

Chapter 4. MOSES AND THE WORD OF GOD.

Now when Moses went into the tabernacle of meeting to speak with Him, he heard the voice of One speaking to him from above the mercy seat; thus He spoke to him.

– **Numbers 7:89**

Regarding the connection between prayer and the Word in our private devotion, the expression of a believer from a heathen background has often been quoted: *I pray, I speak to God; I read in the Bible, God speaks to me.* This thought is beautifully illustrated in the Scripture in **Numbers 7:89**. When Moses went in to pray for himself or his people, and to wait for instructions, he found One waiting for him. What a lesson for our morning watch! God will speak to a prayerful spirit. A prayerful spirit will be a listening spirit, waiting to hear what God says. In communion with God, His Presence, and the part He takes must be as real as my own. We must ask: what is needed for our Scripture reading and praying to be true fellowship with God?

First: Get into the right place: *"Moses went into the tabernacle to speak with God."* He separated himself from the people and went where he could be alone with God. He went to the place where God was to be found. Jesus told us where that place is. He calls us to enter into our inner chamber, shut the door, and pray to our Father who sees in secret. Anywhere where we can really be **alone with God** may be to us the secret place of His Presence. To speak with God needs a separation from all else. It needs a heart intently set upon and in full expectation of meeting God personally and having direct dealings with Him. Those who go there to speak with God, will hear the Voice of One speaking to them.

Secondly: Get into the right position. *Moses heard the Voice of One speaking to him from the mercy seat.* Bow before the mercy seat, the throne of grace (**Heb.4:16**). There the consciousness of your unworthiness will not hinder you but will be a real help for trusting God. There you may have the assured confidence that your upward look will meet His eyes, that your prayer can be heard, that his loving answer will be given. Bow before the mercy seat and be assured that the God of Mercy will see and bless you.

Thirdly: Get into the right disposition – the listening attitude. Many Christians are so occupied with the much or the little they have to say in their prayers, that the Voice of One speaking from the mercy seat is never heard, because it is not expected or waited for. *"Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool; But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word." (Isa. 66:1-2).* Let us enter our inner chamber, and set ourselves to pray, with a heart that humbly waits to hear God speak; in the Word we read we shall indeed hear the Voice of One speaking to us. The highest blessing of prayer will be our ceasing to pray, to let God speak.

Prayer and the Word are inseparably linked together. The power in the use of either depends upon the presence of the other. The Word gives me matter for prayer, telling me what God will do for me. It shows me the path of prayer, telling me how God wants me to come to Him. It gives me the power for prayer, the courage of the assurance that I will be heard. And it brings me the answer to prayer, as it teaches what God will do for me. And so, on the other hand, prayer prepares the heart for receiving the Word from God Himself, for the teaching of the Spirit to give the spiritual understanding of it, for the faith that is made partaker of its mighty working.

It is clear why this is so. Prayer and the Word has one common centre – God. Prayer seeks God; the Word reveals God. In prayer man asks God; in the Word God answers man. In prayer man rises to heaven to dwell with God; in the Word God gives Himself to man.

In prayer and the Word, it must be all – God. Make God the "**all**" of your heart, the one object of your desire. Prayer and the Word will be a blessed fellowship with God, the interchange of thought, and love and life – a dwelling in God and God in us.
Seek God and live!

Prayer: Father, I come into your Presence. I bow at the mercy seat, at your throne of grace. Here is where You wait for me. Here is where I wait to hear your Voice. Speak to me. I am listening. Amen.