

THE INNER CHAMBER AND THE INNER LIFE

Dr Andrew Murray

PREFACE

The Inner Chamber suggests thoughts of the utmost importance. The daily need of retirement and quietness; the true Spirit of prayer; the Devotional reading of God's Word; the Fellowship with God for which these are meant and by which alone they bring a blessing; the Spiritual Life which they are meant to strengthen and fit for daily duty in interaction with the world; the Service for the Kingdom of God in Soul-winning and Intercession – all these truths have their share in making our devotions a source of joy and of strength. In this little book I have not attempted to take them up systematically, but I hope that the fragments I have given may bring help to some in the cultivation of the hidden life and its communion with God.

In South Africa there are various diseases that affect our orange trees. One of them is popularly known by the name of the *root disease*. A tree may still be bearing fruit, and an ordinary observer may not notice anything wrong, while an expert sees the beginning of a slow death. The *phylloxera* in the vineyards is nothing but a *root disease*, and it has been found that there is no radical cure but by taking out the old roots and providing new ones. The old sort of grape is grafted on an American root, and in course of time you have the same stem and branches and fruit as before; BUT THE ROOTS ARE NEW and able to resist the disease. It is in the part of the plant that is HIDDEN FROM SIGHT, that the disease comes, and where healing must be sought.

How the Church of Christ, and the spiritual life of thousands of its members, suffers from the root disease, the neglect of secret communion with God. It is the lack of secret prayer, the neglect of the maintenance of that hidden life "*ROOTED in Christ*," "*ROOTED and grounded in love*," that explains the feebleness of the Christian life to resist the world, and its failure to bring forth fruit abundantly. Nothing can change this but the restoration, in the life of the believer, of the inner chamber to the place which Christ meant it to have. As Christians learn, instead of trusting their own efforts, what it is to daily anchor their roots deeper into Christ, and to make the secret personal fellowship with God their chief care, true

godliness will flourish. "*If the root is holy, so are the branches.*" If the morning hour is holy to the Lord, the day with its duties will be so too. If the root is healthy, so are the branches.

I pray that God may bless these writings to some of His children in the pursuit of the deeper and more fruitful life, the life hid with Christ in God.

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Daily Fellowship with God.

