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## According to God's Word what is the Church universal?

And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all (NASB; Eph. 2:22-23).

FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. <sup>32</sup> This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church (NASB; Eph. 5:31-32).

. . . *I write* so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth (NASB; I Tim. 3:15).

**According to God's Word the Church universal is the body and bride of the Lord Jesus Christ, the household of God, the pillar and support of the truth.**



## According to God's Word what is a local church?

. . . the church in Ephesus. . . the church in Smyrna. . . the church in Pergamum. . . the church in Thyatira. . . the church in Sardis. . . the church in Philadelphia. . . the church in Laodicea (NASB; Rev. 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14).

From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. . . Be on guard among yourselves and for all the flock, among whom the Holy Spirit has made you overseers (NASB; Acts 20:17, 28a).

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons (NASB; Phil. 1:1b ).

John 4:23-24; Acts 2:42; I Thess. 1:8; I Pet. 4:10-11

**According to God's Word a local church is an assembly of mutually acknowledged Christians, organized in one locale under scriptural leadership, for the purposes of worship, apostolic instruction, prayer, fellowship, evangelism, service, and the observance of the ordinances.**



(14)  
THE  
RETURNE  
OF  
PRAYERS.

A Treatise,  
VVHEREIN THIS CASE

[*How to discern 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.



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

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# THE RETURN OF PRAYERS

SOWING SEEDS OF PRAYER AND WAITING ON GOD  
FOR A HARVEST OF ANSWERS



THOMAS GOODWIN

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## Psalm 85:8

I will hear what  
God the LORD will  
say. . .

# Directions for watching for returns

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From observations *before* and *in*  
praying.

**Before praying:**

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**When God secretly speaks to the heart to pray much about a thing.**

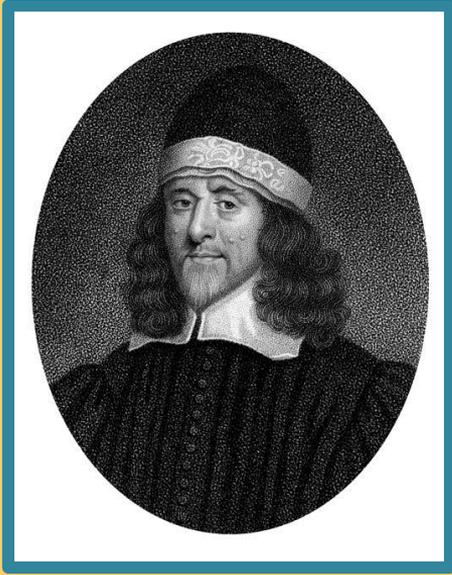
**Before praying:**

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***A praying disposition***

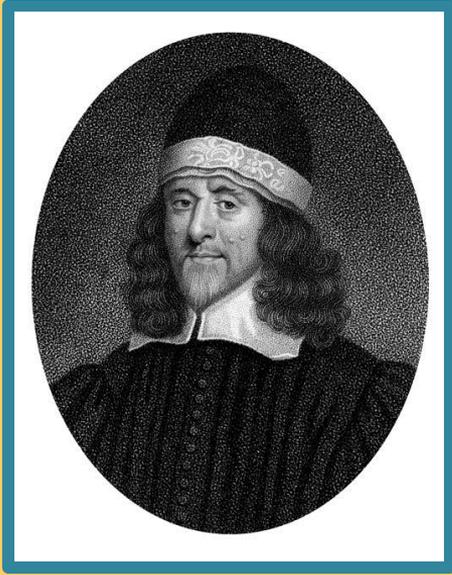


***He puts in motives, suggests arguments and pleas to God; all of which you shall find come in readily, and of themselves,***



*He puts in motives, suggests arguments and pleas to God; all of which you shall find come in readily, and of themselves, and that **likewise with a***

