

REVIVAL NEWS

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DWELLING IN THE SECRET PLACE – a key to maintaining revival

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The secret place of prayer

When Jesus began to teach on prayer He mentioned how the hypocritical Pharisees *“love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men”* Matthew 6:5. Jesus said they had already received their reward. *“But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door; pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly”* Matthew 6:6.

There is a secret place that we are invited to come into so we can talk with our Father. He is found in the *“secret”*. He will reward us openly. It is a place of prayer. This is a key to maintaining revival. Learning to find our Father in secret, in the secret place of our hearts and inner man. Let’s discover more from the Scriptures about the secret place that Jesus was talking about.

Dwelling in the Secret place

It is written in Psalm 91:1, *“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty”*. What is the *“secret place”*? In Hebrew the word is *‘cithrah’* and it means: *to cover*. It comes from a word *‘cathar’* which means: *to hide (by covering), to conceal, to hide, to shelter*. If we will dwell, learn to live, in this *“covering”* of the Most High, we will abide under His shadow.

It is a secret place of the Most High. It is a place of protection, safety and preservation from evil happenings all around you (v.5-10). It is a place of angelic help (v.11-13). It is a supernatural realm. Authority over the devil comes from dwelling in this place and great salvation results (v.12-16). We come in there by confessing in our hearts, *“You are my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust”* (v.2). God wants us to find Him in the secret place and discover His shadow of protection. We are rewarded **openly** for praying to the Father in the secret place, *“I will deliver him and honour him...with long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation”!* (v.14-16)

The Secret Place of His Tabernacle

David writes in **Psalm 27:5**, *“For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His Tabernacle He shall hide me”*. When we are in a time of trouble we are welcomed to be covered and hidden in the *“secret place of His Tabernacle”*. This is speaking about coming into the Holy of Holies. That is the *secret place* of the *Tabernacle*, the inner sanctuary, the secret place of His glory. That is where we are sheltered!

“A glorious high throne from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary” **Jeremiah 17:12**. Come into the Holy of Holies. Enter by the blood of the Lamb. We now have *“boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus through a new and living way...”* **Hebrews 10:19**. We can enter the secret place of His Tabernacle boldly by the blood of Jesus. And we can *“obtain mercy and find grace to help us in time of need (or trouble)”* **Hebrews 4:16**.

Set me high upon a rock above my enemies

David also said that in the secret place God would *“set me high upon a rock. And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around”* **Psalm 27:5b-6**. The result of being hidden in the secret place is that He sets us high upon a rock! The Rock is Christ! (**1 Cor.10:4, Matt.16:18**). We are *“hidden with Christ in God”* **Colossians 3:3**. He is our secret place, hidden in Him. He is the Rock that we find ourselves upon when we boldly enter the secret place.

When we spend time in Christ, in the Holiest, we find ourselves on solid ground, trusting in Jesus the Messiah, the Rock, and our head gets lifted up above our enemies! We walk in victory over the devil having found the *“God of peace who crushes Satan under our feet swiftly [shortly]”* **Romans 16:20**. Anxieties concerns and worries melt away in this place and give way to the peace that passes all understanding (**Phil.4:7**) – this is the open reward of our Father when we pray to Him in secret.

The Secret Place of His Presence

David describes in another Psalm the secret place in this way, *“You shall hide them in the secret place of Your Presence from the plots of man”* **Psalm 31:20**. The secret place is a place *“of Your Presence”*. The word *Presence* can also be translated *Face*. The secret place is a place where you see His face, and experience His Presence. Moses coveted the Presence of God and would not move unless God’s Presence was with them (**Ex.33:15**).

We need the Presence of God and it is found in the secret place. *“Times of refreshing”* come from the *“Presence of the Lord”* (**Acts 3:19**). The secret place is a place of revival, where you remember the times of being in His Presence from before and enter in again! That is why we are having more times to seek the Lord together again. To enter into the secret place together and find His Presence and be refreshed and revived for the time we are living in!

Hidden from plots of man and strife of tongues

When we find the secret place of His Presence we are sheltered from *“the plots of man; You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion [shelter] from the strife of tongues”* **Psalm 31:20b**. In His Presence you only care for what Jesus thinks about you and the direction He has for you. People plotting evil against you and saying all manner of evil things about you falsely have no effect when you are in the secret place of His Presence; seeing His face and countenance smiling on you.

The reward the Father brings us openly is that we are able to be strong when others wish we were weak and the fiery darts of the enemy do not harm us. His Presence becomes a shield and we hear His voice enabling us to hold up the shield of faith against the *strife of tongues* that has come against us. To stay strong in revival we are to find that secret place of His Presence and shelter there!

The Secret Place of Thunder

In **Psalm 81:7** it is written, *“You called in trouble, and I delivered you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder”*. God answers our cries for deliverance from the *secret place of thunder*. When the children of Israel were at Mount Sinai it says, *“on the third day, in the morning...there were thunderings, and a thick cloud” Exodus 19:16*. David says in **Psalm 18:11,13**, *“He made darkness His secret place; His canopy around Him was dark waters and thick clouds of the skies...Yahweh thundered from heaven”*.

