



Thistlebend Ministries
IN THE GARDEN
Week Two

Review: Last week (The “D” Words)
 What were some of those D words?

Discouragement, Distraction, Deception...

Distracted: mistakes, misunderstandings, hurts, fears, finances, friends, offenses,
 husbands, children, rain, sun, ups, downs, ins, outs...

“STORMS”

“ROCK” Build your house upon the rock
 SURE and SECURE FOUNDATION (Kim Kaczorowski)

THE GOSPEL

Keep in front of you and in your heart WHO and WHY

Spurgeon’s Plea

“The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out.”
 Leviticus 6:13

Keep the altar of private prayer burning. This is the very life of all piety.
 The sanctuary and family altars borrow their fires here, therefore let this burn well.
 Secret devotion is the very essence, evidence, and barometer,
 of vital and experimental religion.

Burn here the fat of your sacrifices. Let your closet seasons be, if possible,
 regular, frequent, and undisturbed. Effectual prayer availeth much. Have you nothing
 to pray for? Let us suggest the Church, the ministry, your own soul, your children,
 your relations, your neighbours, your country, and the cause of God and truth through-
 out the world. Let us examine ourselves on this important matter. Do we engage with
 lukewarmness in private devotion? Is the fire of devotion burning dimly in our hearts?
 Do the chariot wheels drag heavily? If so, let us be alarmed at this sign of decay. Let us
 go with weeping, and ask for the Spirit of grace and of supplications. Let us set apart
 special seasons for extraordinary prayer. For if this fire should be smothered beneath
 the ashes of a worldly conformity, it will dim the fire on the family altar, and lessen our
 influence both in the Church and in the world.

The text will also apply to the altar of the heart. This is a golden altar indeed. God loves
 to see the hearts of his people glowing towards himself. Let us give to God our hearts,
 all blazing with love, and seek his grace, that the fire may never be quenched; for it will
 not burn if the Lord does not keep it burning. Many foes will attempt to extinguish it;
 but if the unseen hand behind the wall pour thereon the sacred oil, it will blaze higher
 and higher. Let us use texts of Scripture as fuel for our heart’s fire, they are live coals;
 let us attend sermons, but above all, let us be much alone with Jesus.



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SACRED AND SECURE

Sacred

Serve God and Worship Him not ourselves

Single-minded/Single-hearted

Set

Set in stone (immovable)

Set above/Set your eyes on things above

Set apart/Sanctify/To be sanctified

Strategy

Schedule (institute a divine appointment)

Specify/spell out

Stand firm (Ephesians 6:10-20)

Secure

Schedule to Come:

*July 22
Thanksgiving*

*July 31
Praise and Honor and Celebration
following the In the Garden study!*

*August 7
Confess*

*August 14
Ask Workshop*

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