



Before the THRONE

The Devotional

Volume 2

Books of Poetry

Psalm 119:67 – 68

“Before I was afflicted I went astray; but now have I kept Your word. You are good, and do only good; teach me Your statutes.” Psalm 119:67 – 68

The Holy Spirit is the Teacher of the Church as well as the Teacher of the individual believer. He is your Instructor. “Nevertheless, when He, the Spirit of Truth is come, He will lead you into all truth...” (John 16:13) His text is the Bible. “Now you are clean through the Word that I have spoken to you.” “Sanctify them through Your truth, Your word is truth.” (John 15:3; 17:17)

There is a progression in the dealings of God with man. First, man’s conscience speaks to his heart. Once the man is born again the conscience is quickened by the truth of God’s Word and the voice of the Spirit. Should we fail to respond to these gentle reminders or prompts we may be faced with hearing a message or sermon specifically directed at what we explicitly need to hear!. Failing to heed such obvious indicators we may then need to receive the Spirit’s message directly from a Christian brother or our employer coming to us with a sincere concern.

The patience of the Lord is longsuffering, but once we ignore these basic means of God’s speaking and correction we may then find ourselves outside the protection and blessing of the Lord. It is at this point we may end up in trouble or affliction. Many – at this point – turn to the Lord for help – and rightly so. Thinking the affliction is God’s way of getting their attention they are unaware of all the better things and methods the Lord was using to gain their attention.

A question then arises for us – if we would respond quicker to the Holy Spirit’s voice in His Word, would we need to face so many afflictions? Whatever the answer, a famed missionary to China said something we should never forget...

"It doesn't matter, really, how great the pressure is; it only matters where the pressure lies. See that it never comes between you and the Lord – then the greater the pressure, the more it presses you to His breast." Hudson Taylor

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