

The Secret Place of the Most High God

Part 2: Intimate Friendship with God

Key Scripture:

*“He who dwells in the Secret Place of the Most High God (El Elyon),
Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty (El Shaddai).” Psalm 91:1*

Today’s Portion for the Journey:

The Secret Place of the Most High is a place of intimacy and friendship with the LORD. The Lord invites us to come into His presence and to have sweet fellowship with Him. The Secret Place is where we receive His counsel and direction. As we draw near to Him, God imparts His wisdom, understanding of His Word and His covenant. It is in the secret place that He shares His plans and brings us into partnership with Him. Paul described himself as a “steward of the mysteries of God.” A steward is one in whom certain gifts are entrusted in order to strengthen and encourage fellow believers. In the Secret Place we come to know Him and walk fully in His will. It is also a place where we are given greater authority and the ability to speak His Word prophetically and see the outpouring of His Spirit through us to others. This is a place of perfect protection and safety from all of our enemies. Jer. 23:22

The Word gives us many pictures and promises regarding the Secret Place of the Most High. It also describes the conditions that allow us to enter this place also referred to as the Holy of Holies, the Inner Court, and the Throne Room of God. This is the place where the Shekinah glory of God dwells and where we behold this manifestation of His presence. The Bible does not use the word Shekinah, but the it is a Biblical concept that describes the dwelling place or habitation of God where the fullness of His glory is revealed, where God’s physical presence is manifested in the light of His glory! Without Jesus and His perfect atonement, no man could stand in this place and survive.

Andrew Murray, in his book, “The Holiest of All,” describes this Secret Place of the Most High, he says, “The Holiest into which Christ entered, and into which He opened the way for us, is the, to nature, inaccessible light of God’s holy presence and love, full of union and communion with Him. Into that Holiest the soul can enter by faith that makes us one with Christ. ...Oh, the glory of this message, “Enter In! the veil is rent; the Holiest is open, God waits to welcome you into His bosom. Henceforth, you are to live with Him. This is the message of the Epistle: Child! Thy Father longs for thee to enter, to dwell, and to go out no more forever. Oh, the blessedness of a life in the Holiest!

- Here the Father’s face is seen and His love tasted.
- Here His holiness is revealed and a soul made a partaker of it.
- Here the sacrifice of love and worship and adoration, the incense of prayer and supplication is offered in power.
- Here the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is known as an ever-streaming, overflowing river, from under the Throne of God and the Lamb.
- Here the soul, in God’s presence, grows into a more complete oneness with Christ, and more entire conformity to His likeness.
- Here, in union with Christ, in His unceasing intercession, we are emboldened to take our place as intercessors, who can have power with God and prevail.
- Here the soul mounts up as on eagle’s wings, the strength is renewed, and the blessing and power and the love are imparted with which God’s priests can go out and bless a dying world.”

Digging Deeper in the Word:

1. **Definitions:** Our understanding and insight regarding the Secret Place will deepen we meditate on the richness meaning in the Hebrew words used in the original language. Additional insight also comes by examining the context of other verses that use these same Hebrew words.

A. The Hebrew word for “dwelling place” used in Psalm 91:1 is ‘yashab (Strong’s #3427). This word describes a place in which we can live, it is a home, an enduring place of quietude and rest. It is a place where one remains, a settled place of constancy. The word is used in the context of God’s dwelling place, the place where He is enthroned and abides. A place of abiding constantly and consistently in the close protection and assistance of God. It is not a place we flit in and out of, but a place of settled place we can consider to be our true home. John 15:4-5,7

B. There are two Hebrew words for “secret” that describe aspects of God’s “secret place.”

1. Job describes this intimate closeness with God in Job 29:4, saying, “when **the secret** (coud) of God was upon my tabernacle.” He refers to this as a time when God’s light shined on his head and God’s presence was with him. (See NASB, KJV, and AMP) The Hebrew word he used for “secret” is ‘coud’ (5475) pronounced ‘sode.’ *It is defined* as counsel chambers or court of justice, council (of familiar conversation) summoned or convened for consultation, deliberation, or advice. A council of war. Counsel by which one instructs or guides. An assembly, company or circle (of familiar friends) forming a secret counsel, familiar converse, intimacy (with God). —Strong’s Greek & Hebrew Dictionary

Theological Word Study of the Old Testament describes this as a word that speaks primarily to the idea of intimate counsel as the key to success. Council refers to a circle of trusted intimates who give their advice. The emphasis is the idea of “confidential speech.”