***quickenning heat and enlargement of the affections,***



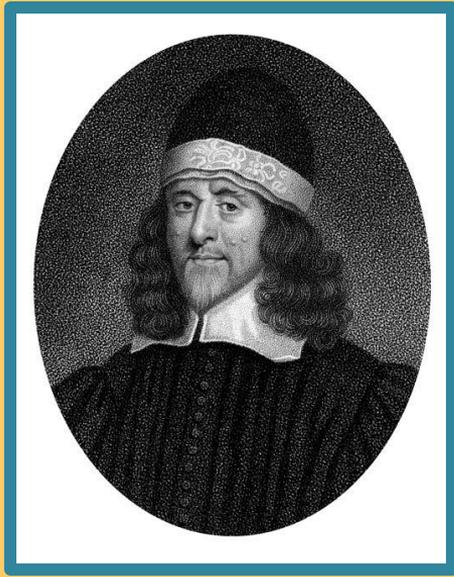
*He puts in motives, suggests arguments and pleas to God; all of which you shall find come in readily, and of themselves, and that likewise with a*

*quickenning heat and enlargement of the affections, and **with a lingering, and longing, and restlessness of spirit to be alone. . .***

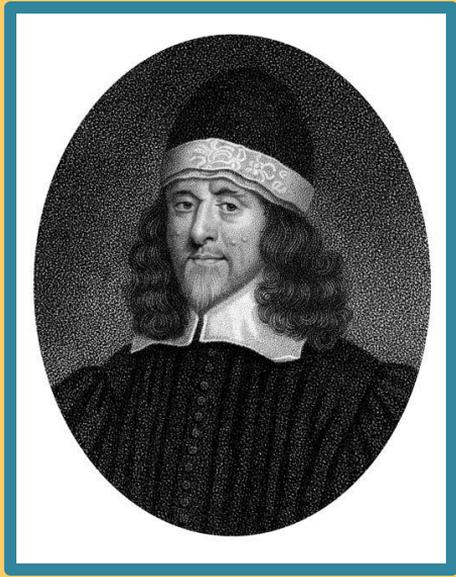
***This is speaking to the heart.***

**Nehemiah 7:5 *Then my God  
put it into my heart. . .***

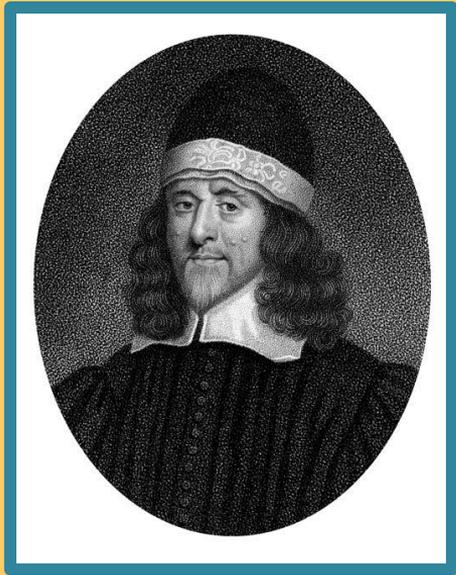
**Haggai 1:14** *So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God.*



***Let me give this note of difference between these speakings to the heart and those whereby Satan puts us upon such duties at unseasonable hours and times. . .***



***. . . as when we are otherwise  
to be employed in our callings,  
to eat, or to sleep, etc. . . .***



*... as when we are otherwise to be employed in our callings, to eat, or to sleep, etc... . Then to put upon praying is a device of his he useth to tire out new*

*converts with.*

**The Devil:**

**--imperiously, violently enflames  
the conscience.**

## **The Devil:**

- imperiously, violently enflames  
the conscience.**
- but does not enlarge the heart.**

