

*Meeting God Every Morning*

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*All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.*

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## PREFACE

Please consider the following statements and the Bible verses that support them as a foundational premise for meeting God every morning:

*Great men of the Bible met God in the morning.*

“And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD” (Genesis 19:27).

“Jacob rose up early in the morning” (Genesis 28:18a).

“Joshua rose early in the morning” (Joshua 3:1a).

“David rose up early in the morning” (1 Samuel 17:20a).

“[The disciples] entered into the temple early in the morning” (Acts 5:21a).

“And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, [Jesus] went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed” (Mark 1:35).

Jesus, though He was God, met His heav-

enly Father in the morning. God's provisions come to His people who seek Him early in the morning.

*Strength comes in the morning.*

“And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea” (Exodus 14:27).

*We see God's glory in the morning.*

“And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the LORD” (Exodus 16:7a).

*Joy comes in the morning.*

“For his anger endureth but for a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning” (Psalm 30:5).

*He wakens the believer's ear to hear every morning.*

“The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wak-

eneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned" (Isaiah 50:4).

*His mercy and compassion never fail.*

"They are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:23a).

*He is the believer's refuge every morning.*

"Be thou their arm every morning, our salvation also in the time of trouble" (Isaiah 33:2b).

## MEETING GOD EVERY MORNING

The principle of meeting and agreeing with God in the morning is as vital to sustaining spiritual growth as breathing is to sustaining physical life! Yet, many Christians do not agree with what the Word of God has to say about their lives. The reason they do not agree with God is that their souls cleave to the dust (Psalm 119:25).

Man has a natural tendency to go through his daily schedule without depending upon God for wisdom, guidance, and instruction. Therefore, he receives thoughts from the old sin nature, which are not God's thoughts. Isaiah 55:8 says, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD."

As believers, when we wake up in the morning, the first thing we must do before anything else is to purpose to be in one accord with God about the day. This is what Proverbs 8:17 means when it says, "I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me." The first



thing we will feel is emotion toward God in response to Who God is. God loves His children, and has a provision for every need, pressure and temptation that we will face. He died for us and paid for the sins of the whole world. This is the unlimited atonement. A believer cannot think about these things for too long without being overwhelmed with love for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. "We love him because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19).

Secondly, we ought to worship and praise God. How could we fail to praise God when He has given us all spiritual blessings in heavenly places? (Ephesians 1:3). Then, we must listen intently to His still small voice (1 Kings 19:12b). It is not an audible voice, but one of the Holy Spirit communicating to our human spirit. By it, we can determine whether or not there is anything that God wants to call our attention to for the day. We should give God a chance to speak to us without interference from any preconceived thoughts that we might have. Carefully, we learn to spend the time selflessly listening to God.

Thirdly, if we desire to meet God in the morning, we will humble ourselves before God (James 4:10). Instead of dwelling on our respon-

sibilities for the day, in our hearts, we can say to God, "I believe You want to reveal Your priorities to me this morning. As Your representative and servant, I must seek You for wisdom today." Instead of allowing random thoughts to race through our minds, God wants to teach us how to be quiet before Him. First Thessalonians 4:11 says "study to be quiet." Is it any wonder that Isaiah declared, "In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength" (Isaiah 30:15b)? Proverbs 8:32 and 33 illustrates these principles:

"Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways. Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not."

It is during the quiet times that God is faithful to give instruction and wisdom for the details of the believer's life. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5).

God is faithful to give wisdom, but are we faithful to ask Him for it? The believer's responsibility is to bring these areas before God. Immediately, we begin to agree with God, and the Lord is faithful to show us His eternal viewpoint.

It is so important to give God a fresh oppor-

tunity to speak to us each morning. Many people never start their day by meeting with Him. They live in self-assurance and false confidence, thinking they can get along without God.

In one of his darkest trials, David wrote, "My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed" (Psalm 57:7*a*). As we are reading this booklet, we should listen to God very carefully and discreetly with our attention fixed upon Him. Then, God will speak. During our quiet times with God in the morning, we need to listen to Him with full attention, mixing faith with what we hear (Hebrews 4:2). That way, with an attitude of faith-rest, we can easily and instantly implement what He says to do.

It is so convenient not to be a doer of the Word (James 1:22). The flesh, the old sin nature, and the world will give many reasons why we should not mix faith with what we hear. Rationalizing away obedience to God's Word will paralyze any believer's spiritual growth. Always remember that "the just shall live by faith" (Galatians 3:11*b*). Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6*a*). "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).

The time to deal with negativity in our

thought life is when we meet with God each morning. We can ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any pride, selfishness, or presumption that might distract us from God's purpose. That way, we can give every burden and distraction over to Him and have a fresh start for the new day ahead.

### *Preparing Your Heart before God*

The Christian can be assured that he has prepared his heart for the day because the Word of God has secured his soul. It is impossible to determine the eternal value of a quiet time with God each day! Each believer must be ready to do whatever God says, not for man's sake, but for Christ's sake. As a result, he will not be in bondage to people, but rather he will submit to God. When Paul said, "...but first [they] gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God" (2 Corinthians 8:5b), that is exactly what he meant.

How vital it is to meet God in the morning! Meet with God *before* starting the day. When we are diligent in setting this time apart for Him, our inward attitude will be meekness from the very start. Meekness is a quality that God sees in a soul as our hearts are broken and contrite

before Him (Psalm 51:17).