- The wise and upright man who walks in the fear of the Lord will have God’s secret counsel. Ps. 25:14; Prov 3:32; Amos 3:7; cf. Job 15:8; Job 29:4
- He will associate himself with others who likewise fear God and sing his praises. Ps. 89:7 ;111:1
- He will disassociate himself from evil doers and pray for deliverance from their evil machinations. Gen 49:6; Jer 15:17; Ps. 64:2
- God himself will oppose wicked counsels (Jer 23:18-22) and pour out his wrath upon their members so that they have no place among the assembly of the righteous. Jer 6:11; Ezek. 13:9 —Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament

2. Cether (Strong’s #5643) is pronounced say’ther. It is the Hebrew word used in Ps. 91:1 and is translated secret, secretly and covert secret in the KJV. In addition to a secret, hiding place, this word contains the meaning of being hidden or covered in a place of shelter and protection. The root in its basic meaning is “hide” for the sake of protection. Experientially, God himself will be a shelter for the believer, not only on that day of the Lord’s wrath but from the storms of everyday living. Zeph. 2:3; Ps. 17:8; 27:5; 31:20; 64:2 This word occurs thirty-five times in the Old Testament. Most notably, God is seen in the approaching storm, making darkness his hiding place (Ps. 18:11; cf. 2 Sam 12:12). He is a constant place of refuge and protection from all dangers for the believer (Ps. 32:7; Ps.91:1; 119:114). —Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament

2. Conditions for those who want to enter the Secret Place: Most of the promises that God makes in the Bible have conditions. If we want to receive His promises for those who dwell in the Secret Place, we need to examine the Word and compliance with His conditions. (A template is included at the end of the lesson to record God’s promises and the conditions for receiving those promises as you go through

the verses in this study. Don't despair if you don't "qualify." Remember that Jesus is our righteousness. Come to the LORD with a repentant heart and confess your sins, ask the Lord to forgive your sins and cleanse you from unrighteousness. Set your heart to pursue the Lord diligently and walk in His ways!!

