

Daily in His Presence



A Classic Devotional
from One of the Most Powerful Voices
of the Nineteenth Century

Andrew
MURRAY

with BRUCE WILKINSON

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The Marriage of the Lamb

Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'"

REVELATION 19:9

All who rejoice in salvation are invited to the marriage of the Lamb, not merely as spectators, but as the bride of the Lamb. The angel refers to the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down from heaven as the bride of Christ. All the nations that are saved walk in her light. The time of the marriage feast of the Lamb will be when Christ presents His redeemed people as one body to the Father, and they are taken up to sit with Him on the throne eternally.

When the prodigal son returned to his home, his father prepared a feast, where all rejoiced over the return of the son who had been dead and was alive again. What joy there will be when the Lamb, who died for us on the cross, celebrates His triumph and the glory of God!

When we are invited to the wedding of a distinguished person we take great care to wear suitable clothes. What concern then, mingled with joy, should there be in the hearts of those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb! If you really cherish the joyful hope of sitting at the marriage feast of the Lamb, will you not each day make use of the unspeakable privilege of approaching the throne of grace? Will you not entrust yourself in loving surrender to Him, and pray for grace that each day the way may be made more ready for the great heavenly marriage feast of the Lamb? Do not only prepare yourself, but also seek for the grace to win others to partake of the feast of Everlasting Love.



*Thank You, Lord,
that You have
chosen to invite
me to the
marriage of the
Lamb. Thank You
that we can join
You as Your
bride at the
wedding supper.*

The Throne of God and of the Lamb

*Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life,
as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.*

REVELATION 22:1

What does the river of the water of life signify? Nothing less than the Holy Spirit, who was not given until the Lamb was on the throne. Now the water of life streams from the throne of the Lamb to those who believe in Him fully, giving to each according to His faith and desire that which Christ has promised: a fountain springing up to eternal life. The water of life surrounds us all, but because of laziness and worldliness we are unable to grasp it and enjoy it.

Perhaps I may make this clear by means of an illustration. When Marconi discovered how the radio worked, he realized that he could send messages throughout the whole world by means of radio waves. When he sent his first message from England to Italy, it passed through France, where there were millions of people who had no idea that such a message was passing. The message was heard and understood only when it reached the reception station that had been prepared for it in Italy.

Just so are we surrounded by the stream of eternal life without being aware of it. Yes, waves of heavenly grace, of life and power, love and joy, surround us and we do not even know it. As Marconi spent years trying to master the secret of wireless telegraphy, we must also seek with undivided hearts to see the waves of life-giving water flowing from the throne of the Lamb, and realize that the water is for our daily use.



*God, I worship You
and the Lamb at
the throne. Let
Your glory fill me
with streams of
living water that
can flow through
me as a blessing
to others.*

The Heavenly Life

The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

REVELATION 22:3-4

Many Christians approach the throne of grace with the purpose of finding sufficient grace for their immediate needs. When they find this grace, they are satisfied, and they do not wait for enough grace to fill their entire life and enable them to walk in its light night and day. The result is that they never experience the full glory of God.

The promises of today's text is fulfilled to those who have faith in the unseen, and know that they have come to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of God, and received the sprinkled blood of Jesus (see Hebrews 12:22-24). To them the earthly life becomes an actual experience of preparation for the heavenly life. Note the wonderful promises given to those who linger at the throne of God:

His servants will serve Him—at first without seeing His glory.

They shall see His face—when they become aware of His omnipresence.

His name will be on their foreheads—when they obey His commands and walk in the light of His countenance all day long, the likeness of His image can be seen in them and His name will be visible on their foreheads (see Colossians 3:17).

It is a great privilege to approach the throne of grace and an even greater privilege when we see the face of God and of the Lamb and walk in their light each day. When the name of Christ is engraved upon our hearts and our foreheads, we are changed to His image, from glory to glory, as by the Spirit of the Lord.



Lord, I pray that something of the heavenly life will become visible to me, and in me, here on earth.

JULY 15

The Reign of Grace

Those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

ROMANS 5:17

The grace that reigns through the blood of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit, enable us to gain victory over sin.

Salvation does not, as many think, mean a life of falling and rising again. No, it is God's will that His children should be conquerors in their life on earth. There is, however, one condition and that is that they should live day by day in the abundance of grace that is to be obtained at the throne of grace.

In Romans 5:20, Paul says that where sin increases, grace increases all the more. Is it not wonderful that although sin abounds, grace is always greater and more abundant than sin can ever be? I may, by reading God's Word, have an overpowering sense of the great power of sin, but I also have the assurance that grace—the life-power of God within me—is far more abundant and powerful.



*Lord, thank You
for the abundant
grace You bestow
on me. Remind me
always that Your
grace is stronger
than the power
of sin.*

Just as sin reigned in death, grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (see Romans 5:21). Remember that God's grace is stronger than the power of sin and that you are more than a conqueror through Him that loves you. This is a sure word. They that receive the abundance of grace reign already in this life through Jesus Christ.

I am sure that by this time you have noticed how important it is to approach the throne of grace every day with a deep sense of need, but fully assured that you will receive the power to conquer sin. Daily fellowship with God will lead to a rich life full of good deeds—a life that will bear witness to the abundant grace of God.