In the secret place God answers with thunders and great stormy activity! There is a secret place of thunder. A place where we are seated with God in the centre and it is a raging storm of thunder around us. While the people of Israel heard thunders and saw lightnings, Moses was in the middle of the cloud talking to Yahweh and receiving the Ten Commandments!

John saw the Throne and *“from the Throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire...which are the seven Spirits of God” Revelation 4:5*. From the secret place of God’s Throne we are filled with the Spirit and God as He is releasing great thunderous power to deliver His people! Come into the secret place of thunder!

Made in the Secret Place

There are beautiful well-known verses in **Psalm 139:15**, *“My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skilfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them” Psalm 139:15-16*. We were made in *secret*. This is the same Hebrew word as *secret place*. God skilfully made us in the secret place of our mother’s womb and was writing in the book the days fashioned for us!

When we come into that secret place in Christ we realised we are *“His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works that He prepared beforehand for us to walk in” Ephesians 2:10*. Our frame is not hidden from Him in the secret place. Our life is open to Him. We are naked and laid bare before Him and He is able to speak tenderly into all the areas of our hearts that are broken and need mending, re-forming, restoring, renovating and reviving! The reward of the Father when we meet with Him in the secret place is that *“Christ is formed in us” Galatians 4:19*. He begins to see His Son in us! Allow Him to form your unformed substance and character in the secret place.

In the Secret Places of the cliff

The Beloved said to the Shulamite in Solomon’s **Song of Songs 2:14**, *“O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely”*. O what a beautiful invitation for us to meet our Beloved in the *secret places of the cliff*. Taken prophetically, Christ Jesus our

Beloved is inviting us, His Bride corporately, to meet Him in the secret places. He wants to see us. He wants to hear us. He takes delight in us being with Him *in the clefts of the Rock*. Moses was hidden from seeing God's face when He put Moses *"in the cleft of the rock"* Exodus 33:22. But we are invited to show our face and speak with our voice!

This is a corporate secret place for His Bride, the church. This year God has shown us to spend more time seeking Him corporately. We had three days of corporately seeking the Lord together where He was releasing fresh vision, anointing, gifts and bringing direction for us as a ministry and as the church. We plan to continue to do this, on a regular basis, to seek the Lord together so that He can *"see our face and hear our voice"* more. We are *"accepted in the Beloved"* Ephesians 1:6. This is where we become one with our Beloved and have our first love restored so that we remain on fire and soft to hear His direction. The reward from our Father is intimacy, joy of our salvation and zeal for our Bridegroom!

You are my secret place

"You are my hiding place [secret place]; You shall preserve me from trouble" Psalm 32:7. Yahweh Himself is our secret place. In the secret place of Himself He *preserves* us. This word *preserve* is the Hebrew word *natsar* and means: *to guard, to protect, to maintain*. Jude wrote to *"those who are called, sanctified in God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ"* Jude 1. He is our guard, our protection and He maintains us in Christ. In this secret place we experience Him *"delivering us from every evil work and preserving us for His heavenly kingdom"* 2 Timothy 4:18. He is the hiding place preserving us from trouble.

It also says that, *"You shall surround us with songs of deliverance"* Psalm 32:7b. The reward of finding Him as our secret place is that we are surrounded by songs from heaven, songs of deliverance. He *"will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing"* Zephaniah 3:17. In Christ, our secret place, we are filled with the *"songs of Zion"* Psalm 137:3. We sing a new song, the song of the redeemed. These songs come out of the secret place and they bring great deliverance and joy on the earth!

What we do in secret, our Father will reward openly

Jesus wants us to learn the mystery of the secret place: living our life before heaven, not before men, living our life in view of our Father, not what we appear to men to be. We learn this in the secret place. Jesus said that when we give charitably we should *"not let our left hand know what our right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly"* Matthew 6:3-4. He likewise says when we fast that we should *"anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly"* Matthew 6:17-18

Jesus spoke of our prayer life that, *"when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut the door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly"* Matthew 6:6. Your Father is already in the secret place. He is waiting for you to show up! He wants to reward you. He wants to spend time with you. He wants to reveal wonderful secrets to you. This is the place where you become a friend of God like our father Abraham.

It is a time of revival

God is continually calling us into revival, into refreshing, and into restoration. Understanding and practically living out the reality of the secret place is key to maintaining a lifestyle of revival and walking with God. It is important individually and corporately. Individually in the secret place we are filled to be able to contribute corporately into the Body. As a Body, when we find that secret place together, gifts flow and operate and we find prophetic direction, apostolic vision, pastoral comfort, zeal for evangelism and love for the teaching and opening up of His Word.

As apostolic ministries all over the nations give more time to corporately seek the Lord together we are going to find much more effectiveness and fruitfulness and joy in the work of the Lord Jesus. He is saying to us all, *“Let me see your face, let me hear your voice”*.