

THE SECRET OF
FELLOWSHIP

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The Secret of Fellowship

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INTRODUCTION

To my Brethren in the Ministry:

BELOVED brethren—The more I think of and pray about the state of religion in this country and all over the world, the deeper my conviction becomes that the low state of the spiritual life of Christians is due to the fact that they do not realize that the aim and object of conversion is to bring the soul, even here on earth, *to a daily fellowship with the Father in heaven*. When once this truth has been accepted, the believer will perceive how indispensable it is to the spiritual life of a Christian to take time each day with God's Word, and, in prayer, to wait upon God for His presence and His love to be revealed.

But how can Christians be taught this lesson and be persuaded to live in obedience to it? The first thing is that the minister *himself* must be convinced of the great need for daily fellowship with God and must grasp his calling to train his people to habits of prayer. His hearers must be brought under the impression, through his preaching, that it is not enough at conversion to accept forgiveness of sins or even to surrender themselves to God. That is only a beginning. The young believer must understand that he has no power of his own to maintain his spiritual life.

No, he needs each day to receive new grace from heaven through fellowship with the Lord Jesus. This cannot be obtained by a hasty prayer or a superficial reading of a few verses from God's Word. He must take time quietly and deliberately to come into God's presence, to feel his weakness and his need, and to wait upon God through His Holy Spirit to renew the heavenly light and life in his heart. Then he may rightly expect to be kept by the power of Christ throughout the day, through all its temptations.

It has been my aim in writing this little book to help Christians to see the absolute necessity of fellowship with the Lord Jesus. Without this, the joy and power of God's Holy Spirit in daily life cannot be experienced. Many of God's children long for a better life but do not realize the need of giving God time day by day in the inner chamber to renew and sanctify their lives by His Spirit. Oh, that every minister would lead and help those under his charge to grasp this great truth.

Beloved brethren, meditate on this thought: *The feeble state of my spiritual life is mainly due to the lack of time day by day in fellowship with God.* The minister is the one who must teach this lesson to his people, and encourage them to believe that a different life is possible. New life will dawn in many a soul as a result of time spent in prayer alone with God.

If you should find a blessing in reading this little book, I ask that you share the blessing with others. If you have accepted the message that the Lord Jesus will,

day by day, grant you His presence and love, pass it on to others. However weak and impotent you feel, your faith will be strengthened as you help others to realize their need of fellowship with Jesus daily.

As we think of the need of our country and church, as we think of souls around us, as we think of the extension of God's kingdom, we ask you, O Christians, to help us find volunteers, who, as true soldiers of the cross, will persevere continually in prayer till God pours out His blessing upon us.

Your servant in the love of Christ and in prayer,

ANDREW MURRAY
Wellington, South Africa

Day 1

Day by Day

The inward man is being renewed day by day.

Second Corinthians 4:16

THERE is one lesson that all young Christians should learn, namely this: *the absolute necessity of fellowship with Jesus each day.* This lesson is not always taught at the beginning of the Christian life, nor is it always understood by the young convert. He should realize that the grace he has received of the forgiveness of sins, of acceptance as God's child, of joy in the Holy Spirit, can only be preserved by the daily renewal of fellowship with Jesus Christ Himself.

Many Christians backslide because this truth is not clearly taught. They are unable to stand against the temptations of the world or of their old nature. They strive to do their best to fight against sin and to serve God, but they have no strength. They have never really grasped the secret: The Lord Jesus will *every day* from heaven continue His work in me. But on one condition—*the soul must give Him time each day* to impart His love and His grace. Time alone with the Lord Jesus each day is the indispensable condition of growth and power.

Read Matthew 11:25–30. Listen to Christ's word: "Come to Me . . . and I will give you rest. . . . Learn from Me . . . and you will find rest for your souls" (Matt. 11:28–29). The Lord will teach us just how gentle and humble He is. Bow before Him, tell Him

The Secret of Fellowship

that you long for Him and His love, and He will let His love rest on you.

This is a thought not only for young Christians but for all who love the Lord, and this little book is designed to help those who desire to live this life of fellowship with Christ. We will try to put the message as clearly, as lovingly, as urgently as possible. May each of us start with this resolve: For the sake of Christ, and in order to please Him; for my own sake, and to enable me to enjoy this blessed experience each day, I will learn the lesson to *spend time each day*—without exception—*in fellowship with my Lord*. So will our inner man be renewed day by day.