

1 BE READY IN THE MORNING

Exodus 33:9, 11, 14 ... and the LORD talked with Moses... So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend... My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.

Exodus 34:2-3 So be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself to Me there on the top of the mountain. And no man shall come up with you, and let no man be seen throughout all the mountain...

The main cause of spiritual breakdown or defeat is weakness arising from a dearth in daily devotional life. We need to cherish and nourish our life in God by giving precedence to this in our daily routine. The simple key to a victorious and abundant life in Christ is a strong devotional life. Everything about a man's spiritual stature can be reduced to the state of his daily devotions.

Everyone needs to have his own 'tent of meeting' like Moses, pitched away from the camp and the crowd, and the hustle and bustle of life. We need to have a time and place to be alone with God regularly. Many do not hear God speaking to them because they do not take the time to be with Him. How else can we know and hear Him? Can there be friendship with God without fellowship with Him? The precious practice of God's presence and rest with us through the day has its spring in this sanctum. It cannot be whipped up in a moment of need. Without it, we get easily distracted and dissipated. No amount of rallying or scrambling can compensate for the loss of communion. Keep a jealous guard over this treasure of communing with God.

God's instructions to Moses to go up to the mount to receive the Law are very instructive for our keeping of the morning watch. There are two physical aspects to this:

- **Time: When - In The Morning**

There is no substitute for the early morning. Let this be the first thing we do at the dawn of each new day. Meet with God before you meet the demands of the day.

- **Place: Where - In The Mount**

We need to be alone so as to attend to the Lord without distraction. It is in the mount, above the dusty plains of daily toil, while we watch and worship, that His Word is given and the pattern of things to be done is made known.

Three aspects relate to our attitudes and actions:

- **Be Ready:** There must be a desire and readiness to meet God. Otherwise it soon degenerates into a ritual. Is this the first thing we look forward to when we get up each day?
- **Come Up:** We need to actually get up and do it. Setting and hearing the alarm clock is not enough. We have to go to Him rather than expect Him to come to us.
- **Present Yourself:** Pour yourself out before Him and delight in His presence. Ask the Lord, as the psalmist did, to "*open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law*" (*Psalms 119:18*).