

## The Ministry of Prayer V

*"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen..."*

One of the most difficult aspects of prayer for most folks is the fact that we pursue a God who cannot be seen. John says, "No one has ever seen God...(I John 4:12)." Prayer takes faith. Our faith is exercised every time we come to the Father. Paul says, "We live by faith not by sight" (II Corinthians 5:7). Please hear this. Paul is not saying that we don't have sight. He is saying that we cannot see God with our natural eyes. But you must know that by activating your faith you activate a different set of eyes. A few verses earlier, Paul says this: "So we fix our eyes not on what can be seen (that would be the natural) but on what is unseen (that would be the spiritual). For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (II Corinthians 4:18).

God is a Spirit and He can be seen. But He cannot be seen with the natural eye. He can only be seen by those who are developing eyes of faith. Eyes of faith are developed in our prayer closet. Many people go on about their day and never recognize that the Lord is with them. His name is Immanuel which means God is with us. But His presence is so often unknown. How can you increase your awareness of the Lord's presence with you in your everyday life? Jesus encourages us to hit the prayer closet. 15 minutes with the Lord in secret will increase your sensitivity in public.

I had a revealing thing happen this week. We are all busy folks but I really don't like going through my day without recognizing the presence of the Father with me. I'm like you and have to fight for the time I spend with the Lord in my secret place. But I'm finding that awakening spiritual sensitivity in the prayer closet gives me that same spiritual sensitivity where I need it the most, in the world. I was driving someone else's car and they had it on a talk radio station. It was the "Jersey guys." They were talking about an injustice. It was a good cause, so I listened. As callers called in they had their opinion on the injustice but at times disagreed with the hosts. When that happened one of the hosts would rag on the caller and literally point out how dumb they were. This guy would go on and on complaining about the injustice but was rude and brash with anyone who was of a different opinion. I had to drive quite a ways so I kept on listening. When I got to my destination I found myself complaining and agitated with people. Man! People! They're all nuts! Suddenly the Lord got my spirit. I was not acting in the heart of Christ. Ouch! I could feel it and see it. I repented right there and changed my attitude. Then the Lord spoke. He told me that the rest of my day could have been corroded by negativity toward people because I had listened to a guy who did not have a godly heart. He showed me that other people can shape the lens my eyes look through. I desire to see what God sees just like you. That little 15 minutes with the Lord in my prayer closet paid off. The Lord, in the middle of my day, could correct me, I could hear Him and I could repent and get my spiritual receptors back in tune with His gracious Spirit. Pray to your Father who is unseen and He will reward you with His presence and His heart in the world.