

A PRACTICAL PRIMER ON PRAYER

by

Dorothy C. Haskin

Copyright @ 1951

The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago

CHAPTER FIVE -

LISTEN!

"Speak, for thy servant heareth!" (I Samuel 3:10)

NOW WE HAVE COME to the most solemn part of all our quiet time - GOD's talking to you! A very real part of your quiet time should be spent just being still before GOD - waiting, waiting for Him to speak.

We must come to the place where we cease to be concerned about ourselves or our feelings, where we are concerned only about GOD. We should cease to think of our quiet time as a means of bettering ourselves, of "feeling good" or getting a blessing, but as a time of finding Him.

"When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek." (Psalm 27:8).

It is not enough for us to be alone with GOD; we must also be quiet. Job had much to say. There are forty-two chapters in the Book of Job.

It is full of words - many, many words. In chapter thirty-eight GOD speaks - then how quickly the book ends! So it is possible to be alone, intending to seek GOD, but to be so busy talking that we do not hear GOD. We complain to Him about other people, demanding that He rebuke them. We explain and defend our actions to Him, getting up from our knees without ever giving Him a moment in which to speak to us. Or we are so afraid GOD won't let us have our own way that we refuse to listen to Him. Many a man will justify himself into hell. When the Pharisee justified himself, GOD did not bless him (Luke 18).

So many of us unintentionally follow his example. We try so very hard to prove to GOD that we are right that we are not quiet before Him.

If you go to your pastor with a problem, you plan to stay long enough to listen to his advice. When you go to GOD, set aside enough time to quiet your heart and listen. To obtain the greatest blessing from our private worship, we must cease our excuses and explanations and listen to Him. He may condemn, but more often He will cheer and encourage - if we are still.

"The wings of thy work, the wings of thy will, the wings of thine inmost longings, the wings of thy cherished desire - let them down," is the way Amy Carmichael, missionary to the temple

children of India, expresses the true attitude of prayer.

John Nelson Hyde was such an outstanding man of prayer that he became known as Praying Hyde. Dr. Wilbur Chapman, telling of meeting him, said that he asked, "Mr. Hyde, I want you to pray for me." Then he continues: "He came to my room, turned the key in the door, and dropped on his knees, and waited five minutes without a single syllable coming from his lips. I could hear my own heart thumping and beating. I felt hot tears running down my face. I knew I was with GOD. Then, with upturned face, down which tears were streaming, he said, 'O GOD.' Then, for five minutes at least, he was still again; and then, when he knew that he was talking with GOD, there came from the depths of his heart such petitions for me as I had never heard before. I rose from my knees to know what real prayer is."

We may do less, but we shall accomplish more if we spend time with GOD. **"The Father seeketh such to worship him"** (John 4:23).

I John 3:16

Lord give me love, the love that JESUS had
When here on earth, for all that flocked Him round
For any cause. He loved them, though He found
Some set against Him, - loved them, good or bad.
Had I this love, 'twould be my joy to sound
Thy praises forth, whereas my heart is sad
To find it duty. And exceeding glad
Would be my aim, where sin and death abound,
To seek the lost, and, scorning curse and threat,
Win them to Thee. But, oh! my Lord, as yet
I dare not venture, for I fear them so.
Oh! give me love, that I may self forget,
Nor courage need. Fill me to overflow
With Thy great love, whose depth no man can know.

- H. K. Bentley

~ end of chapter 5 ~