

clothed with power from on high." And our Lord's command was in complete harmony with His practice. He did nothing without prayer. No one realized as did Jesus the need and the value of unbroken fellowship with the Father. To meet this need He was wont to arise long before the light of day appeared and betake Himself to some solitary place to pray. He knew the dissipating influence of being constantly in the presence of man. He could more easily dispense with daily food for His body than with daily food for His soul—fellowship with the Father.

In His baptism we find Him praying and before He sent forth the twelve He spent the whole preceding night in communion with God. And so profound an impression did His praying make upon the minds of the disciples that on one occasion they cried out "Lord teach us," not to preach but "to pray."

Jesus took time to study the scriptures and time to pray. And he requires each of His followers to have a secluded spot where he can daily meet Him. This is the place where "He daily anoints with fresh oil each waiting heart, and where blessings are bestowed with which they are to bless their fellow-men." "They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength."

Time was when Christians thought it necessary to shut themselves up in monasteries in order that they might thereby give themselves undistractedly to meditation and prayer. They forgot the Master's petition, "I pray not that Thou shouldst take them out of the world but that Thou shouldst keep them from the evil." But if the Christians of those distant days made the great mistake of withdrawing themselves altogether from contact with the world, if they lived too much in doors, it is to be feared that the average Christian of the present, busy, bustling age, lives too much out doors.

Jesus' life and words would teach us that no soul can possess a sound spiritual life that does not take time daily to study the word of God, and daily to hold fellowship with the Father. "In stillness and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength," says the prophet Isaiah. And a like thought is expressed by the Psalmist—"Be silent to the Lord and wait patiently for Him." Indeed, he is the most active and most aggressive in the work of his Master who is the most passive instrument in His hands.