

Let Us Pray

Matthew 6:6 “But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.”

You likely recognize the words above as spoken by Christ Jesus our Lord, while He preached unto His disciples about the priority of prayer in the life of a child of God. In this passage Christ provides instruction on one of the greatest privileges afforded to the people of God, the ability to pray. Prior to Him giving the model for our prayer, Christ first unveils the necessity of you and I having communion that is “in secret”, or witnessed only by God.

Andrew Bonar, a preacher from Edinburgh, Scotland whose ministry spanned the mid 1800's once stated, “The best part of all Christian work is that part which only God sees.”

In “Barbed Arrows” (Charles H. Spurgeon), Spurgeon gave the following illustration regarding our private prayer:

A little boy, who was accustomed to spend some time every day in prayer, went up into a hayloft, and when he climbed into the hayloft, he always pulled the ladder up after him. Someone asked him why he did so. He answered, “As there is no door, I pull up the ladder.” Oh, that we could always in some way cut the connection between our soul and the intruding things which lurk below!

S.D. Gordon, in his book on Prayer, Power and Service states that “the great people of the earth today are the people who pray...I often think that sometimes we pass some plain-looking woman quietly slipping out of church...hands that have not known much of the softening of gloves; and we hardly give her a passing thought, and do not know, nor guess, that perhaps she is the one who is doing far more for her church, and for the world, and for God than a hundred who would claim more attention and thought, because she prays; truly prays as the Spirit of God inspires and guides.”

In our present day there are more avenues than ever that ensure we stay connected with all that is going on around us in the world. Christ, however, is much more concerned that we stay connected with the Father. I wonder just what would happen in our homes, church, community, county, state and nation if even just a few of us would take these words as serious as prescribed, when spoken by our Lord.

Pastor Tim Hodge