*Take the Old Sin Nature to the Cross  
Each Morning*

Each day, before we try to handle any issue that comes up, we must learn to deal with the depravity of our souls. "The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint" (Isaiah 1:5b). As Christians, we are faced with the inherent evil of our own hearts. Still, we must remember that Christ's mercy and compassion are new and fresh every morning (Lamentations 3:22, 23).

Scores of men and women cannot break years of bad habits, all because they do not deal with their old sin nature each morning. Often reactionary and moody, they are insecure and lack spiritual maturity. As a result, they fall into sublimation, replacing godly affections with ungodly lust patterns.

Lust is the desire for anything outside of the perfect will of God. It is usually manifested as material lust (an inordinate desire for material possessions), power lust (desiring to have control over others), approbation lust (craving to be recognized and appreciated by others), sensual lust (craving for sexual fulfillment outside of God's boundaries as set forth in the Word of

God), pride (being lifted up with self over others), or excessive occupation with the details of life (thus, a failure to pursue a personal relationship with God).

But when we allow God to remove the barriers that preserve the "self" life in our hearts, then lust can no longer occupy our thoughts. Those six lust patterns that would try to take over are all dealt with at the Cross, before we even begin to make decisions, when we meet with God every morning.

### *Guarding Our Hearts*

Once we give our self-life over to the Lord, we begin to guard our hearts with the Word of God. We are to mix the Word that we hear with faith (Hebrews 4:2) and immediately obey it. Then, through the power of Jesus Christ, we will have a tremendous advantage over Satan's genius. When we abide in Christ, we triumph, because, "...greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4b).

We must guard our hearts against selfish attitudes and slothfulness, as well as against comparing self with others.

"For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that

commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise" (2 Corinthians 10:12).

Also, we must guard our hearts against religious emotionalism and unhealthy emotions, which will cause us to become unnecessarily subjective and easily wounded. Our souls must be protected by categorical doctrine in the Word of God so that subjectivity and wounds cannot produce negative effects. The Word of God, through grace, is the guardian of the soul.

### *Being Rightly Related to God*

We will never be effective in the Body of Christ or in the world without experiencing the presence of God every day of our lives! Many times, people do not prepare their hearts to meet God in the morning because they are physically tired. Yet when, as Christian servants, we have a quiet time with Him in the early moments of the day, we will not be occupied with physical exhaustion. Instead, we will be quickened according to His Word (Psalm 119:154).

Though many of us do not realize it, at times we have problems in our souls because we do not make it a priority to spend time with God

every day. These problems stem from the fact that individually, we did not agree with the Word of God for the specific details of life (as *God* sees it!).

Some people are so adept in using their defense mechanisms to cover up their old sin nature, they will not admit that they have problems. Beneath their attempts to hide their problems, the real issue remains. They live in various forms of guilt because they are not rightly related to God. Lovingly, God tries to reveal that His Spirit is grieved (Ephesians 4:30) because they did not start the day by having a fervent relationship with Him.

It is an adventure to meet with God every morning. When a believer is humble before others and broken and meek before the Lord, with nothing to protect or defend, he will go to God several times a day to hear Him speak.

### *God Imparts His Divine Disposition*

Even though all Christians are sinners, it is beautiful that we can meet with a perfect God as perfected saints. We can worship and reverence Him because of Who He is, acknowledging that apart from Christ we can do nothing (John 15:5b). We do not allow moods or subjectivity to over-



take our dispositions, nor do we allow negative attitudes to linger. Rather, we yield to the meek disposition of God as He occupies our temperaments. God's divine nature will be reflected in our human personalities when we are totally occupied with Christ.

Purified by faith, we can face God each morning. As a result, throughout the day we will not initiate without thinking with God's thoughts first. Every person has natural talents and strengths—all of which must be controlled by the Holy Spirit. The Word of God says, "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). *Every* Christian should consult heaven before he starts his day on earth! After we agree with God, we allow Him to govern our minds by His categories of doctrine, through the Word and prayer.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5).

It is so easy to become overwhelmed by daily pressures and problems. Yet, Jesus does not want anyone to be occupied with the problems. Instead, He wants us to be occupied with His provision. He wants each believer to have a daily time when we receive His power to overcome pressures and difficult situations. During

these times, He will give us His love and patience to handle the misgivings of men.

What a provision these times are for busy Christian servants, business persons, mothers, fathers, children, and pastors. Meeting God every morning promotes a heart attitude to be occupied with a ministry of reconciliation instead of reaction. We will not be victims of circumstances, but victors because we recognize Christ's reign in our hearts each morning. Truly, God will direct our paths, saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it" (Isaiah 30:21*a*).

## CONCLUSION

As believers, we must trust God's timetable for His plan. We are to meet God in the morning and receive precise definition concerning our part in His eternal plan for the day.

Many Christians are not living a victorious life under the governing power of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. Having God govern our minds by His thoughts is the only way we can possibly meet the pressures and trials we face each day. And unless we have intimate communion with the Lord Jesus Christ, it is impossible for us to impart His life to others.

How can we represent Jesus Christ in life's situations when we do not spend personal time getting to know Him? This is a challenge to each of us to consecrate and covet our quiet times with God in the morning so that His presence will be manifested to others throughout each day!