**The Lord:**

**--fits and prepares the heart,**

## **The Lord:**

**--fits and prepares the heart, filling the soul with holy suggestions as materials for the duty.**

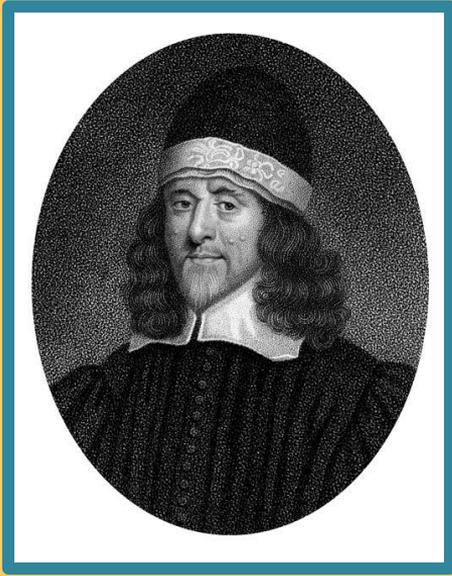
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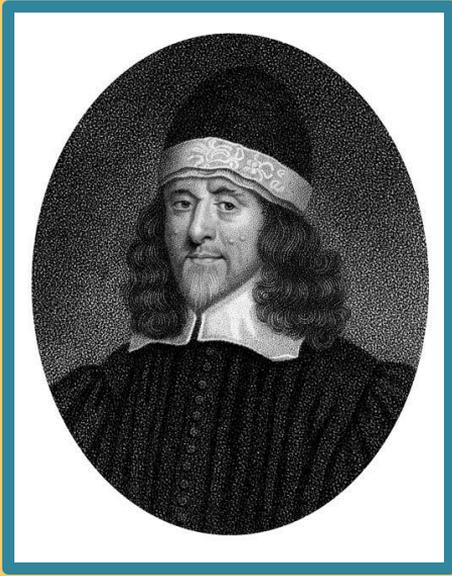
**Daniel 9:1-27**

Directions from observations *before* . .  
. praying.

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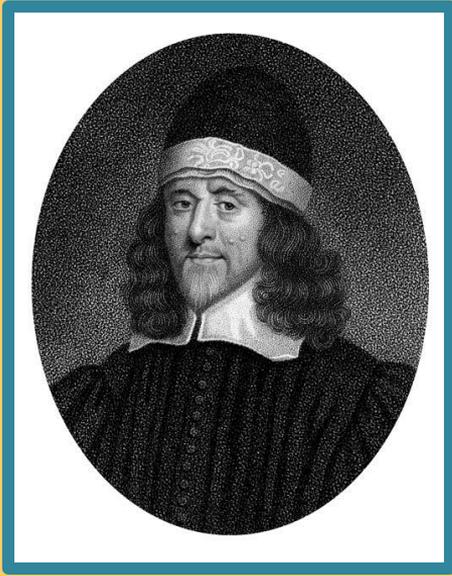