Face to Face

*So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying,
“It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.”*

GENESIS 32:30

In these words of Jacob, uttered after he had become *Israel*, we find expression of that which prayer meant to him. The words show us what each child of God, through the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, may experience every day. God will cause His face to shine upon us, and we shall see Him face-to-face and be delivered.

How often Christians complain that they have little experience of what it means to meet with God in prayer and feel the light of His countenance upon them. They have tried their best, but it seems to no avail. Their thoughts in the inner chamber bring only self-reproach and shame.

And yet your Father in heaven is not only willing but strongly desires that the light of His countenance shall rest upon you. Perhaps the words of this text may help to assure you of God’s desire. Yes, your inner chamber can also be called *Peniel*, because it is the place where God wants to meet you face-to-face. Only there will you realize what it is to meet with God, to see His face, and to feel how certain and blessed it is that His love rests upon you.

Begin with this prayer: “Restore us, O LORD God Almighty; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved” (Psalm 80:19). Meditate on the words. Believe firmly that you may know their power and truth. Remember how Jacob refused to let go of God before God blessed him. Persevering prayer is needed to convince us that God will indeed make Himself known to us.



*Lord, I thank You
for the great
privilege that You
want to meet with
me, a sinner,
face-to-face.*

The Lord Is One

*“The most important [commandment],” answered Jesus, “is this:
‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.’”*

MARK 12:29

The law may command us to love, but it cannot *make* us love; it is powerless to force us to love God. Love for God can only be born of the knowledge of Him as the one true God, in His excellent greatness and glory and in His unspeakable love and compassion. When Moses said that the Lord our God is one God, He was making known the supreme right that God has to our love. The love of God enters our hearts when we are reminded of his words, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin” (Exodus 34:6–7).

We cannot love God as we should unless we realize that He is worthy to be loved wholeheartedly. It is no wonder that Christians are afraid of the command to love God with all their heart and all their strength. Without true confession of sin it is impossible for anyone to understand how abundantly God forgives, and how rich He is in mercy. The heart filled with a burning desire to serve God will say, “God is indeed worthy of my love; I will love him with my whole heart!”

Meet God in prayer each day. Live in the light of His love and draw near to Him in absolute surrender to His will. You will find that this love works two ways: God gives Himself wholly to you, and you surrender yourself and everything you own to Him.



*Lord, forgive me
for placing my
trust in other
things. Reveal
Yourself to me
every day so that I
can love and serve
You with all my
heart and all
my strength.*

The Abiding Presence of God

The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

PSALM 145:18

You long to continually experience the nearness of God. Here is the secret: Pray. Pray without ceasing. Then you will have the assurance that the Lord is near to those who call upon Him. Prayer has the wonderful power of drawing us nearer to God and keeping us in His presence. God is everywhere and He is ready and able to grant us unbroken fellowship with Him.

What does it mean to pray without ceasing? The answer is clear. Realize first that God is near you, within you, and then you will feel how natural it is to talk to Him each moment about your needs and desires. It is this kind of prayer of which Paul says, "Night and day we pray most earnestly" (1 Thessalonians 3:10).

It is only the person who lives a life independent of God that says, "I must take time to first find God before I can pray." But to the true Christian, life is a constant abiding with the Father. Interaction between you and the Father should be a daily activity, like breathing or sleeping, instead of something that happens only once a day. The principle of complete dependence on the unseen God, and the holy habit of claiming His presence with us each moment of the day, is the secret to a life of true godliness.

God is always near, so that you may call upon Him at all times. We must make all our needs and requests known to God through prayer and the peace of God will be with us.



*Thank You, Lord,
that You are
always near to me
and that I can
call on You at any
time. Thank You
that I can
experience
Your presence
all day long.*

Take Time with God

*There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under heaven.*

ECCLESIASTES 3:1

It should be the aim of every Christian to set aside a little time each day for quiet communion with God. There is a time for everything. Shall there be no time to spend in the presence of the Creator of all things? No time to contemplate His will and purpose for us? The holy, loving God is indeed worthy of the *best* of our time. We should live in constant fellowship with Him, but each day there should be a special time of quiet when we are with Him alone.

We need a period daily for secret fellowship. Time to turn from daily activities and search our hearts in His presence. Time to study His Word with reverence and godly fear. Time to seek His face and ask Him to reveal Himself to us. Time to wait until we know that He

sees and hears us so that we can make our needs known to Him in words that come from the depth of our hearts. Time to let God deal with our special needs, to let Him shine in our hearts, to let ourselves be filled with His Spirit!



*Lord, it is so easy
to find time for
my own interests.*

*Thank You that
You not only gave
me a little of Your
time, but that You
gave me Your life.*

What do you think: Will a quarter of an hour each day be sufficient for this purpose? If you are unwilling to make such an arrangement you must not be surprised if your spiritual life becomes ineffective. Fellowship with God should be your first priority. If you do this regularly, you will learn to value it more and more. Soon you will feel ashamed that there was ever a time when you thought that fifteen minutes would suffice.

Think of the hours a child spends at school to prepare Him for life. How much longer then should we spend to prepare ourselves for the eternal life?

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