

## Thoughts on the Secret Place

### **The Secret Place #1 Matt 6:6**

#### **When Joy Moves Us**

When Joy moves us, a new question may enter our minds: “How do I go about spending more time with God?” Fortunately, Jesus answered this question for us: Go to the secret place. We are to go into a room alone and close a door behind us. If we do not have a room at our disposal, we find a corner or place of separation that provides solitude, even if only a little.

The next question follows: What do we do there?

Jesus told us to go and pray. Volumes have been written about prayer, but all of it can be distilled into one simple principle: the prayer that happens in the secret place is meant to be a heart-to-heart encounter between you and your Abba Father and not an intellectual exercise.

The secret place is where you bare your heart before God and pour every ounce of it at His feet – whether it be sorrow, gladness, thanksgiving, intercession, or all of it mixed together. In turn, God draws near and shelters you with His presence in the secret place.

#### **How to Act on This**

Allow this devotional to be just the first step in your time with God each day. When you finish your devotional, put everything aside and go find a secret place where the world can't get to you. Be still in the secrecy of that place, close your eyes, bend all your thoughts toward God and draw near to Him with the deepest depths of your heart.

#### **C. S. Lewis Quote of the Day, from *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Magician's Nephew*:**

"The Lion drew a deep breath, stooped its head even lower and gave [the broken-hearted boy] a Lion's kiss. And at once Digory felt that new strength and courage had gone into him."

#### **Shadowlands and Songs of Light Quote of the Day:**

"In the [secret place], we meet Aslan [i.e. God] as Digory did. When we see his face, new strength fills us, and we have a revelation: our painful circumstances hurt him more than they hurt us. He grieves for our loved ones and our sad circumstances more than we do."

## **The Secret Place #2. Col 3:2-3**

### **The Secret Place**

The kingdom of God is often counterintuitive: the more time we spend in the cramped secret place, the greater spaciousness and peace we feel in our spirits.

God has an ultimate goal in mind for your time in the secret place: to make Heaven and all its treasures more substantial to you than the world and its fool's gold. When the reality of Heaven weighs truly on our hearts, we live differently.

The Psalms tell us that God hides us in His great pavilion far from the strife of this world when we are with Him in the secret place. This world and all its troubles begin to bring cabin fever – cramped and claustrophobic – but when in the secret place, we step into the spacious ground of Heaven which brings rest.

### **How to Act on This**

When you spend time with God, make a diligent effort to not make your time with God all about petition and intercession. Make room for simple fellowship with Him. Ask Him to reveal to you new facets about Him and Heaven – not because you need a problem in your life solved, but because you want to step out of this world for a while and rest in the awesome glory of His presence and His kingdom.

### **C. S. Lewis Quote of the Day, from *The Great Divorce*:**

"I got out...I had the sense of being in a larger space, perhaps even a larger sort of space, than I had ever known before...which made the Solar System itself seem an indoor affair."

Shadowlands and Songs of Light Quote of the Day:

"As [I spent time in the secret place], the fabric of our world's reality—the fading space-time blanket that enwraps us—grew as thin as a sheet of wax paper. The physical world felt less like ultimate reality. I had the strange sensation of living inside a cardboard box that had been painted to look like a castle—the kind a child would build with great relish—while, all the time, my little cardboard box was sitting inside the great hall of a real castle. There was a distinct sense of something larger and permanent peeking through chinks in the physical world."

### **Secret place #3. Psalm139:16**

#### **Longing for God**

True Joy means nurturing a deep longing for God. The more time we spend in the secret place, the more we gain great revelations of God's character, love, and of Heaven itself. The more we identify with Heaven as our true home, the more Joy we have in the secret place, and the cycle of longing and Joy builds exponentially as we chase after God for the rest of our lives.

The secret place, in other words, provides an eternal perspective that sets the tone for everything else in our lives. The time we spend in the secret place, in other words, begins to cure our hearts of fear – especially the paralyzing fear of losing people or things precious to us. The secret place makes us fearless.

#### **How to Act on This**

When fear overwhelms your life, allow the secret place to work as a shut-off valve. Take refuge in God's presence and ask Him to reveal the endless goodness of Heaven. Remember the promises of the Word: He has written all your days in His book and knows every little thing and person you've ever loved. This place is not our home. When we understand that in our hearts, fear loses its strangling grip on us.

#### **C. S. Lewis Quote of the Day, from Mere Christianity:**

"If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. If none of my earthly pleasures satisfy it, that does not prove that the universe is a fraud. Probably earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy it, but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing."

#### **Shadowlands and Songs of Light Quote of the Day:**

"I wouldn't be surprised if Jesus, when we meet him face-to-face, opens the books and allows us to see the good things from our lives with a greater clarity than when we first experienced them. Such speculation is not wild theology. It is near to the heart of the Bible. After all, Jesus said that the Father knows you so well—better than you know yourself, in fact."

## **Secret place #4 Romans 13:14**

### **The Weight of Life.**

Sometimes we're able to focus in the secret place and genuinely connect with God. Sometimes our thoughts jump erratically or our emotions pile us with so much heaviness we just lie on the floor in "prayer," crushed under the weight of life.

Thankfully, God knew we would struggle. He made a way for us to have relationship with Him. It's a relationship that God Himself has initiated with us. He has purchased us through the steep price of the Cross and it's on His shoulders to finish the work of salvation in our life.

But that doesn't mean He leaves us alone and never puts us to work. Like any loving Father, He wants His children to be strong and mature. He wants us to become like Him and willingly venture down that road of transformation. We should not judge our "success" on how we feel at the end of our time in the secret place. We must walk with faith that God is using all of our efforts to draw near to Him for good, even when we can't see evidence of it.

### **How to Act on This**

Success in the secret place is not reaching a certain emotional epiphany every time we are with God. Success is not walking away with a sense of righteousness and patting ourselves on the back because we did all the right things. Success is simply showing up. The moment you've taken that first step to spend time with God, to be alone with Him, your time in the secret place is already a success.

### **C. S. Lewis Quote of the Day, from Mere Christianity:**

"It is not a question of a good man who died two thousand years ago. It is a living Man, still as much a man as you, and still as much God as He was when He created the world, really coming and interfering with your very self; killing the old natural self in you and replacing it with the kind of self He has."

### **Shadowlands and Songs of Light Quote of the Day:**

"The more of Jesus we perceive, the easier it is to put him on. We can imitate him with that childlike simplicity that keeps pretending until the pretending becomes true."

Start reading Shadowlands and Songs of Light by Kevin Ott:

<https://broadstreetpublishing.com/shadowlands-songs-light-free-preview/>