

Chapter 2. THE DOOR SHUT – ALONE WITH GOD

"But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."

– **Matt.6:6**

Man was created for fellowship with God. God made man in His own image and likeness, that he might be capable of understanding and enjoying God, entering His will, and delight in His glory. Because God is the Omnipresent (everywhere) and All-pervading One, man could have lived in the enjoyment of unbroken fellowship during whatever work he had to do. Sin robbed us of this fellowship.

Nothing but this fellowship can satisfy the heart of either man or God. Christ came to restore this; to return to God His lost creature and bring man back to all that he was created for. Communion with God is the consummation of all blessedness on earth as in heaven. This happens when the promise becomes a **full experience**: *"I will be with you, I will never leave you nor forsake you"*, and we can say: *"The Father is always with me"*.

This communion with God is meant to be ours all day, whatever be our condition or the circumstances that surround us. But its enjoyment depends upon the reality of the communion in the inner chamber. **The power of maintaining close and joyful fellowship with God all day, will depend entirely upon the intensity with which we seek to secure it in the hour of secret prayer.** The one essential thing in the Morning Watch or the Quiet Hour is – FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD.

What our Lord teaches us here is the inner secret of prayer in the inner chamber: *"Shut your door, and pray to your Father who sees in secret."* The first and most important thing is that you need to secure the Father's Presence and Attention in the secret place. **Know that He sees and hears you.** More important than all your prayer requests (however urgent), more important than all your earnestness and effort to pray correctly, is this one thing: the childlike, living assurance that YOUR FATHER sees you, that you have now met Him, and that with His eye on you and yours on Him, you are now enjoying actual communion with Him.

Christian! There is a terrible danger to which you stand exposed in your inner chamber. You are in danger of substituting Prayer and Bible Study for **living fellowship with God, the living interchange of giving Him your love, your heart, and your life, and receiving from Him His love, His life, and His Spirit.** Your needs and

the expression of it, your desire to pray humbly and earnestly and believingly, may so occupy you, that the light of His countenance and the joy of His love cannot enter you. Your Bible Study may so interest you, and so arouse a pleasing religious sentiment, that, yes, the very Word of God may become a substitute for God Himself, *the greatest hindrance to fellowship because it keeps the soul occupied instead of leading it to God Himself.*

And so we go out into the day's work without the power of an abiding fellowship, because in our morning devotions the blessing was not secured.

What difference it would make in the life of many, if everything in the closet were subordinate to this one thing: **I want to continually walk with God throughout my day.** My morning hour is the time when my Father enters into a definite engagement with me and I with Him. What strength would be imparted by the consciousness: God has taken charge of me; He Himself is going with me; I am going to do His will, in His strength, the whole day; I am ready for all that may come. Yes, what a dignity would come into life, if secret prayer were not only an asking for some new sense of comfort, or light, or strength, but **the giving away of life, just for one day, into the sure and safe keeping of a mighty and faithful God.**

"Pray to your Father who sees in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly." Where the secret fellowship with the Father – in spirit and in truth – is maintained, the public life before men will show the reward. The Father who sees in secret takes charge and rewards openly. Withdrawing from people into solitude with God in the morning is the sure, the only way, to live in daily fellowship with people, with the power of God's blessed presence.

PRAYER: Father, please forgive me where I have made my quiet time about so many things, except to focus on meeting with You and securing your presence for each new day. Help me to meet with You, commune with You, so that my whole day will truly be walking with You. Thank you that you are calling me to that place of secret communion with You. Amen.