

MORNING WATCH GUIDE

Chapter One

The Importance of the Morning Watch

What we mean by ‘morning watch’ refers to the tranquil period of time when we Christians rise in the morning to have fellowship with and accept spiritual food from God. Any experienced person will point out to us that this is exactly the secret and the foundation of a successful spiritual life. Many a Christian nowadays is leading an unsuccessful or weak spiritual life, and do not feel that they can actually do much better. They are still very poor after many years in the hands of God. Searching carefully for the reasons, we may find out that their failure results not from something great, but from the fact that they do not deal with their morning watch properly. The improper treatment of the morning watch is one of the fatal deficiencies of the Church and the individual Christian.

I. Morning Is the Time God Set for Distributing Spiritual Food

Morning is the time God set for meeting His children and distributing spiritual food to them. Why is it a great blessing for the Christian to rise early in the morning and come to God? It is because morning is the time we present ourselves before God, and it is also the best time to have fellowship with Him. During the time of the Old Testament, it was in the morning that the Israelites got up to collect the manna. After sunrise, the manna would melt away.

In the same way, God provided that every morning should be the time to distribute spiritual food to His children, and the time for them to have holy and pure fellowship with God. Whoever came late would not be able to get the food or fellowship that they needed. How you behave in the morning watch will dictate

your spiritual condition of the whole day. It is really unalterable as a rule, especially for those who have just begun to follow God.

II. Morning is the Symbol of the Resurrection

In the Holy Bible, morning is the symbol of the Resurrection as well. When one rises in the morning, everything is fresh, and everywhere it is peaceful and full of vitality. What a beautiful time the morning is! Indeed, it is advisable that we should get up early and present ourselves to the glorious God before we are tarnished by any secular concerns. We should praise Him by singing, have fellowship with Him by praying, enjoy His presence in our hearts, devote our love to Him and accept His abundant bounties. Morning is actually our most blessed and most enjoyable time.

III. The Sacred Call

God created man to make him the object of His fellowship. The entire process, through which the Son of God became flesh, died and then resurrected, made the fellowship between God and man a practical experience. My dear brothers and sisters, it is really very peculiar, and, among all the holy matters, one of the most astonishing facts—that God, the Creator of the universe, glorious and almighty as He is, has been seeking and longing for, and even cherishes the fellowship with such negligible persons as we are. Our Father God will only be soothed with satisfaction and pleased when we are having fellowship with Him. This is really far beyond our comprehension. “For such the Father seeks to worship Him” (John 4:23). We wish that this condescending grace of our Father God, which shows His amazing love for us, should touch our hearts so that we shall feel eager to meet Him every morning. Also, we wish that the holy fellowship between God and man should satisfy and bring joy to the hearts of both the Father and His children.

Our Lord Jesus rose again, so that He could abide in us through the Holy Spirit, and also that He could guide us into Himself with the great power of His abundant life. Today, the resurrected Lord Jesus is the “Canaan” to us, where milk and honey flow everywhere. What we eat and drink and all of our other provisions are contained in the resurrected Christ. Therefore, after His resurrection and ascension to Heaven, our Lord made a blessed call to summon us to the Holy of Holies, where He will make the fellowship between God and man practical and perpetual, where He will provide us with all His abundance, where He will fill our hearts with His holy love and the happiness of His presence, where He will make His own life penetrate and melt into ours, so as to glorify us and bestow His glorious image upon us, where lies our haven and strong fort, so that we can withstand any storms and attacks, as well as Satan’s temptations. Oh, my dear brothers and sisters, if only we could see how blessed such a situation is! Our Lord is so eager to summon us to Him. He is waiting to overflow us with His grace. We wish we could respond to this sacred call from the bottom of our hearts, so that the time when we enjoy the presence of our Lord every morning will become the source of our strength, joy and provision.

IV. The Example of Our Lord Jesus and the Servants of God

“And in the mornings, a great while before day, He rose and went out to a lonely place, and there He prayed” (Mark 1:35). Even when God’s Son lived as a man on the earth, He rose in the morning to have fellowship with His Father God. All the servants of God throughout history would testify to us that fellowship with God during the morning watch really comprises the source of a Christian’s spiritual strength and the secret of a successful spiritual life.

