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ABIDE
IN THE
SECRET
PLACE

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SECRET
PLACE



ANDREW MURRAY

A Daily Prayer Devotional



WHITAKER
HOUSE

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FROM DAY TO DAY

The inward man is being renewed day by day.
—2 Corinthians 4:16

There is one lesson that all young Christians should learn, and that is the absolute necessity of fellowship with Jesus each day. This lesson is not always taught at the beginning of the Christian life, nor is it always understood by the young convert. He should realize that the grace he has received—the forgiveness of his sins, his acceptance as God’s child, and his joy in the Holy Spirit—can only be preserved by daily renewal in fellowship with Jesus Christ Himself.

Many Christians backslide because this truth is not clearly taught. They are unable to stand against the temptations of the world and of their old nature. They strive to do their best to fight against sin and to serve God, but they have no strength. They have never really grasped the secret that the Lord Jesus in heaven will continue His work in them every day, but only on one condition: every soul must give Him time each day to impart His love and His grace. Time alone with the Lord Jesus each day is the indispensable condition of growth and power.

Read Matthew 11:25–30. Christ says, “Come to Me...and I will give you rest....Learn from Me...and you will find rest for your souls” (vv. 28–29). The Lord will teach us just how meek and humble He is. Bow before Him, tell Him that you long for Him and His love, and He will let His love rest on you. This is a thought not only for young Christians, but also for all who love the Lord.

If you desire to live this life of fellowship with Christ, if you wish to enjoy this blessed experience each day, then learn the lesson of spending time each day, without exception, in fellowship with your Lord. In this way, your inner man will be renewed from day to day.

2



JESUS

*You shall call His name JESUS,
for He will save His people from their sins.*
—Matthew 1:21

Because the Lord Jesus was a person, He had His own individual name. His mother, His disciples, and all His friends called Him by this name, Jesus. But they probably thought little of what that name meant. And the majority of Christians today hardly know what a treasure is contained in that name, Jesus: *“He will save His people from their sins.”*

Many think of His death on the cross or of His work in heaven as our Intercessor, but they do not realize that Jesus is a living person in heaven who thinks of us each day and longs to reveal Himself. He desires us to bring Him our love and adoration each day.

Christians pray to Christ to save them from their sins, but they know very little how the blessed work is done. The living Christ reveals Himself to us, and through the power of His love, the love of sin is expelled. It is through personal fellowship with Him that Jesus saves us from our sins. I must come as an individual, with my heart

and all the sin that is in it, to Jesus as an almighty personal Savior in whom God's holiness dwells. And as He and I commune together in the expression of mutual love and desire, by the work of His Holy Spirit in my heart, His love will expel and conquer all the sin.

Oh Christian, you will find the secret of happiness and holiness in fellowship with Jesus each day. Your heart will long for the hour of prayer as the best hour of the day. As you learn to take time to be alone with Him each day, you will experience His presence, enabling you to love Him, to serve Him, and to walk in His ways throughout the day. Through this unbroken fellowship, you will learn the secret of the power of a truly godly life.

3



THE INNER CHAMBER

When thou prayest, enter into thine inner chamber, and having shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret, and thy Father which seeth in secret shall recompense thee.

—Matthew 6:6 RV

Have you ever thought what a wonderful privilege it is that everyone each day, and each hour of the day, has the liberty of asking God to meet him in the inner chamber and to hear what he has to say? We imagine that every Christian uses such a privilege gladly and faithfully. But how many really do take advantage of the privilege?

“When thou prayest,” said Jesus, *“enter into thine inner chamber, and having shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret.”* This

means two things. First, shut the world out, and withdraw from all worldly thoughts and activities. Second, shut yourself in alone with God, to pray to Him in secret. Let this be your chief aim in prayer: to realize the presence of your heavenly Father. Let your watchword be, “Alone with God.”

This is only the beginning. As you take time to realize His presence with you and to pray to “*thy Father which seeth in secret,*” you can do so in the full assurance that He knows how you long for His help and guidance, and that He will incline His ear to you.

Then follows the great promise: “*Thy Father which seeth in secret shall recompense thee.*” The Father will see to it that your prayer is not in vain. All through the activities of a busy day, the answer to your prayer will be granted. Prayer in secret will be followed by the secret working of God in your heart.

The Lord Jesus has given us the promise of His presence, and He shows us the way to the inner chamber. Therefore, He will surely be with us to teach us to pray. It is through Him that we have access to the Father. (See John 14:6.) Be childlike and trustful in your fellowship with Christ. Confess each sin; bring your every need. Offer your prayer to the Father in the name of Christ. Prayer in fellowship with Jesus cannot be in vain.

4



FAITH

Only believe.
—Mark 5:36

We have here a lesson of the greatest importance. When we are alone in the inner chamber, we must send up our petitions, trusting implicitly in the love of God and in the power of the Lord Jesus. Take time to ask yourself the question, Is my heart full of a great and steadfast faith in God's love? If this is not the case, do not begin to pray just yet. Faith does not come of itself.

Consider quietly how impossible it is for God to lie. He is ready with infinite love to give you a blessing (Psalm 29:11). Take some passage of Scripture in which God's power, faithfulness, and love are revealed. Take hold of the words and say, "Yes, Lord, I will pray in firm faith in You and in Your great love."

It is a mistake to limit the word *faith* to the forgiveness of sins and to our acceptance as children of God. Faith includes far more than this. We must have faith in all that God is willing to do for us. We must have faith each day according to our special needs. God is infinitely great and powerful, and Christ has so much grace for each new day, that our faith must reach out afresh each day according to the need of the day.

When you enter into the inner chamber, even before you begin to pray, ask yourself, Do I really believe that God is here with me and that the Lord Jesus will help me to pray? Do I believe that I can expect to spend a blessed time in communion with my God?

Jesus often taught His disciples how indispensable faith was to true prayer. He will teach you this lesson, too. Remain in fellowship with Him, and ask Him to strengthen your faith in His almighty power. Christ says to you and to me, as He did to Martha, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" (John 11:40).