

Prayer given by Dr. Miles Smith at the funeral of O. C. Brown.

Almighty God, Eternal Father, strong to save: we now come to thee in prayer, because we stand in the presence of one of life's great mysteries. One whom we have long known, honored, and loved has been taken from us, and our hearts seem strangely lonely and greatly bereft. In our perplexity, weakness, and grief, we need thy help. Sometimes, when our hearts are overwhelmed with sorrow, we find it difficult to think aright. Our tears blind our eyes to any rainbow of promise that may be in the sky. Our sobbing shuts out from our ears thy words of love and comfort.

We need to remind ourselves, therefore, that thou art the Ruler of this universe, and that everywhere and always it moves in accordance with thy will. Thou art still present and active in this world which thou hast made. Thy tender care still surrounds all thy creatures; and if not a sparrow may fall to the ground without thy knowledge, surely thou wilt mark the fall of thy servants. Thy purpose is in everything, and thy purpose always is good. We have no grounds for challenging the wisdom of thy government; if we experience mental difficulty, the difficulty lies wholly within ourselves, for we are incapable of comprehending thy plans in all their wondrous height and depth and length and breadth of love. But we have the faith to believe that even this trial will work ultimately for the good of all who love thee.

Let us not think that this good life was left unfinished. No life is ever left unfinished that has been lived for thee. The discovery of love, to love and to be loved, gives meaning to life; to serve glorifies life. Nor let us make the mistake of thinking that death means an end to life. Death merely marks a change in