Chapter Two

How to Keep Morning Watch

Now let us begin to discuss how to keep morning watch. Seriously speaking, concerning this matter, different people have different experiences, personal habits, and conditions, so that it is difficult to find a typical example to follow. What we can only do here is generally mention various conditions that we may meet or should meet while keeping morning watch. Yet, we would like first to remind our readers of one point. That is, each section of what we will discuss in the following is independent, focusing on the spiritual experience and its significance, so as to help our brothers and sisters enter the practice of morning watch. There is no chronological order. When we put it into practice, there is not any definite rule as to what we should do first and what we should do next, and it is unlikely that you will meet every one of the following conditions each time you keep morning watch. While you practice, everything is living; everything is unrestricted, and it all depends on your internal feelings and on how the Holy Spirit will guide you.

I. Morning Presence Before God – Praising and Worshiping

(1) Praising

The most important thing for us to do in the morning is to offer our praise before the throne of this glorious God and loving Savior. Dear brothers and sisters, we should be aware that praising is actually a great privilege and responsibility of the blessed. The throne of God sits at the supreme point in the universe, but it is established on the praise of His children as well. It is because of praising that God's name, or even God Himself, is held aloft. Therefore, nothing else satisfies and rejoices God's heart as much as praising does.

Praising is also a characteristic, a sign and a way of the blessed. Many people, even the sinners, are able to pray, yet only those who are blessed can praise; only those who have received abundant blessings from God are able to utter their praises; only those who have seen God's love, power, glory, and greatness are capable of praising, and such kind of praising, coming truly from our hearts, will most likely lead us to the presence of God and bring our spirit to holiness with freshness and strength.

There is one thing we must persistently practice and learn in the love of God. That is, on awakening in the morning, remember, we should never let any ideas, any person or any thing except God enter our thoughts. The moment we wake up in the morning, the Lord should be the first to enter our soul.

We should, after waking up, practice keeping our minds on the Lord immediately and in a very natural way, think about God's love, glory, grace, and deeds. We should feel what a delightful and serious thing it is that we are about to present ourselves to this holy and lovable Savior. In this way our hearts will be overfilled with feelings and expressions of praise. Such is a good beginning for the morning watch.

Be cautious! Do not, in the very beginning, analyze your own depravity or unworthiness, or think over your service and work for the Lord, or concentrate on the truth in the Bible, none of which will help your spirit to rise up. What you should think of first is the Lord Himself. Our object is the Lord; our center is the Lord; and our satisfaction and adoration is the Lord. Just like a happily married woman or a child, what else can we be consumed with except husband or mother? If only we could have a feeling inside us every morning, just like that of the woman mentioned in "Song of Solomon" who sighed to the Lord:

"May he kiss me with the kisses of his mouth!

For your love is better than wine."

"Draw me after you and let us run together!"

Truly, while we keep our hearts and minds on the Lord, praise will overflow from our soul.

At such a time we can take advantage of a suitable hymn to help us express our adoration. One of the great purposes of hymns is to help promote and expand the feelings of adoration inside of us. The Holy Spirit frequently and specifically uses hymns. Do not exert too much effort in seeking, but it is really a good thing, if in the morning we can quite naturally find a hymn that fits our internal feelings. Do not sing it loud. You should just come to the Lord and chant out your praise softly and deeply. Melt yourself into the hymn, making it your own. If you sing in this way, your spirit will rapidly become loftier and stronger.

Sometimes we can also express our praises in words. Notice, however, that though praise may be expressed in words, words are not significant in and of themselves. What we actually emphasize is that we should have the feeling and mood to praise. We should come to the Lord to express our praises with a grateful heart, according to what we feel about the Lord in our soul. Occasionally, when you only have the feeling to praise but cannot find words to express yourself, you should most naturally bend before the Lord and praise Him in your mind, without saying a word. This is also quite a good kind of praising, because in this way our spirit will be refreshed, filled with joy and lifted up with the abundant presence of our Lord.

(2) Worshiping

Worshiping is the greatest glory and blessing of God's creation. For God, it is the highest glory the creatures can offer to Him; for us, it is the truest engagement between our spirit and God, enabling us to feel His sacred presence.

When we call to mind that what a deity God is, how great, glorious and solemn He is, and how wonderful everything that belongs to Him is, we will naturally recognize what insignificant creatures we are and what great blessings we have received before Him. Then we will quite naturally prostrate ourselves

before God, and, as creatures who are blessed, offer to this glorious and great God our worship which He deserves. That is the beginning as well as the motive of worshiping.

