

MORNING BY MORNING

**Listen to my voice in the morning, Lord.
Each morning I bring my requests to you
and wait expectantly.**

Psalm 5:3

Many Christians observe the morning watch, while others speak of it as the quiet hour, the still hour, or the quiet time. All these whether they think of a whole hour or half hour or a quarter of an hour, agree with the psalmist.

In speaking of the extreme importance of this daily time of quiet for prayer and meditation on God's word, a well-known Christian leader has said "Next to receiving Christ as Savior and claiming the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we know of no act that brings greater good to ourselves or others than the determination to keep the morning watch and spend the first half hour of the day alone with God.

At first glance this statement appears too strong. The firm determination to keep the morning watch hardly appears sufficiently important to be compared to receiving Christ and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. However, it is true that it is impossible to live our daily Christian life, or maintain a walk in the leading and power of the Holy Spirit, without a daily, close fellowship with God. The morning watch is the key to maintaining a position of total surrender to Christ and the Holy Spirit.

We as believers cannot stand for one moment without Christ. Personal devotion to Him refuses to be content with anything less than to abide always in His love and His will. This is the true scriptural Christian Life. The importance, joy, and purpose of the morning watch can only be realized as our personal devotion becomes its chief purpose.¹

¹Andrew Murray, Teach Me To Pray