

Message Two

The Procedures of Fellowship

Scripture Reading: Psa. 27:4

Psa. 27: 4—One thing I have asked from Jehovah; That do I seek: To dwell in the house of Jehovah All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of Jehovah, And to inquire in His temple.

I. There are procedures for everything that is done; fellowshiping with God also has procedures; although these procedures are not rigid, we cannot deviate too much from them; we will reap the most benefit if we fellowship with God according to the best procedures:

A. A person who fellowships with God must learn to be quiet—cf. Isa. 30:15:

Isa. 30:15—For thus says the Lord Jehovah, the Holy One of Israel, In returning and rest you will be saved; In quietness and in trust will be your strength; But you were not willing,

1. Being quiet is not merely to be freed from entanglements of outward matters but also to let go of all the things that should not be in our mind, our thoughts.
2. When a Christian desires to learn to fellowship with God, Satan will work very hard to inject many thoughts into his mind; sometimes Satan injects thoughts to bother his mind and disturb his inner being—Eph. 6:16; cf. 2 Cor. 10:4-5.

Eph. 6:16—Besides all these, having taken up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming darts of the evil one.

3. Whenever we come before God, we should not immediately pray, read the Bible, or sing hymns; rather, we need to settle our being both inwardly and outwardly.
4. However, we cannot be quiet for too long; otherwise, many scattered thoughts will begin to come in.

B. After settling down, it is best to pray first—Matt. 6:6; Phil. 4:6; cf. Matt. 14:23:

Matt. 6:6—But you, when you pray, enter into your private room, and shut your door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

Phil. 4:6—In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

1. When we pray, however, we should not pray too long, we should not pray wordy prayers, and we should not pray concerning many different matters.
2. Our prayer should be focused on touching God and contacting Him; this prayer should include confession and dealing—1 John 1:9.

John 1:9—If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

C. Once we contact and touch God, we should turn to read the Lord's Word, the Bible:

1. We should be careful not to exercise our mind merely to analyze while reading the Scriptures; this can be done at another time; this time is for eating—Matt. 4:4; John 6:63; 1 Pet. 2:2-3.

Matt. 4:4—But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."

John 6:63—It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

1 Pet. 2:2-3—As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation, ³If you have tasted that the Lord is good.

2. Studying about nutrition is one thing, whereas eating is another; reading the Word in fellowship is not for studying God's Word but for eating it.
 - D. As soon as we receive inspiration, while reading the Bible, we should turn the inspiration into prayer—Eph. 6:17-18:

Eph. 6:17-18—And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God, ¹⁸By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

 1. As long as time allows, we can continue reading and praying, praying and reading, thereby turning the inspiration we receive into prayer.
 2. This is the central and primary section of fellowshiping with the Lord.
 - E. After our inner being is well fed through the fellowship, if there is still time and burden, we can pray for some matters and persons—1 Tim. 2:1.

1 Tim. 2:1—I exhort therefore, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings be made on behalf of all men;
 - F. One of the procedures at the end of every fellowship is to worship with thanksgiving and praise—1 Thes. 5:18; Heb. 13:15.

1 Thes. 5:18—In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Heb. 13:15—Through Him then let us offer up a sacrifice of praise continually to God, that is, the fruit of lips confessing His name.
- II. If the above six procedures can be done in thirty minutes, they will be done in a good and proper way; of course, we may not be very skillful when we begin to practice; gradually, as we acquire the skill, we will gain the benefit—1 Tim. 4:15.**