Worshiping, just like praising, is a result of blessedness. When the Holy Spirit reveals God Himself to us, we see the glory of God and feel how great is the grace we have received, and that we are so close to God as to have a deep feeling of His presence just as if we were face to face with Him. Then we will most naturally prostrate ourselves before the Lord, presenting our worship in seriousness, solemnity, quietness and humility; we will respect the Lord from the bottom of our hearts, putting Him in the position of our Master and offering to Him His deserved esteem and authority. That is the significance of worshiping.

The essence of worship lies not in outside rituals or attitudes, but in the real contact between our spirit and God. Each time we feel the presence of God, we will, with such a feeling, have a quiet contact between our spirit and God Himself, and this is called worship. It is the holiest and quietest moment during the morning watch, and is also our most blessed and most enjoyable experience. Only real contact with God Himself is the essence of worship.

II. The Morning Memorial Ceremony of Love – The Manifestation of Offering and Obedience

(1) Offerings Renewed Day by Day

When we praise, worship, and present ourselves before the Lord in this way, when our spirit feels the presence of the Lord in this way, and when we experience His love so freshly and softly abiding in and inspiring us, we should, in the presence and love of the Lord, offer ourselves once again in the morning as a fragrant burnt offering to the Lord.

According to the Old Testament, the burnt offering was presented before God in the holy temple day by day. This was called the fragrant offering, which

pleased and satisfied God the most. Our offering every morning is the fragrant offering we present before God, and in this kind of offering is also a way we get blessed.

Offering is a manifestation of our love for the Lord. We offer our love to Him. We offer ourselves to Him, and we tell the Lord that we know from the bottom of our hearts how He loves us and how we love Him. We tell Him that we belong to Him forever, and that every part, every corner of us belongs to Him, and that all that we are, do, and have belongs to Him. We express to Him how much we are willing once again to offer ourselves and everything that belongs to us unreservedly, unlimitedly, completely, and thoroughly into His hands.

Although many people have already offered themselves to the Lord once and for all, we should renew our offerings every morning, and reaffirm our desire to offer ourselves to the Lord and express our love for Him. In this way the Lord's heart will be satisfied and pleased; we will be more likely to enjoy the fresh and abundant presence of the Lord, and we will be reminded to maintain the practice of offering our life.

(2) Obedience Maintained Day by Day

At this time what is of the most importance is to yield submission to the Lord. With a heart which is urgently and longingly willing to obey the Lord, we should tell Him: how much we are willing to obey Him and how much we long to obey Him; and that we are asking for nothing else but the Lord Himself. We are willing to give up everything that belongs to us to obey Him and follow His commandments and decrees. Oh, my dear brothers and sisters! The Lord's greatest demand on us is a soft will and an obedient heart. Nothing is more satisfactory to the Lord than our obedient attitude toward Him.

In Chapters 14, 15, and 16 of JOHN, the Bible particularly mentions the Lord's love in the Holy Spirit, the presence of the Lord, the manifestation of the Lord, and the abundance of the Lord. Still, one thing which attracts our attention

repeatedly is our obedience: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” “ He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” The Lord’s love, presence, and manifestation are all brought to us through our obedience. Please read the Lord’s words carefully, and you will see that it is the Lord who gives every obedient person the greatest promises and blessings. Oh, my dear brothers and sisters! Only obedience is the highest and truest indication of love. May each one of us come to the Lord with an obedient heart every morning, so as to enjoy His love, presence, manifestation and abundance.

Be cautious, however, not to let our obedience be just a few words or some outside empty display, which, being meaningless, will not have the response from the Lord. We must focus on a heart which is sincerely willing to obey the Lord. We needn’t think of things too far ahead or too great. What we should do is just offer this day – today – to the Lord, willing to spend this day obeying Him. We are willing to obey Him day by day and thing by thing, on everything, whether it is important or not. Oh, my dear brothers and sisters! All experienced people know that obedience is not a painful experience but a sweet and most fortunate, blessed experience, because the Lord Himself is the reward and response for obedience.

Therefore, we should also open our hearts to receive the illumination and inspection of the Lord without any concealment or reservation. If at this moment the Lord should demand or command us to do anything, we should be sure not to fail in the matter of being obedient. We should yield submission and consent for the sake of love. Even if such consent costs us some loss, we will not begrudge it.