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**--Eli to Hannah**

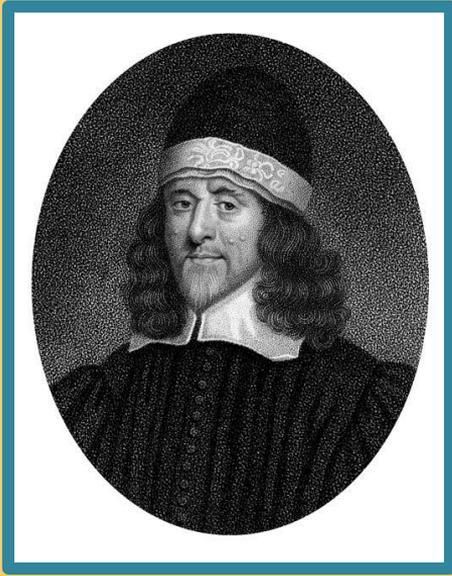


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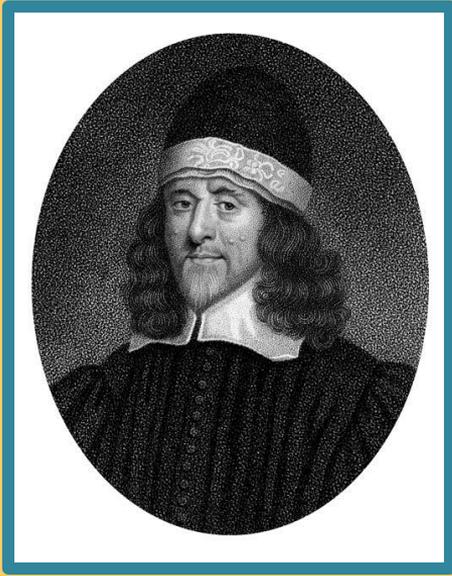
***The LORD grant thy  
petition.***

***And the like God doth now, by speaking something to the heart: as by dropping some promise or other into the heart, saying to the heart, “The Lord grants thy petition.”***



*1 When God quiets, and calms, and contents the heart in prayer.*

***2 When God stirs up in the heart a particular faith in a business.***



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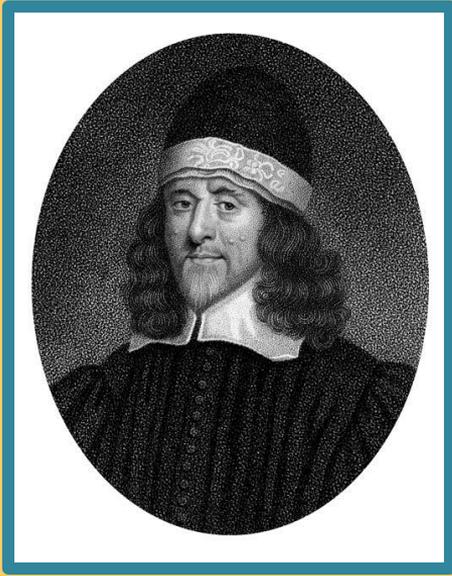
2 *When God stirs up in the heart a particular faith in a business.*

3 ***When God puts a restless importunity in the heart.***

# Directions for watching for returns

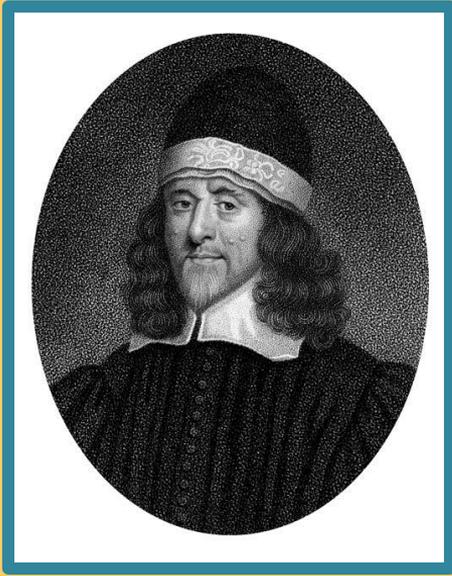
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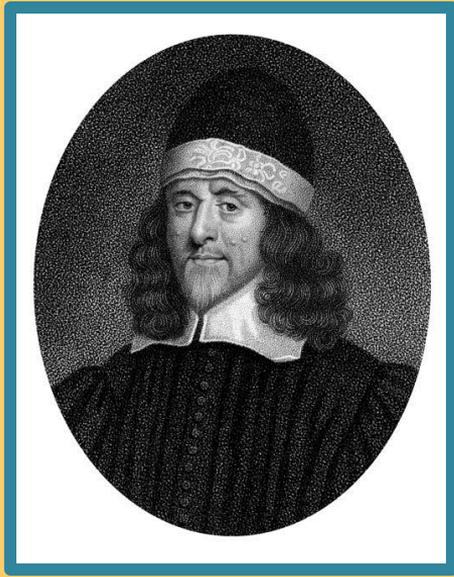
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