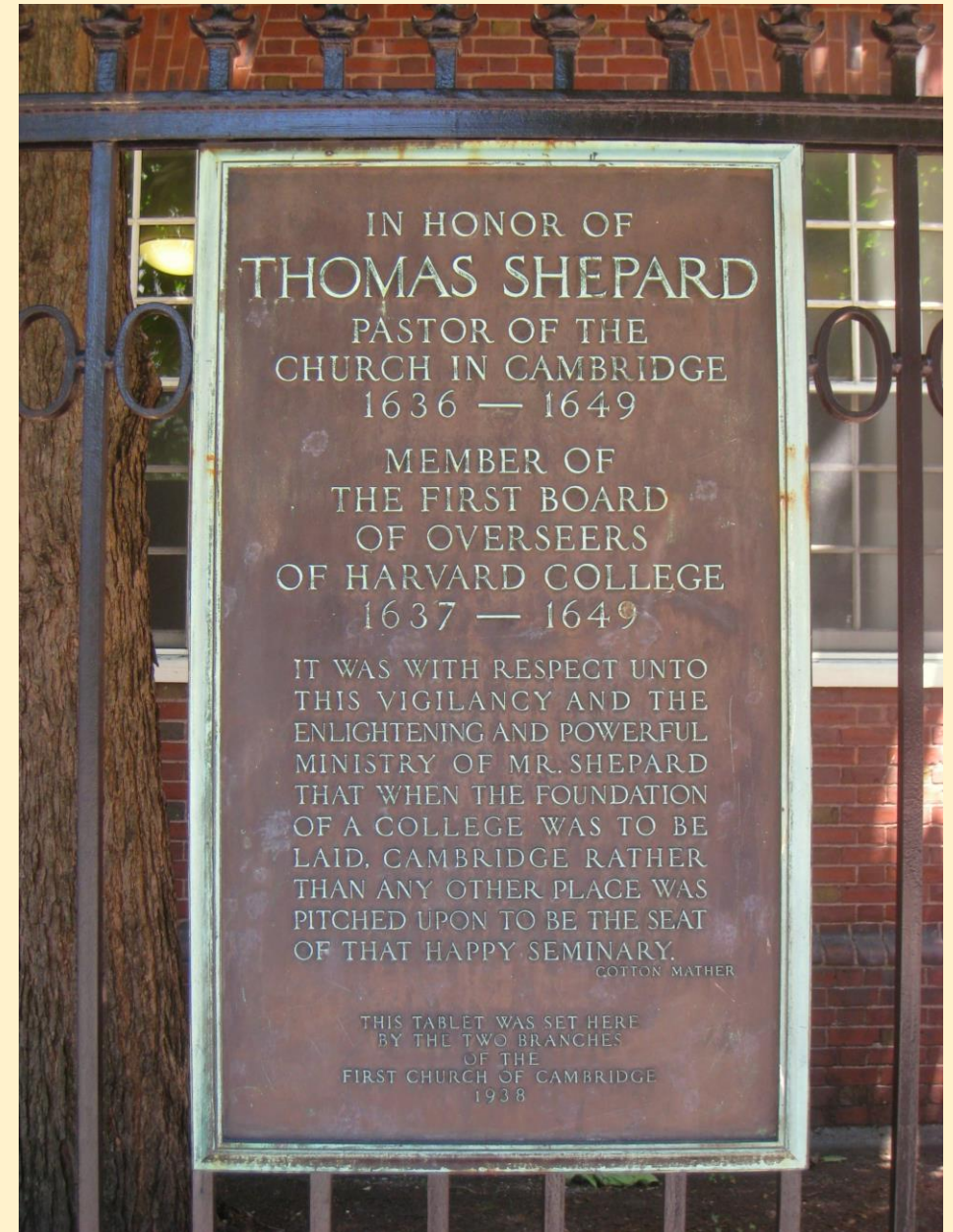


## **II. You are discouraged about the weakness of your prayers.**

**1 God does not hear us for our prayer's sake.**

**2 The “performance” may be weak, but the prayer  
itself may be strong.**

*I saw how great a sin it was to make feeling the ground and cause of my faith, and I also thought how exceedingly I should honor Jesus Christ if I did believe before I felt, how I should honor the truth of Christ who said He is one that hears prayers.*



***Our God trusts us to trust Him.  
Let us not disappoint God. Let  
us rise to this great trust.***

***--Amy Carmichael***





## **II. You are discouraged about the weakness of your prayers.**

- 1 God does not hear us for our prayer's sake.**
- 2 The “performance” may be weak, but the prayer itself may be strong.**
- 3 We are often misjudging the weakness of our prayers.**



***They judge of the weakness of their prayers by their expressions, and gifts in performing them, or by the stirring and overflowing of affections.***

Isaiah 38:14 "Like a swallow, *like* a crane, so I twitter; I moan like a dove; My eyes look wistfully to the heights; O Lord, I am oppressed, be my security (Isa. 38:14 NAS).



***Many dumb beggars have  
been relieved at Christ's  
gate by making signs.***

**--William Secker**