

# The Missionary and His Worship/raising and Maintaining Your Support

by Bud Elford

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*The sermon teaches that effective missionary work is rooted in genuine worship and a deep relationship with God through prayer.*

**Duration:** 44:03

**Scripture:** Matthew 6:5

**Topics:** "Missions", "Personal Devotion", "Worship"

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## Description

Bud Elford emphasizes the critical role of worship in the life of a missionary, asserting that effective service to God begins with a deep, personal relationship with Him. He discusses the importance of finding a quiet place to pray, being still, and listening for God's voice, rather than merely engaging in public displays of prayer. Elford encourages believers to prioritize their personal devotions and to cultivate a genuine worship experience that transforms their spiritual lives. He warns against the distractions of busyness and the need for a dedicated time to connect with God, which is essential for spiritual effectiveness. Ultimately, he calls for a commitment to seek God in the secret place, where true transformation occurs.

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## Transcript

I have purposely left to the last of our morning lectures the most important one, and the one that you need to start with so that when I finish you will know where to begin, if you follow me. As one person said, I'm sure you understand, if you think you understood what I thought I said, but I'm not so sure you realize that what I said is not what I meant. What I mean is, the lecture that I'm finishing with is the place we all have to start in this business of being a missionary, and the title is, A Missionary and His Worship.

I'm glad we sung that song, Oh To Be Like Thee, and I would like to sing it slow because we don't become like him quickly. And we have to do some things quickly, but we don't become like him quickly. And the lecture this afternoon, if you haven't been in our morning lectures, and I realize some of you haven't, we've been talking about the missionary and his relationship to money, raising it, maintaining it, and his attitude toward it.

The missionary and his relationship to his health, and how to keep your healthy body to do his work. And the missionary when he's alone in an isolated area, when he's being tested, staying happy and joyful in his

work. But today the missionary, in that most important aspect, his worship, involving his time in the presence of the Lord, and learning to hear his voice.

And our scripture is Matthew chapter 6, beginning to read at verse 5. In the name of Jesus. And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues, and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward.

But when you pray, go into your room, and shut the door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret, will reward you. And in praying, do not heap up empty phrases, as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.

Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask. Shall we bow in prayer? Heavenly Father, in secret, the world doesn't see you, and the world doesn't hear you, but we see you, and we hear you, when we take time to slow down. And Heavenly Father, I don't believe all the things that people believe about you.

So many think you're harsh, and very unforgiving, and always displeased, and unsatisfied, and very difficult to please, and to work for. And I really think that what Bridget told me last night is true about you, that you smile, and that you kind of like some of the things we do. And Lord, I want to tell you, in the presence of these people, and in the presence of the listening angels, and if any of hell is listening, that I think you're wonderful.

And I think that you're handling the world's situation right, and I think that you're the most lovable, benign, glorious person in the whole universe, because you're the one that originated it all. And you're the one that thought up this redemptive program. And you're the one that stands by ignored so much, and yet you're there.

And Francis Schaeffer was so right when he said, the God who's there. And I pray that before we're finished in this afternoon service, that there'll be a lot of people make up their mind to get into secret with you. Find out what you're like.

Oh, how good you are. How wonderful. How beyond compare.

Oh, Heavenly Father, let the secret of your presence be manifest to us, that we can be like you to men who don't know you. And as I was told yesterday by a person who found you, I knew more about the devil than I knew about God. Oh, that men would get to know you.

Bless us now as we talk about you. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

I didn't think I was going to be able to read our final lesson, because someone else thought it was pretty good too. But our final lesson is this. Said the first little chicken with a sad little sigh, how I wish I could find a fat little fly.

Said the next little chicken with an odd little shrug, I wish I could find a fat little bug. Said the third little chicken with a sharp little squeak, wished I could find some corn right in my beak. Said the fourth little chicken with a small sigh of grief, how I wish I could find a fat worm on a leaf.

