

In Touch with God

Stanley Banks

"He that chooseth as his permanent abode the secret place of the Most High, shall always be in touch with the Almightyness of God" (Ps. 91:1).

What a prospect! "Always in touch with the Almightyness of God." What possibilities! "In touch with God!"

Surely this is the secret of vital Christianity! It is just here that we find the basic difference between apostolic Christianity and modern Christianity. Generally speaking, we modern Christians live too closely to our organization and to the opinions of the world, and our faith often rests in the wisdom and power of men. We must learn how to live in touch with God.

We Christians are like electric wires. The function of a wire is to conduct electricity from a source of supply—the power station—to a given point for a distinct purpose, a fire to give heat, a bulb to give light or a machine to produce motion. We are to be in touch with God in a similar manner, and be conductors of His resources; this can only be as we maintain contact with Him.

Think of the immense possibilities of such constant contact with the Eternal God. We become channels through which the power of God can flow. This power is twofold in its functions. First of all it is power for BEING: power to be holy in all manner of living; power to be the person God expects me to be; power to be Christlike.

Secondly, it is power for DOING. If we live in contact with God, we discover the secret of power to do the will of God, power to do the work of God, and power to walk with God and please Him as Enoch did. There is no shortage of power to the man who lives in touch with the Almightyness of God.

We also become channels through which the wisdom of God can flow. If we live in touch with Him we shall not lack guidance. Spiritual things are spiritually discerned. You cannot walk the Christian way on the basis of natural reasoning, but if you live in contact with God, His wisdom is at your disposal. What wonderful possibilities there are here! We are so ignorant and stupid when it comes to spiritual things, but here are resources of wisdom available to the man who will make the secret place of the Most High his permanent abode.

"His wisdom ever waketh;

His sight is never dim.

He knows the way He taketh,

And I will walk with Him."

Through our contact with God we provide Him with a channel through which His love can flow to others. He greatly needs human channels through which he can express His love. So few people are able to discern a God of love in the providential circumstances of every day living. They are apt to take for granted the things which are received daily from God, and when things go wrong, they are quick to complain in bitter tones that God cannot be a God of love and allow these things to happen. What they most need is to see the love of God flowing through our lives: our minds filled with His thoughts about them; our hearts overflowing with His feelings; our lips filled with His truths and our bodies devoted to the service of our fellowmen. This, surely, is the practical outcome of living in touch with God.

Choice Bits From Adam Clarke

"Had I no other proof that man is fallen from God, his opposition to Christian holiness would be sufficient."

"It is the blood of Jesus alone that cleanseth from all unrighteousness."

"Pride often works under a dense mask, and will often assume the garb of humility. How true is that saying and of how many it is the language: 'Proud I am my wants to see, and proud of my humility.'"

"We are never humbled under a sense of indwelling sin till the Spirit of God drags it to the light and shows us, not only its horrid deformity, but its hostility to God; but a false opinion causes men to hug the monster and to contemplate their chains with complacency!"

"If men would but spend as much time in fervently calling upon God to cleanse by the Blood that which is unclean in them as they spend in decrying this doctrine, what a glorious state of the church would we soon witness."

"Striving or agonizing to enter in at the strait gate is not pleasant work to the flesh."

"It is not the profession of a doctrine that establishes its truth; it is the truth of God from which it has proceeded."

"No doctrine of God stands upon the knowledge, experience, faithfulness, or unfaithfulness of man; it stands on the veracity of God Who gave it."

"How strangely warped and blinded by prejudice must men be who maintain that no man can be saved from his sin in this life. It is miserable salve to say that they do not sin as much as they used to do. The letter and the spirit of God's Word and the design and end of Christ's coming is to save His people from their sins."

"The perfection of the Gospel system is not that it makes allowances for sin but that it destroys it."

"Few are striving to excel in righteousness; and it seems to be a principle concern with many to find out how little grace they may have, and yet escape hell; little conformity to the will of God, and yet get to heaven."—Sel.

But the problem arises as to how we can maintain this daily contact with God. Perhaps three suggestions may help to achieve this goal.

1. The Psalmist lays stress upon the secret place, and this cannot be over-emphasized; fidelity to the daily prayer life is the most costly thing in the Christian life, but here lies the secret of contact with God.

2. Add to this the importance of a sustained surrender. The act of surrender is both final and unfolding in that there is the initial act and the maintained attitude. We must sustain our initial surrender at every subsequent point of testing, for this helps to sustain our contact with God.

3. Finally, cleansing is essential to contact. Read James 4:8-10; Hebrews 10:19-22; Matthew 5:8; Psalms 24:3-4. These Scriptures, and many others, make it clear that we must have clean hands and a pure heart if we want to live in touch with God.

This surely is the need of the hour and is, moreover, the secret of revival: believers in touch with the Almightyness of God.—Emmanuel.

Wanted, Intercessors!

By Bessie Hatcher

"Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment. And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him" (Isaiah 59:15,16).

And God saw! Oh, how the heart of God must be hurt at the indifference and unconcern of so many of His professing children today. Lost and dying humanity are all about us. We should get near enough to the heart of God to feel as He feels about the awfulness of a lost soul. But we are so busy seeking and attending to things that we seldom think about eternal issues. What the world needs, and what God needs is a multitude of intercessors.

It means much to be an intercessor. It takes time, strength, soul agony and tears. An intercessor must get close to the souls that need help, he must enter into their suffering and their problems, he must put himself in their place, and he must hold on until deliverance comes.

Real intercession means to lock forces with the very powers of hell, until one can sometimes almost smell the brimstone and feel the awful pall of the pit. The devil does not fear a routine prayer. But when one of God's prayer warriors begins to pull on God, to claim the promises and to hold on, refusing to be denied, then all the powers of hell are arrayed against that one. Afflictions, trials, privations and misunderstandings may come upon that saint of God, but they will never halt his praying. Such an intercessor takes over the job of praying something to pass, and God accomplishes that for which he asks. Hallelujah!

Many say, "Pray for me." It has become a religious formula; if I ask, someone will pray away my troubles. Some people ask for prayers for their loved ones, but they themselves are not concerned enough to get under a burden for them.

Think particularly of the great need of prayer for our missionaries. Oh, how they plead for prayer and for intercessors. "God bless our missionaries today," we pray. But do we read the missionary articles, and do we sense their needs and their problems? The conditions and dangers that many of them have to face are almost indescribable. Think of their passion for lost souls! How they labor, plan, and build churches and hospitals, and literally become all things to all men so that more people will be saved. If it were your boy or girl who lived in heathen darkness and if the missionary were trying to win him, how would you pray?

Oh, the privilege of interceding! The Holy Ghost helps us to pray according to the will of God. Jesus presents our petition unto God, pleading the merits of His blood. Then God, in His infinite love, accomplishes that for which we ask. For it is not our Father's will that any should perish or that His children suffer wretched trials or oppositions. What glory fills the soul when prevailing prayer has been made!

To your knees, oh church of the living God! Pray on till you prevail. Intercede until a mighty, sweeping revival of Holy Ghost religion will sweep through Zion, and throughout the world. Amen and Amen!

—Pilgrim Holiness Advocate.