- **Seek Him with all our whole heart:** *"And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."* God only brings those into His inner sanctuary who are earnest in their desire for Him. The lukewarm and half-hearted will not abide with Him. But His promise is firm: If we seek Him, we will find Him. That is so encouraging!! Jer. 29:13; Deut. 4:29; 1 Chr. 22:19; Ps. 27:8; Ps. 119:2; Jer. 29:13
- **Purity:** *"He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart;"* Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see the LORD." Those who would stand in God's presence must have pure hearts. Jesus has made it possible for us to be pure through His blood and forgiveness for sin. No one who is walking in deliberate sin may enter. God will not allow those who are living in sin or violence to enter into His Secret Place. Anger and self-will separate us from the Lord's fellowship. Ps. 24:3-6; Genesis 49:5-6; Prov. 3:32; Matt. 5:8; Heb. 12:14-15
- **Radical obedience:** *"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love."* If we want to receive from the LORD on a consistent basis, we need to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. When we obey Him, we will see His hand move in our lives in dramatic ways. As Mary said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." John 2:5; John 15:10 (entire chapter); Ps. 110:10
- **Humility:** *"who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity,"* Pride has no place in the presence of God. Ps. 25:14 Amplified; Ps. 89:7
- **Commitment to the Truth:** *"nor sworn deceitfully* "O send out Your light and Your truth, let them lead me; let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your dwelling. Psalm 43:3 (AMP)
- **Fear of the Lord:** *"... what does the Lord your God require of you but [reverently] to fear the Lord your God, [that is] to walk in all His ways, and to love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your [mind and] heart and with your entire being,"* Those who fear the LORD may enter into His Council. This intimacy with the LORD is only for those who fear Him (in reverence, awe, worship and humility). Deut. 10:12 (AMP) Isa. 33:5-6; Ps. 25:14; Prov. 1:7; Ps. 31:19
- **We must choose to draw near upon His invitation to enter His presence:** *"I stand at the door and knock..."* The Lord invites us to Draw Near. Rev. 3:20; Heb. 10:19-22; James 4:8,10; Song 2:10; Ps. 71:3; Matt 11:28
- **We must not touch God's Glory:** We need to preserve His glory by maintaining the secrecy of His counsel. Be cautious not to share what God tells us in the Secret Place unless He directs us to do so. We may see amazing answers to prayer based on what He has revealed in the secret place, but be careful that we do not take glory or credit for those prayers! He may share with us things that He will not share with others who are not in the Secret Place. His judgment is often kept secret because the world cannot understand His ways. Rom. 11:33-36; 1 Cor. 2:11-13,16; Prov. 11:13; Lev. 10:1-3; 2 Cor. 4:6; Ex. 40:34-35

Example: An intercessory prayer group waited on the LORD and asked Him to show them how to pray. They were led to stand against the spiritual impact a new dog track coming into their city would have on their community. They were boldly led to pray that the dogs would not even run on the track. The next day the news showed the greyhounds laying down on the track and doing what

dogs do...everything except racing! The women were thrilled with this incredible answer to prayer, but they could not resist telling others, "We prayed this yesterday!" They touched God's glory and took credit for what God had done. The prayer group leader told me tearfully, the group never met again... they had lost God's anointing by revealing what God had shown them in the Secret Place.

Examples: Joseph shared dreams that God gave him with his brothers. These revelations incited great jealousy and resulted in their decision to kill him. Mary was given an incredible revelation of the way in which God intended to use her, and she showed great wisdom, in pondering the revelations in her heart. Gen. 37:5,9; Luke 2:19

We are to be stewards of the mysteries of God. In the Greek, the word for steward is Oikos, "house" and nemo, to arrange. Hence the steward is the manager of the house, household or estate. It refers to Christians in general using the gifts that God gives to strengthen and encourage fellow believers. There is an appropriate time to speak in the right circumstances 1 Cor. 4:1-2; 1 Pet. 4:10 Prov. 11:13; 25:1,9-10, 11

Lord, I am overwhelmed that You would so freely share Your thoughts and wisdom with Your children. Please help me never to dishonor You or handle carelessly what You have given to me. I cherish Your words to me, please teach me how to care for them with tenderness and humility. Most merciful Father, keeper of my soul, please do not let me think lightly of the riches of Your kindness and forbearance, and patience, remind me always of Your kindness which leads me to repentance. Lord, please grant me discernment to know when to speak and when to be silent; let me know the appointed time for all that You have given me. Help me to know the times and teach me Your ways. Rom. 2:4, Eccles. 3:2-8

3. Characteristics of the Secret Place: Look up the verses and make notes regarding what the LORD shows you about the Secret Place:

- A. **The dwelling place of the Most High:** The Secret Place is where God dwells and He invites us to come and dwell or abide with Him. Note the various words and characteristics of His dwelling place. Ps. 18:11 (5643); Psalm 2:4; Psalm 9:7; Psalm 29:10; Psalm 55:20; Psalm 102:13; Lament. 5:19) or is "enthroned with the cherubim;" 1 Samuel 4:4; 2 Samuel 6:2 = 1 Chron. 13:6; 2 Kings 19:15; Psalm 99:1
- B. **A place of intimate friendship with God.** This is the place of sweet fellowship with the Lord. Above all else, God seeks to have relationship with His children. His desire is that we would draw close to Him in the secret place where we can enter into prayer and communion with God. There are three individuals in the Bible who were referred to as friends of God. What characteristics do they display in their lives that define their relationship as friends of God? What were their experiences with the LORD? We can have this same relationship through Jesus Christ who has called us friends. Note what conditions are required. See John 15:14-15

