

Meeting with God

Excerpts taken from *A Life of Obedience* by Andrew Murray

“Think first of the motivating principle that causes us to love and faithfully keep the morning watch (or quiet time, whenever that is observed). If we do it simply as our Christian duty, it will soon become a burden. Or if our main purpose is our own happiness and safety, that alone will not supply the incentive to make such a time attractive. Only one thing will suffice to keep us faithful in communing with God--a sincere desire for fellowship with Him.

...It is in the place of quiet where we are alone with God that our spiritual life is both tested and strengthened. There is the battlefield where it is decided every day whether God will have all of us and whether our life will be one of absolute obedience. If we truly conquer there, committing ourselves into the hands of our Lord and finding a refuge in Him, the victory during the day is certain. It is there, in the inner chambers, where we prove whether we really delight in God and will make it our aim to love Him with our whole heart.

The first lesson is this: The presence of God is of supreme importance. To meet with God, to yield ourselves to His will, to know that we please Him, to have Him tell us His desires for the day and lay His hand upon us--this is what we can expect from our time of quiet and devotion. It is what we come to long for and delight in.

Reading and meditating on God's Word is part of what occupies this hour. There are some points I would like to emphasize in this regard: one is that unless we are careful, the Word that should point us to God may actually hide Him from us. The mind may be interested, even delighted at what it finds, but because this can be merely food for thought, it may do us little spiritual good. If it does not ultimately lead us to wait upon God, to glorify Him, to receive His grace and power for sweetening and sanctifying our lives, it can become a hindrance rather than a help.

Another lesson that cannot be repeated too often, or pressed too urgently, is that it is only by the teaching of the Holy Spirit that we arrive at the true meaning of God's Word. Only by the Spirit will the Word penetrate our inner life and work in us. The Father in heaven, who gave us His Word with its divine mysteries and message, has given us His Holy Spirit within to interpret and appropriate that Word. The Father wants us to be taught by His Spirit. He wants us to enter into a teachable frame of mind and believe that the Spirit will make His Word live and work in us. We must remember that the Spirit is given to us that we should be led by Him, have our whole life under His rule. He cannot teach us in the morning unless we give ourselves over to His leading. But if we do this and patiently wait on Him, not merely to receive new thoughts but to appropriate the power of the Word in our hearts, we can count upon His teaching. Let your closet be your classroom; let your morning watch be the study hour in which your entire dependence on and submission to the Holy Spirit's teaching is your aim.

Third, in confirmation of what we have already said: always study God's Word in the spirit of an unreserved surrender to obey. You know how often Christ and His apostles in their epistles speak of hearing and not doing. If you accustom yourself to studying the Bible without an earnest and definite purpose to obey, you will become hardened in disobedience. Never read God's Word concerning you without honestly yielding yourself to obey it at once and asking the grace to do so. God has given us His Word to tell us what He wants us to do and to show the grace He has provided to enable us to do it. How unfortunate when we think we are doing a good thing to read the Word without any conscious effort to obey it. May God keep us from this subtle sin. Let us make it a habit to say to God, *Lord, whatever I know to be your will, I will obey it at once.* Always read with a heart yielded in willing obedience.

Relevant Scripture:

Psalm 119:97-104 "Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day...."
Mark 1:35 "And rising early in the morning, while it was still dark...."
2 Timothy 2:16 "All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for...."

Questions:

1. How would you rate your level of discipline for a regular meeting with God?
2. What is your motivation for doing so? Is it, as Murray says, for the joy of being with and learning from God?
3. When you are reading God's Word and spending time in His presence, are you looking to obey what you hear?
4. Take a moment and write down 1-2 people you can share with concerning what you feel God is teaching you in your "study hour" with Him.
5. Watch the video listed below. It is tremendous.

Recommended Resources:

1. Google, "coffee with God, Bill Hybels" In this 9 minute segment of a sermon we see the great value of fashioning a daily meeting with God.
2. Warren, Rick. *Bible Study Methods.*
3. Tozer, A.W. *The Pursuit of God*