Although we experience weakness and failure in practice, these are not very serious. What is vital is that our hearts should tell the Lord: failure as there is in the outside, the Lord understands that our hearts are so willing to obey Him that after all the failures we still want to offer ourselves once again and submit to His intention on this day.

III. The Power of the Precious Blood and the Necessity of Confession

During the fellowship in the morning watch, there is another very important thing. That is, to recognize the power of the precious blood and the importance of confession.

We should never come to the Lord with a condemned conscience. Our fellowship with the Lord will be cut off whenever we have a guilty conscience or a feeling of being condemned. On the other hand, however, whenever we come to the Lord, almost always we will find our mistakes, guilt, and depravity, because the Lord is the Light. The life of the Lord is the light inside us. That is why the closer we come to the Lord, the more we will find our own dark sides and troubles.

Consequently, it is very important that in the light of the Lord we confess all the guilt and failure we feel before the Lord, and beseech Him to forgive and cleanse us.

As we confess, our attitude is not passive, but active. We are not disappointed. On the contrary, we are full of expectation, because we are aware that all the weaknesses just reveal our nature. We are naked and open before the Lord, but our eyes should be set on the precious blood of Jesus, not on our failure. The precious blood of the Lord is so absolutely effective and boundlessly powerful that it can cleanse all our sins. As it is said in the Bible: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 JOHN 1:9)

Therefore, when we confess our sins in the light of the Lord, we are sad and sorrowful in our hearts, but after our confession the Holy Spirit will always bring us peace, happiness, joy, and the feeling of brightness, and we will fully feel the anointing of the Holy Spirit, because where there is precious blood, there is anointing. For that reason, during the morning watch, learning the lesson to confess in the light of the Lord is also very important. The more willing you are to confess your sins, the more fellowship you will have with the Lord. The

more often you confess your sins, the fresher, stronger and sharper your spiritual life will be.

Note, however, that confession is made not out of our own introspection or analysis, but according to the illumination of the Lord and our inner feeling. Personal introspection and analysis are most harmful to the spiritual life. Furthermore, we only accept the illumination of the Lord, and we do not accept any accusation from Satan. Yet what is the difference between the two? That is a rather difficult thing to make clear, but we will gradually learn through our experiences that the revelation and reproach from the illumination of the Lord will make us touch life and feel the moisture of the anointing, and that after confession we will become completely relaxed, with a heart full of peace and glorious expectation. On the other hand, personal introspection and analysis, or accusation from Satan, will bring about an utterly different result: the more you confess your sins, the more depressed you will be, feeling bored, declining, and touching death, and the more deeply you will sink into the feeling of disappointment and discouragement.

IV. Entering the Fellowship

During the morning watch, when our spirit has entered the presence of the Lord, what is the most important consists not in how much we should say in our prayer, but in the enjoyment of the fellowship between the Lord and ourselves. That is the most significant thing in the morning watch, and may also be said to be the most important purpose and meaning of the morning watch.

When we feel the sweetness of the presence of the Lord in our spirit, and when we taste the moisture of the anointing of the Holy Spirit, feeling the kind presence of the Lord so truly surrounding us, it is at this holy time that we most need peace. The feeling of the fellowship is so tender, and the presence of God is so sacred, that it requires us to wait before the Lord with a very peaceful spirit and tender feeling. Please remember: the time of fellowship is peaceful.

At this time, you should not open your mouth hastily to pray, and what is more, you should not use many words in praying. At such a time our spirit and mind should cast off any worldly ideas. Even the best and the most spiritual things that belong to the world should not be allowed to invade our soul and stay between us and the Lord, because this is the time when we meet face to face with Him. It is a holy moment, when we should let our spirit and mind open to the Lord Himself completely, purely, and with concentration. We shall touch, taste, and enjoy the sweetness of the presence of the Lord. We shall let the anointing of the love of the Holy Spirit gradually and continually pour into our spirit, so that we may be immersed deeper and deeper in God Himself, breathe inside Himself, enjoy ourselves inside Himself, and join closely with God in spirit.

