

The Early Morning with God.

“ He wakeneth morning by morning, He wakeneth Mine ear to hear as the learned.—Isaiah 50. 4.

OFTEN, very often, have I thought of these words. There is no doubt that they describe perfectly the Lord Jesus. There was no defect in His daily walk with the Father. But the added statement is striking, “As the learned,” not in our modern sense of the word but rather “as the taught ones,” those who have learned (cf. John 6. 45), the true “disciples.” Hence the plural word here implies that this should be the characteristic of God’s dear children. All should have this attitude, and this willingness for Him to awaken them every morning. Is this verse illustrated in our own daily experience or not? The question is deeply important. We would not put it on one side. “Morning by morning.” There is a continuance. It is not enough to have spiritual experiences now and then, or to look forward to some “special meetings.” God may bless a crisis, but fruit-bearing is by “abiding” (John 15. 5). It is our Lord’s will that we should continue in His word (John 8. 31). Our gracious God indwells His humble people that He may revive

continually the spirit of the humble (Isa. 57. 15). God is faithful. Jeremiah's continuance year after year is specially mentioned (Jer. 25. 3). It is this that glorifies our Father.

How great is the privilege of sleep (Ps. 127. 2). How refreshed we are, and when we awake we are still with God (Ps. 139. 18). But is this all? Is our body awakened, and does our ear remain half asleep? Do we fail to listen for His will? And the next verse in Isaiah 50 shows there is a need for obedience. "The Lord God hath opened Mine ear and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back." "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them" (John 13. 17). Do we sit, to receive of our Lord's words (Deut. 33. 3), that the truth graciously given in Scripture may come in living power in our daily life? A neglected Bible means a fruitless life. A hurried late rising, with no time for God, cannot lead to spiritual profit and usefulness. We cannot "speak a word in season to him that is weary" unless we first hear. Nor can we give a warning from God unless we hear (Ezek. 3. 17). The high priest's ear was anointed first, and so was it with the cleansed leper, changed to a worshipper (Lev. 8. 23, 14. 14, 17). The hand and the foot were consecrated afterwards, and so is it ever. The key to the Christian life is in the ear. Adam heard aside (Gen. 3. 17, with Rom. 5. 19), but the Lord Jesus said "Mine ears hast Thou opened" (Ps. 40. 6), and the Holy Spirit explains this as "A body hast Thou prepared Me" (Heb. 10. 5). The whole body in harmony,—when there is the hearing ear.
