

The Ministry of Prayer VI

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

Last week we looked at this scripture in Matthew and were focusing on the difficulty of praying to a Father who we cannot see with our natural eyes. We are so physically oriented that many times we miss God because we cannot see him. But the more we develop spiritual eyes for our Father in heaven in our prayer room, the more we will see the Father in our daily lives. Whatever sensitivity you develop in your secret prayer life will be manifest in your daily living! Jesus, while he was on earth, said to the Jews who were persecuting him for healing on the Sabbath, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees the Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does” (John 5:19). How limited we are because we often cannot see what the Father is doing!

We need to develop our eyes of faith. The author of Hebrews says, “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” (11:1). We may not be able to see it in the natural but there are many things to be seen in the spiritual, including God himself; including Jesus. Jesus said to his disciples, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9). Thomas said that he was not going to believe in the resurrected Lord unless he saw him and saw the nail marks in his hands. A week later Jesus shows up in their hiding place, though the doors were locked, and reveals himself to Thomas. Thomas is awed by his Savior and proclaims, “My Lord and my God!” Then Jesus says, “Because you have seen me you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen me (physically like Thomas did) yet have believed” (John 20:29). What does Jesus mean by this? There is a special blessing on the lives of those who have formed eyes of faith. They are able to see the Lord and see the Father and believe. They see the word of God. It is revealed to them and they believe. And through the Holy Spirit’s indwelling presence, they can see the gifts that are available to them, supernatural gifts, and they believe, pick up or put on the gift and use it to the glory of the Father. We do not need to see physically to believe. We just need eyes of faith. Paul says, “We live by faith not by sight,” meaning that as a believer we do not live by what our physical eyes see, but by what our eyes of faith see. Spiritual eyes can be developed by every believer. They are first developed in our prayer room; praying to a Father who is unseen. You begin to sense things that you were not aware of and you begin to think you’re a little weird. Is that really you God???