Abraham: 2 Chron. 20:7; James 2:21-23; Gen. 18:17-21

Moses: Ex. 33:11-13; Ps. 103:7; S of S 2:14

Job: Job 15:8 (5475); Job 29:4

- C. **A place of revelation and guidance:** This is a place of learning to wait on the LORD and to recognize His voice. Hearing the Word of the LORD is a vital aspect of the Secret Place for as we stand in His counsel, He will share His thoughts and plans with us. We cannot do this unless we set aside time to sit before Him and listen to Him speak through meditation on His Word.

Examples: **Noah** Gen. 6:13; **Abraham** Gen. 18:17, 20-21; **Daniel** 9:20-27 See also: John 10:27; John 15:15; Col. 2:2-3; Eph. 3:8-18; Ps. 33:10-11; Ps. 73; Prov. 15:22 (5475); Jer. 23: 22; Ps. 81:7

- D. **A place of intercession:** The Secret Place is the place of prayer and worship. God reveals His heart and what He is going to do to those who abide with Him. Some of the most dramatic examples of intercessory prayer are those recorded in the lives of Abraham and Moses, two men who are described as friends of God. Amos 3:7;
- E. **A place of refuge and protection.** A time is coming upon the world when there will be no safe place to hide other than in the Shelter of God's wings! This is a place of perfect safety. Ps. 91 (entire chapter); 1 Sam. 19:2 (5643); Ps. 27:5 (5643); Ps. 31:20 (5643); Ps. 32:7(5643); Isa. 16:4; Ps. 61:4 (See entire chapter for context);
- F. **A place of transformation:** When we enter the Secret Place of the Most High, we stand in His presence and are transformed into His likeness. "The righteous will shine like the Sun in the Kingdom of their Father." Matt. 13:43 "But we with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Cor. 3:1-18 (NKJV)
- G. **Hiding Place in time of trouble or judgment.** "Seek the Lord [inquire for Him, inquire of Him, and require Him as the foremost necessity of your life], all you humble of the land who have acted in compliance with His revealed will *and* have kept His commandments; seek righteousness, seek humility [inquire for them, require them as vital]. It maybe you will be hidden in the day of the Lord's anger." The New Testament refers to this as "the inner room." Matt. 6:1,6 The Greek word for Inner Room is 'tameion' (Strong's #5009). This is defined as 'a secret chamber, storehouse, inner chamber, secret room or private room.' It conveys the idea of the room where treasure and valuables are stored. It is referred to as 'the keep' in a castle, which is the most highly protected and well-guarded place in the castle. In time of attack, the women, children and most valuable possessions were placed in the keep to keep them safe. Gen. 41:45, Luke 12:24; Zeph. 2:3 (AMP); Isa. 26:20; Ps. 17:8; Ps. 119:114; Ps. 36:7; Isa. 4:5, 6; Lam. 4:20

What is the Lord speaking to your heart?

Responding to the LORD

To apply this message, it is highly recommended that you begin to set aside time to be alone with the LORD... give Him as much time as you are able to set aside at one time... half an hour, an hour, a day or more. Ask the LORD to help you plan a day apart with Him for prayer and fasting. ...bring only your Bible and a journal to write notes, any books or materials to help you study and meditate on the Word. Literally close the door to all other distractions, TV, radio, MP3 players, books, magazines, newspapers, etc. Spend time worshipping Him, reading the Word and meditating on specific verses. Matt. 6:6; Mark 4:24-25; Ps. 27; 77:6; Jer. 29:13