See here, said the mother, from the green garden patch, if you want things to eat, just come out here and scratch. Now, we have sad little Christians, and odd little Christians, and sharp little Christians, and small

little Christians, who don't know where the garden patch is. And there is a garden of God filled with good things.

And to come there to find, you have to leave your passivity of wishes. You can't wish your way to Christlikeness. You can't wish your way to holiness.

It is an active pursuit. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ. The little chickens needed to obey the parent, come to the garden, bow themselves down, and look beneath the surface.

We must do the same thing. May God encourage you to do just that this afternoon. To be an effective servant of God, one must be a worshiper.

I said effective. There are many servants of God. Not all servants of God are effective for God.

You can tell whether you're effective or not. To learn to worship requires two great things. Number one, the right attitude towards God, the right beliefs about Him.

Number two, the decision to spend time with Him. Almost all missionary failure is spiritual. Almost all.

The most important aspect of your life, nothing excluded, is maintaining a happy relationship with the eternal God. Now there are more Christians in the world today than there has ever been in the world since the time Christians began. We are probably the best-dressed Christians in the world and the best-educated Christians in the world and the best-fed Christians in the world and perhaps the nicest-smelling Christians in the world, but we are not necessarily the most spiritual.

And we are not known today for our great prayers. We are not known as being men and women of prayers. We are known for our great activity and our books and our lectures and our travels and our discoveries and inventions, but not as being men of prayer.

We must not neglect this very vital aspect of the Christian. How long has it been since you have caught someone praying? Or for that matter, how long has it been since you were caught praying? In my life, I have only caught a few people praying and I've never forgotten those experiences. Once when I was a very small boy going upstairs for something, I saw my father kneeling down among the corn that was tied up to the rafters of an unfinished ceiling, rocking back and forth praying.

I never forgotten that. In another occasion, I caught a man praying. I went to his room.

He was a Bible school student. I said, I wanted to see Bruce. And they said, he's in prayer.

He wasn't to be disturbed. He didn't have any special problem. He wasn't seeking any special guidance.

He was in the secret place. He was in communion with the eternal. A man told me, a missionary who is being greatly used of God, when he learned how to pray, it was because he was in the presence of a man who was communing with God.

And he said, as he communed with God, I became embarrassed and ashamed. He said, I felt after a while like I was in someone's bedroom. And he said, I wanted to run.

Nearly all the great Bible prayers are private. There are very few great public prayers in the Bible. The place where they shook the house, as an exception.

The place where others prayed. But all great praying is done in private. You have to, as Jesus said, enter into your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is in secret.

Number one. Personal devotions. We talk about quiet time.

Devotions. And such like. I want to talk this afternoon about the kind you have all alone.

If you're married, there should be devotions with your children. Some people substitute those for the family devotions. There also needs to be what we call in our mission, staff meetings between husband and wife.

The staff of that home. My wife and I have staff meetings when we're home. They're part of our daily schedule.

Where we talk about the work and where we pray together about God. We also have time sometimes when we forget to go to bed, we get walking around in the heavens. But then there are other times when you have to be alone.

You can't pray with your wife or your husband, your roommate or your girlfriend, boyfriend, whatever. This personal devotional life, the secret place, is specific. It's to get to know God.

So to do that, you must do what Elijah did. Way back in 1 Kings chapter 19, you've got to find yourself a place. Now it's very important that you have a place.

You need a place to pray. The great men that I know have a place to pray. Pastor Hagree was telling me last time I was here in May that a pastor was telling him that he failed because his study became an office.

A pastor needs a study where he can pray. Not where he does his business in the earth, but where he does his business with God. You need a place.

I know a man who prays in the barn. I know missionaries who go out in the bush. I know missionaries who walk.

A housewife needs a place to pray. If you're leading a family, you need a place to pray. A place where you can get alone with God and be as emotional as you wish.

A place where you can be unpretentious. It's a secret meeting place with God. Like Jacob by the brook.