It is said in Romans 5:5: “Because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.” Here the word “pour” should be interpreted “put into and overflow gradually,” which tells us exactly what we experience in enjoying the Lord’s love in our fellowship during the morning watch. While we sing, worship, pray, or come close to the Lord in the early morning, an indescribably mysterious, tender, and sweet feeling will emerge in our spirit, so that we feel moistened, peaceful, joyous, and satisfied in our spirit. It is just in such a feeling that our spirit will feel the Lord is so close, dear, and lovable that our love for the Lord will come forth spontaneously. In this exchange of love, the anointing of the Holy Spirit will increase gradually and become heavier and heavier until our entire hearts are overflowing. Brothers and sisters, this is the fellowship and the presence of the Lord. The presence of God cannot necessarily be felt, but on the other hand, truly the presence of God often brings enjoyment and satisfaction to our feelings.

Be careful, however, never to turn our attention to pursuing those feelings. Whenever we are pursuing those feelings, they will disappear, and what is more, we will fall into the dry trial. Only when our hearts are completely and purely open to the Lord Himself will the Lord bring us the greatest happiness and satisfaction.

When we talk about the fellowship with God during the morning watch, we have to mention the problem of feelings. However, we are actually quite reluctant to speak of the matter, because here is a rather big trial which will distract our hearts from the Lord and lead us to pay special attention to and seek after these feelings. If that is the case, our spiritual life will be greatly frustrated and harmed. Therefore, when we talk about feelings, we have to remind you: these are merely the natural outcome and phenomena when we get close to the Lord. Let us say once again: our hearts must be pure and clean to the Lord, and love only the Lord Himself.

The Psalms say,

“My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness,
And my mouth offers praises with joyful lips.
When I remember Thee on my bed,
I meditate on Thee in the night watches.”

(The Psalms 63:5-6)

“They drink their fill of the abundance of Thy House:
And Thou dost give them to drink of the river of Thy
delights.
For with Thee is the fountain of life.”

(The Psalms 36:8-9)

“O taste and see that the Lord is good;
How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!”

(The Psalms 34:8)

These words are all about the conditions when we enter, have fellowship with, and enjoy the Lord. Thus when our spirit touches the Lord and enters fellowship with the Lord, we should stop praying, speaking, and any mental activities, because that is the time when we need absolute peace. In the presence of the Lord, we are breathing, tasting, and enjoying the Lord Himself, so as to let the anointing of His presence gradually become heavier and heavier until our

hearts are overflowing, and to let Him melt us, drench us, and surround us with His holy life and unique love.

Sometimes when the fellowship lasts a little longer, because of our distraction or for some other reasons, our feeling of the presence of God may decline. Then it is time to use some prayers to focus us again. These prayers focus not on any wishes at all, but on praise, gratitude, and offering, the purpose of which is to bring back our distracted minds, so that we can express our love for and obedience to the Lord and accept His demands. In this way, we will plunge ourselves once again into the Lord's arms, and let the anointing of the presence of the Lord become heavier again.

The longer fellowship of this kind lasts, the better. After we eat and drink to our hearts' content in the morning, we will be full of spiritual power during the whole day.

In the beginning you may meet with some difficulties, but please do not be discouraged and give up. You will surely find some day what a blessed, wonderful and sweet experience it is, just as the poet said:

“Thy paths drip with fatness,
The pastures of the wilderness drip.”

(The Psalms 65:11-12”)

V. The Supply of the Spiritual Food — Reading the Holy Bible

In the morning, we need the supply of the flowing water of the Holy Spirit through fellowship, and we also need to pick up the spiritual manna in the Word of God as our food, which will become the source of our life and energy during the whole day. The Lord says, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4) This simple sentence of the Lord is actually full of spiritual meaning and teachings. Just as food on earth is indispensable for a natural life to exist, survive, and become strong, so the Word of God is crucial to the spiritual life. Please remember, however, that the Word of God does not refer to the printed or written words

which are dead, but to the living words spoken out from God's mouth. If we read only the superficial words in the Bible by our minds, it is not certain whether we can get the supply of the spiritual food. Only when these words come from God's mouth and are repeated to our spirit will we obtain abundant spiritual food. Oh, may we, kneeling before the throne of the Benefactor in the morning, always be able to hear the living words spoken by the Glorious One between the two Cherubims, so that we can walk on this earth in the freshness and power of life every day.

