

ANDREW MURRAY

# SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

90 DEVOTIONS FOR A  
DEEPER FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD



WHITAKER  
HOUSE

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Holy Bible. Scripture quotations marked (RV) are taken from the Revised Version of the Holy Bible.

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**SPIRITUAL RENEWAL**  
**90 Devotions for a Deeper Fellowship with God**

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## — SECTION ONE —

# THE SECRET OF THE FAITH LIFE

THE great majority of Christians are content with the initial faith that gives the pardon of sin and the hope of eternal life. But they have little idea of the wonderful promises of God given to a full and strong faith—promises that He will cleanse the heart, so that they will love the Lord with all their hearts and all their souls (see Matthew 22:37); promises that He will write the law in their hearts by His Spirit (see Jeremiah 31:33), so that His children can boldly say, “*I delight to do thy will, O my God*” (Psalm 40:8); promises that He will instill fear of Him in their hearts, so that they will never depart from Him (see Jeremiah 32:40); and promises that He will perfect them “*in every good work*” (Hebrews 13:21) to do His will.

Such promises are regarded by most as being altogether beyond the sphere of practical religion; they may be beautiful ideals, but it is simply an impossibility to experience them. Those who look on God’s promises in this way have never come to know the almighty power with which God is willing to work in their lives. They have never known how completely the Holy Spirit can take possession of a person who is utterly given up to God, how literally Jesus Christ can dwell and live His life in the heart that is fully surrendered to Him.

As I think of such promises, I feel that I have inadequately shown that in every approach to God, we ought to come with an ever larger faith to worship this great and holy Being, who is able to work in us beyond what we can ask or think. (See Ephesians 3:20.) Some who have read this far may feel that this book is not for them; they know they are Christians, but they do not have time for what so evidently appears beyond their reach. They do not have the time to listen as

we call them to come and think of an almighty God and what He is able to do in fulfillment of His Word. They do not have the time or courage to enter into a school for the deeper life; they trust in Christ and are willing to do their utmost to serve Him, even though it is on a lower level.

But there are others, I am sure, whose hearts are yearning for something better than what they have known. They earnestly desire to know Jesus Christ, their loving Redeemer, in the power of the Holy Spirit that He has promised—to serve Him with the love that keeps His commandments and always abides in His love. They are eager to know the secret cause of their feebleness, their unbelief, their inability to influence others around them, or their failure in every attempt to live the prayer life in the joy of daily personal fellowship with Christ Jesus.

It is to such individuals that this section has been written, with the one desire of pointing out the path that leads to the full knowledge of and love for God. The main ideas presented here are very simple and yet very profound. Almighty God, for whom nothing is too difficult, offers to work in them with His omnipotent power every day what they need for the kind of life He wants them to live.

This almighty and most loving God justly claims that they must surrender their entire beings—their lives, their time, and their strength—every day to His keeping and to the fulfillment of His commands. God is to be waited on every day with a childlike confidence that He will reveal Himself as God to work out His will in them. Everything depends on giving the almighty God His place, on yielding our entire lives to His service and His working in us; then we will have the conscious assurance that His mighty power will work in us what we consider impossible.

May every reader be brought under the deep conviction of how such an almighty God, with His wonderful promises, deserves to be met with a strong, wholehearted faith in every approach to Him. He is worthy of it, and nothing less will suffice for our daily lives than



a faith that takes possession of and masters our entire selves and always keeps us waiting on God, entirely at His disposal.

The whole God offers Himself to us. Does this blessed and most glorious God not have the right to demand that the whole man, through every moment of his life, be yielded up to Him? Is it not an absolute necessity in the very nature of things?

In this study of what God wants His people to be and what He undertakes to make them, let us beware of only thinking of ourselves. Let each discovery of God's wonderful grace lead us to think of the church of Christ around us, and how little God's children realize what their wonderful privileges in Christ are. As an increasing number of those who are seeking to fully follow the Lord take up the burden of their fellowmen and plead with God for them, we can expect God to visit His people with the revival of the abundant life in Christ, which will make them the power that they are meant to be in the world.

As God's intercessors, we should night and day before Him bear the burden of the low state of the church, the great majority of believers, and even many in the ministry. As we forget ourselves and plead for what appears impossible, we will enter more deeply into the fellowship of Christ and His sufferings, as well as that of Christ and His victory. Such prayers will indeed be fruitful for our own souls and for the world around us.

## A PRAYER

Ever blessed God and Father, how can we praise You for the wonderful salvation that You have prepared for us in Christ Jesus? We humbly confess that we have so little understood it, believed it, yielded ourselves to its power, and shown forth its beauty to the world around us.

We fervently pray for all saints, that You would give them a vision of the abundant life that is in Christ Jesus. May this stir their hearts to a deep, unquenchable desire to know fully what Christ is meant to be to them. May they feel deeply

that all the powerlessness of Your church to bless the world is the result of not giving Christ and His Holy Spirit the place in their hearts that You desire to have.

Above all, grant such an insight into the need, power, and blessedness of a simple wholehearted faith in Jesus Christ, and such an unreserved surrender to His mastery, that their hearts may be prepared to receive Him in all the fullness of His love and of His abiding presence.

Father, we ask You to hear us in the name of Jesus. Give to each reader such a vision of Your power to fulfill in us every promise, and such a humble childlike trust in Your faithfulness, as will be to Your glory. May all the glory be Yours forever. Amen.

## THE IMAGE OF GOD

*And God said,  
Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.  
—Genesis 1:26*

Here we have the first thought of man in the mind of God; here man's origin and his destiny are shown to be entirely divine. God undertook the stupendous work of making a creature, who is not God, to be a perfect likeness of Him in His divine glory. Man was to live in entire dependence on God and to receive directly and unceasingly from Him the inflow of all that was holy and blessed in the Divine Being. God's glory, His holiness, and His love were to dwell in man and shine through him.

When sin had done its terrible work and had spoiled the image of God, the promise was given in Paradise of the woman's seed, in whom the divine purpose would be fulfilled: God's Son, "*the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person*" (Hebrews 1:3), was to become a son of mankind. In Christ, God's plan would be carried out, His image revealed in human form. The New Testament speaks of those who are "*predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son*" (Romans 8:29) and of "*the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him*" (Colossians 3:10). We are given the promise: "*We know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is*" (1 John 3:2).

Between God's eternal purpose for man and its eternal realization, we have a wonderful promise in regard to life here on earth: "We

*all...beholding...the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Corinthians 3:18). Let us take hold of this promise as the possible and assured experience of daily life for everyone who gives Christ His place as the Glorified One. Let us keep our hearts set on the glory of the image of God in Christ, in the assurance that the Spirit will change us into that image day by day. Dear reader, take time to believe firmly and confidently that this promise will be made true in your Christian life. God Almighty, who created man in His image, seeks now to work out His purpose in changing you into the image of Christ Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.*

*(Philippians 2:5)*

*For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.*

*(John 13:15)*