Elijah found it in a cave. And after he had eaten that food, he went 40 days and 40 nights and he came to a cave. A place where he could be all alone.

In solitude. A specific place. I saw the place.

I've been there many times. And it still exists in northern Canada where Dick Linder and Larry Darby learned to pray. Down there.

I knew that some of the prayers down there were pretty hot because there was burned in the rafters some of the promises. And Dick was showing me one time some of the things that Larry was doing. And he said as he was praying, he was writing the promises with a red hot poker in these rafters in the basement underneath in that cold old house in Moon Lake, Manitoba.

Well, they had a place to learn how to pray. And the Lord was preparing them up there in the isolation in the solitude of northern Manitoba in a small little mining town for the ministry he has prepared for them now. And I hope that, and I believe that before this afternoon is finished that you will come to a place in your life you say, oh boy, I don't know anything about being in God's presence.

And you need to learn. After you find a place and after you get there alone then comes the hard part. It's the place where we fail.

It's like getting all ready for a trip. All ready for a picnic. Getting the lunch packed and the children dressed and getting out in the car and then the car won't run.

You can never go on a picnic. My wife remembers those kind of picnics. She said, I can never remember going on a picnic but getting ready for a lot of them.

She said, my mother would pack the lunch and make all the nice delicious things that we'd eat. The kids would get all dressed and we'd take our bathing suits and get our towels and our sand pails and we'd go out and then Dad would say maybe I better check the car first. She said, I can never remember going on a picnic.

A lot of Christians are just like that. They go to their place of prayer they sit down with their Bible they get the nice lunch before them they get all ready and they say their words and they end up like my wife eating the lunch on the lawn without getting the picnic. There is a glorious picnic in prayer.

There is a wonderful uplifting place of the soul that you need to know if you're going to do the things that we've been talking about in the other lectures of this week. I'm talking about this. What Elijah experienced what every man and woman of God has ever experienced right until this hour that is staying there until they get quiet enough and small enough and still enough until they hear God.

Now I've flown a number of times in little aircraft in the north and when you take a little aircraft and you land them on the lake or land them on an airport the wheels stop rolling the prop stops turning you turn maybe taxi up to the dock and you tie it up you get out of the plane shut the door but if you listen you can hear those gyros madly spinning. You think that it's quiet but it's not. You can have a place of prayer and you can have it all alone and you can go to that place of prayer and you can sit down in that place of prayer and you can stop all your bodily motions but you know as well as I do that the gyros are spinning and it takes time to get quiet.

More so in the world in which we're living that is filled with fervorous activity running to and fro. Have you ever stopped and stayed until you were quiet? Oh wonderful peace of God in the quiet with him getting quiet. Oh say it takes longer than you think.

Look at what you have to go through. Elijah got his cave in chapter 19 of 1 Kings he got in the cave all alone there wasn't anybody else around but when he got in that cave it took a long time to hear God's voice because he had to wait until the wind stopped blowing. He had to wait until the earthquake stopped shaking the mountain and he had to wait until the fire stopped burning up what was needed to be burned or could be burned on the mountain.

Now there was nothing wrong with the wind there was nothing wrong with the earthquake and nothing wrong with the fire and you go to your place of prayer and there may be wonderful waves of the Holy Spirit go over you winds that thrill your soul and thrill your body even but you must wait until the wind dies down

and there be the earthquakes that shake you and I have been shaken in prayer and it may be in warfare there may be spirits to handle and there may not be spirits to handle and you just may shake and God may do some shaking but wait until the earthquake is past and then the fire may come and burn up the dross and it may be fire of shame as many times it is when you're all alone before God but wait until the fire has been quenched and it says after the fire after the wind and after the earthquake and after the fire there came a still small voice and because Elijah was still and small it says these wonderful words and Elijah heard it Have you ever stayed that long?