Food is to be eaten, not to be analyzed, appreciated, studied, or watched. So should our attitude toward God's words be. "Thy words were found and I ate them, and Thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I have been called by Thy name, O Lord God of hosts." (Jeremiah 15:16) "How sweet are Thy words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (The Psalms 119:103) "And He said to me, 'Son of man, feed your stomach, and fill your body with this scroll which I am giving you.' Then I ate it, and it was sweet as honey in my mouth." (Ezekiel 3:3) Food should not only be eaten, but be eaten every day, otherwise life would not grow in a normal and strong way. Similarly, our spiritual life must also be fed with the Word of God every day.

How can we eat the Word of God? To understand this, we must first make certain what the Word of God is.

The word of God is spirit and is life. "The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life." (John 6:63) The Lord's words cannot be separated from His life and His Spirit. The Lord's words are spirit and are life, but here the Lord's words still refer to the living words spoken from the mouth of the Lord. Sometimes when we are reading the Lord's words, we are not feeling spirit or life, because we are just contacting the dead words printed on the paper through our natural thoughts. At other times when we are reading the Lord's words, these words become living in the state of the Holy Spirit, so that we are fully feeling spirit and life. We must get hold of the living words, before we can feel spirit and life or have the experience of eating the Lord's words.

The Lord's words are the Lord Himself at work. "For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do." (Hebrews 4:12-13) This is another very important quotation from the Holy Bible. "The word of God" mentioned in the beginning of the quotation is just "God with whom we have to do" spoken of later. When the Word of God is full of the power of life which is working inside us, the working Word is the Lord Himself, and that Lord "with whom we have to do." If we only have contact with the words and sentences in the Bible, we will not feel that we are meeting the Lord Himself, though we are reading His words. Only when the Word of God is working inside us with life and power will we meet with the Lord Himself and have the experience of eating the Lord's words.

How should we eat the Lord's words?

If we really see the Lord's words are spirit, life and are the Lord Himself, then we will come to the Lord to read His words respectfully, earnestly, and longingly. Just like babies, we will long to drink the pure spiritual milk, and the Lord's words will show us, with such a feeling, that they are full of fresh life.

If we really understand that flesh is not beneficial in this case, and that we will never come into contact with the Word of God through our natural thoughts, we should stop thinking in order to read and to touch the Lord's words in spirit, in the depths, and in fellowship with the Lord. Only in that way will the Lord's words become our spiritual food, which will feed our spirit to the full and enable us to acquire heavenly power.

Then we should gaze upon the Lord's words and read them in awe and veneration, longing to obey His commands and accept His demands. Thus the Lord's words will flow and work inside us, bringing with them life, illumination, and power, so that His words will become "active" to us.

When we are reading the Lord's words in this way and when these words are working actively inside us, whether they will moisten us, or strengthen us, or

illuminate us, or blame us, or command us, or demand us, we should stop now and then, never expecting to read too much or too fast. (This applies only to reading the Bible in the morning watch.) We should read repeatedly in spirit the words which have become active in our spirit, letting them flow inside us, work inside us, and anoint our soul without any obstruction.

When the Lord's words illuminate us, we should confess our sins; when they moisten or strengthen us, we should praise; when they become commands or demands, we should obey and accept them; when they are open to us and make us recognize God Himself and His intention, we should add some more prayers of pursuit.

When we have read the Lord's words in this way in the morning, we will feel so fresh, illuminated, strong, and satisfied, as if we had just eaten a meal to the full. If only we would persist in learning this blessed lesson, so that the Word of God will replenish us day by day and enable us to enter a more abundant life.

VI. The Work of Intercession

During the morning watch, the last and the most important thing is intercession. After our spirit has been fed and strengthened by the spiritual food and the living water of the Holy Spirit, we should make good use of a certain period of time to do the work of intercession before the Lord. All the above-mentioned are what we enjoy before the Lord, whereas the work of intercession is our service before Him. We must always remember that all the enjoyment is for the service. Consequently, the time for intercession is the holiest and the most serious moment during the morning watch.

In the present age, the heart of the Lord is so eager to bring His intention to perfection. The salvation of the sinners, the blessedness of the saints, the revival of the testimony of the Church, the binding of the enemy's power and influence, the arrival of the Kingdom of Heaven, for all these we must share in prayer the same work and the same mind with the Lord. Intercession is the

biggest and the truest of all our services. It is also the biggest demand and command of the Lord to us. May there be more sons and daughters of God who can see the urgent need of the Lord and can accept the burden of intercession, so that the testimony of the Lord can be revived and the Lord can get unobstructed roads on earth.

