**The Quiet Hour #4**

The Secret Place

**Psalm 91:1**

*“He that dwelleth in* ***the secret place*** *of the Most High*

*shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”* **-Psalm 91:1**

*“But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut the door, pray to* ***thy Father which is in secret****…”***-Matt. 6:6**

This **Quiet Hour** occurs in the “secret place” and is a divine encounter that occurs when a man or a woman meets personally with God. It is only possible to reconnect with God when we disconnect from all that distracts from and interferes with this “one-on-one” time with God. When an individual is alone, still, and quiet, nearness to God can be experienced in an unprecedented way. **Samuel Chadwick** said, *“It would revolutionize the lives of most men (and women) if they were shut in with God in some secret place for half an hour a day.”* This **Quiet Hour** is actually designed to guide you into a full hour of encountering your God in a fresh way. As you “draw near” to Him, He will “draw near” to you (James. 4:8).

 In his message, **Why God Used D.L. Moody**, **R.A. Torrey** wrote these words: *“Yes, D.L. Moody was a man who believed in the God who answers prayer, and not only believed in Him in a theoretical way, but believed in Him in a practical way. He was a man who met every difficulty that stood in his way – by prayer. Everything he undertook was backed up by prayer, and in everything, his ultimate dependence was upon God.”* It could be well said that he was the man he was, because he was a man of prayer. In a message entitled **Prevailing Prayer**, Moody described nine elements that, as he said, were essential to true prayer. These nine things will be the guide for your hour alone with God. Allow each one to direct you into meaningful conversation with your God. Note the scriptural reference and the brief explanation that Moody included. Think them through and talk them through with God. In the space provided or better yet in your own journal, record personal notes and thoughts.

**1**

1. **Adoration** – *“…we cannot meet God on a level at the start. We must approach Him as One far beyond our reach or sight.”* (Ps. 86:10)

* In one sentence, describe your God - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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* Tell Him what you wrote and why you wrote it.

2. **Confession** – *“…sin must be put out of the way. We cannot have any communion with God while there is any transgression between us.”* (Ps. 66:18)

* What types of sin may exist in your life?

 -presumptuous sins (Ps.19:13)

 -secret sins (Ps. 90:8)

 -besetting sins (Heb. 12:1)

 -unconfessed sins (I John 1:9)

* Take time to agree with God about the specific areas of sin that the Holy Spirit may bring to your mind.

3. **Restitution** – *“…we have to make good the wrong wherever possible.”* (Matt. 5:23,24)

* Is there anyone that you have wronged, hurt, or offended that you have not sought to make things right with them? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Ask God to help you to go to that person with a humble spirit to do whatever it takes for things to be made right again.

4. **Thanksgiving** – *“…we must be thankful for what God has done for us already.”* (Phil. 4:6)

* Make a list of 5 special ways that God has blessed you\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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* Read your list to God with a heart of gratitude. From memory, sing a song of praise to Him.

**2**

5. **Forgiveness** – *“If we allow the root of bitterness to spring up in our hearts against someone, our prayers will not be answered.”* (Eph. 4:32)

* Do you hold resentment toward another individual who hurt you in some way? If so, who?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* By the grace of your God and in your own words, write out a statement of forgiveness. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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6. **Unity** – *“One of the saddest things in the present day is the division in God’s church.”* (Acts 1:14)

* What would you consider to be a primary reason for division among the people of God? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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* Ask God to remove all sources of division and to allow His people to be living in harmony with one another.

7. **Faith** – *“There is nothing that can lie in the way of the accomplishment of any of God’s promises, but it is conquerable by faith.”* (Heb. 11:6)

* Do you ever find a tendency in your own praying toward unbelief?
* Personalize the prayer of *“the apostles”* in Luke 17:5 as you offer your requests to your Heavenly Father.

8. **Petition** – *“We hear a good deal of praying that is just exhorting, and if you did not see the man’s eyes closed, you would suppose he was just preaching. Then, much that is called prayer is simply finding fault. There needs to be more petition in our prayers.”* (Phil. 4:6)

* Prepare a list of specific things that you need from God right now. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Talk to God about what you wrote on your list.

**3**

**9. Submission** – *“While praying we must be ready to accept the will of God.”* (Ps. 40:8)

* What do you think it means to pray, *“Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”*  (Matt. 6:10)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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* Make this your prayer to your God, and specifically identify any area of your life where this is difficult.

This list was taken from the book ***The Best of Dwight L. Moody***, edited by Ralph Turnbull and published by Summit Books. The material was originally printed in Moody’s book ***Prevailing Prayer***, published by Fleming H. Revell Co. in 1885.

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**D.L. Moody said**:

 “A great many think because they have been filled once, they are going to be full for all time after; but oh my friends, we are leaky vessels, and have to be kept right under the fountain all the time in order to keep full. If we are going to be used by God we have to be very humble. A man that lives close to God will be the humblest of men. I heard a man say that God always chooses the vessel that is close at hand. Let us keep near Him.” **-Quoted from the book *They Found the Secret* by V. Raymond Edman**

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