In this place you can be honest with God In this place you can tell God where it hurts You know if you don't wait until you're quiet you can't be honest you don't even really tell God what really happened when you fell into that sin and how really Lord the desire I had there was nothing wrong with the desire but just the way I fulfilled the desire the desire may have been good and you need to tell God about that and you have to do it in the secret in the quiet place Guy Bivington was an itinerant Methodist minister in the 1900s in Northern Ohio and Indiana He was a man who never got married but he was a man who did amazing exploits for God and brought to pass fantastic miracles because of one thing and one thing only not just because he prayed but because when he did pray when he had that one thing to do he stayed there until he got still enough to hear God many times in his book and you can get it it's called Amazing Miracles I don't know if you can get it in this bookstore Ken Reedy gave me my copy and I read it and blessed me and I loaned it to somebody and I don't know where it is but in that book on many occasions he relates these interesting experiences and one he tells about having God reveal to him that he would preach the gospel in a schoolhouse and as he went to the schoolhouse he had seen it in his mind in the vision God gave him a certain schoolhouse on a hill with the trees around it and when he got there and he found the leading trustee who had the key to that schoolhouse the man says no way we don't want any Methodist preacher preaching his holiness gospel in this schoolhouse the door stays locked and Mr.

Bevington didn't go around to the other trustees or get up a petition he said to himself and in the book obviously the first thing I have to do is get that school door open and he didn't get a petition up instead he went to a quiet place of prayer he found himself a hollow log in the bush of northern Indiana and he crawled into the hollow log and he says I started to get quiet and he laid there for hour after hour after hour till the day went by and the night went by and the next day came and then he said this and when I got quiet very still and very small in the presence of God he said I heard a key turning in a lock he said then I said thank you Lord and he began to praise the Lord and he said I got out of my log and I walked over to the school and by this time the man had walked over

and the door was unlocked and the people were gathering and the meeting commenced and he built a church there our scripture told us that when in you enter into your secret place with God that you don't need a heap of empty phrases that seems like you don't need to say much because he follows that immediately by saying your heavenly Father knows what things you have need of before you ask the point he's trying to make is to get in the place of secret with your heavenly Father and wait till you hear his voice do you know anything about getting still before God oh how wonderful how wonderful to get there until you hear the key turn in some locked door getting in his presence and staying there till you have the assurance that he will stand beside you when you stand in front of some people or

he will go with you on your holidays or on your trek or into your classroom I spoke about this on the Briarcrest Bible Institute and I had such a response from the students I was amazed and they came to me and said well how can I spend nine hours getting quiet I said if you need to spend nine hours getting quiet God will give you that need on a Saturday when you can but not during the school hour Bevington didn't

always take nine hours if there was duty in line and I'm not talking about neglecting your studies or neglecting your work in the trailer shop but I'm asking you to learn how to get quiet you need to wait long enough you need enough time waiting Elijah heard his voice now God speaks in different manners God shouts and God speaks and God whispers and it's the person who is close

to him and quiet beside him and still that hears his whisper in John chapter 13 and verse 23 we are told that Jesus was moved and he spoke to the disciples one of you is going to betray me and there was only one disciple there who was close enough to Jesus to ask him and to hear the answer by virtue of the fact that he had drawn close out of a real purpose of heart and it was John and he was able to catch the whisper of the Lord Jesus answer in reply the others were too far away each one of us can make that purpose in his heart I will draw nigh unto God and you will catch his whisper he does whisper all what he says in the whispers he speaks many people can only be directed by God by the shouts C.S.

Lewis says he shouts at us in our sickness and whispers to us in our work or speaks to us in our work he whispers to us in our quietness have you ever heard God whisper? my wife shouts sometimes at the cats and at the dogs and sometimes at the children when they're downstairs and she speaks to strangers and talks to the milkman and speaks to our neighbors but you know something when she's quiet beside me she whispers into my ear oh you know there's a lot of difference between what she whispers and what she talks or what she shouts I've never heard her shouting what she whispers and you'll never hear God shouting what he whispers either because when Elijah got quiet and still waited for the wind and the fire and the earthquake to pass a very still and a small voice said Elijah what are you