Intercession Is the Great Duty of the Lord Jesus

“And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone.” (Matthew 14:23)

“I do not pray for these only, but also for those who are to believe in me through their word.” (John 17:20)

“Consequently he is able for all time to save those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.” (Hebrews 7:25)

Of all the things the Lord is doing today, one thing is extremely important. That is the work of intercession. Jesus, in the heavenly situation after the Ascension, is specially designated as the Lord of intercession before the Father God. Intercession is not only the greatest duty of the Lord, but His exclusive, holy duty as well. It is because only the Lord has the position and power to live forever and pray for us. The quotation from Matthew 14:23 is a great prediction. After the Lord left His disciples and ascended to heaven, the disciples stayed on earth by themselves. That dark period of time was so difficult and dangerous. Yet it didn't matter, for the Lord was praying for them on the mountain during the whole night. This exactly describes how the Lord is performing His great duty of intercession in heaven. It is said more clearly in Chapter 17 of JOHN that the sphere and objectives of the Lord's intercession were His disciples. The Lord did not pray for the world. He prayed for His disciples only, and kept watch for us before God during the whole night. Today we are able to live a spiritual life, to have spiritual power, to overcome the attacks from our enemy, and to go through all kinds of trials. It is all because the Lord is making

intercession for us. Nowadays, there are so many saints who were revived in wonder after they had sunk in discouragement, who obtained support marvelously after they had fallen in weakness, who got guidance wonderfully after they had gone astray, and who were healed and encouraged strangely after they had fallen ill in disappointment. All these resulted from the Lord's work of intercession. Oh, brothers and sisters, how blessed we are, because the Lord is responsible for us. All the blessings we have today are due to the Lord's great duty of intercession.

The Call and Command of Intercession

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men.”

(1Timothy 2:1)

“Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another.”
(James 5:16)

“If anyone sees his brother committing what is not a mortal sin, he will ask...” (1 John 5:16)

“Thus says the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker:

Ask Me about the things to come concerning My sons,

And you shall commit to Me the work of My hands.”

(Isaiah 45:11)

First of all we must clearly understand that intercession is the exclusive, holy duty of the Lord. Today the Lord has issued to us the call and command of intercession, because He has put us in His own place, calling upon us to unite and share the great duty of Jesus in position of the Ascension. It actually shows that the Lord has raised and promoted us. Intercession is the most honorable, most glorious, and most effective of all our services. The power and effect of all the other services are quite limited, while the power, effect, and related sphere (concerning both time and space) brought about by praying are limitless. All the

other services are indirect, while the service of intercession is direct. What is more, intercession is the foundation and backup force of all kinds of services. All the other services may result in failure, whereas only the work of intercession will never fail. What is most desired by the Lord who has ascended to heaven is that we, in answer to His call, fulfil the duty of intercession together with Him, so that the Lord can find ways and positions to do limitless work until His intentions are accomplished on earth.

How to Make Intercessions

“I appeal to you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf.” (Romans 15:30)

The condition of intercession consists in the sacrifice of oneself. Intercession is a great job, but not everybody can do the job. A person who lives in himself cannot make intercessions, nor a person who only loves himself, nor a person whose heart is filled with and occupied by his personal needs. Only a person who sacrifices himself can answer the Lord’s call of intercession and fulfil this blessed duty.

The basis of intercession consists in burden. A person who does not bear spiritual burden for the intention and work of the Lord cannot make intercessions. Intercession is based on the burden we bear for the testimony of the Lord.

The power of intercession consists in the love of the Holy Spirit. Only a person who is full of the love of the Holy Spirit can have great power in the work of intercession. When Paul advised his brethren to make intercessions, he said, “By the love of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit I advise you.” May we, inspired by the love of the Lord, pray not only for our brethren, but also for our enemies and for those who have oppressed and insulted us. May the life the Lord sacrificed and the love of His sacrifice be fully embodied in our

intercessions, and bring down boundless power and blessings for the testimony of the Lord.

Morning Watch Guide

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Printed in the United States of America

Morning is the time God set for meeting His children and distributing spiritual food to them. Fellowship with God during the morning watch really comprises the source of a Christian's Spiritual strength and the secret of a successful spiritual life.