doing here? and then Elijah was able to be unpretentious and honest and God was really saying where does it hurt? and he could tell him and look at how honest he was and he said this and he didn't hide anything I have been very zealous for your work Lord you know I'm really touched and bothered about this thing Heavenly Father because what they've done to your prophets and what they've done to your church buildings and what they've done to your places of worship and I'm the only one left and in that quiet secret cave after all the noise had subsided and he had taken long enough to get quiet and to get still God could tell him a secret and said hey there's seven thousand other people that I have who haven't bowed down and he bolstered Elijah up and he prepared him for the rest of the work

he had to do and the things that God has told me in the quiet places aren't to be shared aren't to be told he's got that place for you he's waiting he's waiting for you now you'll have to do something else there are some things that will hinder you from this quiet place you'll be too busy we heard this morning in the ten o'clock hour to get going and I say hallelujah amen get going but stop once in a while don't get a schedule that drives you that there's no place for God and never never never draw up a schedule where there's no hole for God somebody said in Ted said in introducing Miss Ten Boom that we left a spot for in the conference for something God might want to do you know when we draw up our schedule my wife and I our time with God isn't something extra tacked on it's part of the

schedule we make room for him and in our busy world with things we do you have to take time to stop so arrange your schedule around the almighty something else that will that will hinder you in your time of quietness with God will be your busyness the busyness in the work Amy Carmichael took every morning to spend with God and said I had to let people die and go to hell while I spent time with Jesus you're not going to do the whole work all by yourself you need that time with God you will need to deal with your natural laziness God deals with it in many ways I'll not forget what Dick Glinder told me he used to live just 70 miles or 90 miles south of me I was up in the bush and he was in Lynn Lake and we spent lots of hours

together and he told me one time maybe he told you I don't know

but if he didn't I'll tell you again he told me about a dream he had one time he said I was sleeping and I had a dream and in my dream I saw my oil tank outside that fed the furnace and I saw the line under the ground in dreams you can see all sorts of things and he saw it coming under the ground and coming into the furnace and the furnace wasn't burning very brightly and it wasn't warming the house adequately and he said as I watched that in my dream the oil came down the pipe but partway into the house there was a leak in the pipe and he said I noticed the leak in the pipe and I saw it there but I was too lazy to get up and fix it and when I woke up in the morning I said well thank you Lord I'm going to dig up that pipe and see where the leak is and the Lord gave him the interpretation

of the dream and he said it's not in the pipe outside he said it's in the pipe that's running to you and he told me that how he had to and he said I was too lazy to fix the thing that I needed that needed to be fixed you'll have to deal with your laziness then you will have to deal with your your feelings as you get alone with God you're going to say well I don't feel anything you don't need to feel anything you know the story of course of the three men on the wall chained together fact feeling and faith and when feeling fell off you pulled faith off but you can't pull fact off it doesn't move and after a while fact pulled faith back and feelings came along too so you'll have to deal with those and you'll have to deal with something else you'll have to deal with your sleepiness now when

you're alone you don't need to worry about what other people think of you you don't need to worry about what position you assume I assume all sorts of positions I have a place of prayer and in the north sometimes we can go walking but sometimes it's too cold and I may have just washed my hair and I want to go out but I pray after my family has gone to bed the only problem is my family are nighthawks too and I have a hard time getting them to bed so I can get about the business of the Lord's work for my behalf and my wife usually gets the cue when I want her to leave so I can talk to the Lord but I long ago dealt with this business of sleepiness I rarely ever shut my eyes when I'm alone with the Lord never shut my eyes for a lot of reasons and I kneel down at times but I don't always kneel

down I walk and I do all sorts of things I even sometimes do pushups while I'm praying just to keep my body feeling good but you don't have to do it the way I do it but you deal with this sleepiness don't let this sleepiness rule you I don't know maybe Elijah got sleepy in the cave I know a missionary he used to go walking he said oh it was wonderfully you felt like you were treading down the powers of darkness when you were walking so deal with those things and then there's something else you need to do Elijah in chapter 18 was praying before and he got himself up in the mountain and he sat down with his head between his knees and he was he shut himself up to one request one request rain rain rain he got his servant out of the way and he Ahab down at a feast and all alone quietly still

before God with his head between his knees rain we don't get the answers to big prayers because we're satisfied with a lot of little answers Oh it's wonderful to get a hold of a great prayer and get a hold of that and get in God's presence and stay there Lord this one thing I do Oh listen let God teach you how to pray and you'll find the joy of his presence is wonderful you know the king in the Old Testament who stopped beating the ground too soon and he made the representative of God angry why'd you give up so soon and how many of us quit and go to bed and go to our work quit because there's something on the radio or the TV that we want to see and we stop beating with the arrows of God on the ground Keith Bailey told me a story of a missionary that he knew who was a missionary in

Northern Africa back in the days when they traveled in caravans with camels across some of the deserts there and they said one missionary was taking a group of mothers and children both of missionaries and Christians across a particular waste of desert by camel and mule no cars in the early days of missions and the missionary was in charge of the journey and they had to camp many nights in areas that was infiltrated by robbers and bandits so every night the missionary would go outside the circle of camels in tents and he'd spend a given time in prayer asking God's protection upon that little group that was traveling in the desert unprotected and his prayer used to be oh God in heaven build us a wall all around our camp tonight night after night he prayed that and they went on their way

rejoicing after the first week of travel one night or rather in the middle of the night after everyone had retired robbers came riding right into the camp on their horses the whole camp was thrown in disarray and the missionary who was in charge came out and the robber chieftain said don't be afraid he said we are not going to rob you but we something is really bothering us we have been following you for a week we were going to rob you a long time ago but every night when we came to your camp there was a solid wall of bricks all the way around you and we couldn't get in but tonight when we came there were cracks in the wall and we came in through the cracks and all we wanted to ask is how come there were cracks in the wall tonight the missionary knew he had become tired he had given up

time prayer because he had become weary on the journey we must not give up we must not let the cracks get in the wall it is more important that we pray than we sleep I have known sometimes when I really wanted to sleep and when I prayed I was revived in spirit and given strength for the task that I had because I stayed there going over what we have said a place to pray praying alone waiting till you are still and quiet and small which may take a very long while maybe most of the time not necessarily saying a lot of words now let me explain I am not talking about those great hours of intercession or those places where you are asking I am talking about this we are getting first in the presence of God you know that was a problem for Esther too getting into the presence of the king we heard

this morning you realize what happened when she did get into the presence of the king how the king responded to her presence what do you want anything to the half of my kingdom and you know it is when you get into his presence that you can't ask those secret things all the things I have asked and the things he has given when I have taken time to get into his presence and staying there until you get the answers and praying with the burden there are other ways of worshipping this is worshipping in stillness in quietness in cognizance there is a way of worship that we need to carry on while we are going about our work while we are going about our business in the background of our mind that conscious dependency upon the Holy Spirit and upon the God the Father and upon the grace of Jesus

Christ and upon his cleansing that constant worship as we are going about our work and that is a point I don't have time to pursue and in the third place the subconscious worship of the mind at sleep David talks about my heart and my subconscious worshipping to do that you have to put guards around and a wall around it and you have to tell the enemy look stay out this is private property the wall is up stay out in Jesus mighty name put up a snake fence and keep the serpents out because he will disturb your sleep and disturb your dreams and I say Lord my mind is for you take care of my subconscious mind it is open for any visions and dreams you want to give me but it is not open for any other spirits and you need to take care of that many missionaries are really disturbed by dreams and

visions that they have at night the subconscious worship and the songs in the night the joy of that heart the last gospel to be preached on the earth as recorded in revelation 14 7 is a command to worship God if



Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/bud-elford/the-missionary-and-his-worshipraising-and-maintaining-your-support/>

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