

A CALL TO THE SECRET PLACE

If we learn to listen, if we are still, we will hear the voice that calls each one of us. And if we follow, we will find the secret place where the One who is love eternal dwells. There alone will we find strength and peace in His everlasting arms. There we'll be shown the wonders of His love.

Many of us pray but have no clue how to find God in our prayer time. With all our understanding about God's awesome power, it's as if we've lost sight of God Himself and His longing to be intimate with us.

If we want to find God in our everyday experience and sense His real presence throughout all life's struggles and joys, we must learn about a kind of prayer few of us understand. I am speaking about the prayer of inner quiet.

"Pause Think about Me." In this tender instruction we hear the echo of God's voice calling to us from out of time. Calling us apart to be alone with Him. Although God is always present with us, coming into the secret place with Him is one thing you cannot hurry. You're not going to get there if you're a speed-reader, or if you're a great administrator who lives by a checklist. None of the things you know how to do to "make things happen" will help you come into this place in spirit.

ENTERING IN

How do we begin?

First

Most of us have to disregard the idea that we have to be "specially called" to times of prayer. When we read First Thessalonians 5:17, where Paul tells us to "pray without ceasing," we might think that prayer is meant only for "super saints."

The fact is that God calls every one of us to prayer. The thing we must realize, however, is this: *Before God calls us to prayer, He calls us to himself. When God says, "Come away, my beloved" (see Song 8:14a), He is calling every one of us. He is calling you.*

Second, we need to find a place to be entirely alone.

Third, we must also learn what it takes to quiet our own spirit. If we want to find the secret place with God, we must enter with our true selves. Keeping up false fronts and masks will hinder us from experiencing God's presence.

Fourth, we need help to prevent our minds from wandering. If you've ever tried to spend time alone with the Lord you know what I mean. For this reason I recommend you enter into the secret place with God by meditating on His Word.

Fifth, we must open ourselves to receive His love.

The strongest need we possess is our need to be loved. Most arguments we have with each other have to do with the issue of being loved. We each have inside us this huge vacuum that no human being can ever fill. Only God can fill the void we have within.

In order for God to fill us, our hearts must be wide open to Him – *yielded* to Him.

John 14:17b, God Himself lives in you! His Kingdom, the place where He rules and reigns, is inside you.

Prayer is surely about storming the heavenlies to tear down strongholds (see 2 Cor. 10:4), and prayer is about asking for our daily needs (see Matt. 6:11); but do you know about the kind of prayer that allows you to enter into the Kingdom of God, the presence of God, that has been deposited in you?

This is an incredible fact – the Kingdom of God is within us, making God Himself accessible to us at any time. It's in the secret place of prayer that we find inspiration for the dull dry times and comfort for the lonely and hurting times.

Prayer that brings us into intimate experiences with God does not involve imitating another or reproducing their prayers. One of the greatest problems many of us have is wishing we were someone else. You can't make yourself into somebody you're not.

“Come up here!” (Rev. 4:1b).

When Jesus Christ calls you into the secret place of prayer, it's an invitation like no other. That call from the depths of God's presence is an unspeakable privilege, an open door to a

revelation of God Himself. My one major goal in life is to be like the apostle John and answer the call of God to come into the secret place. What about you?

In the book of Revelation, the veil is pulled back for a moment and we are afforded a glimpse of what John saw when he was called into the secret place. When John turned to see who was calling, he was amazed! The One who commanded his attention was none other than Jesus. But it was not the Jesus he'd seen before – the itinerant Jewish rabbi in a robe and sandals. Here was the shining, resurrected Son of God, summoning John to come up with Him in the glorious heavenly sanctuary where He stood in the midst of fiery candlesticks. From His feet to His hair He was a blazing fire, so that “His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance” (Rev. 1:16b)!

John was so overcome by this shining revelation of God that he “fell at His feet as a dead man” (Rev. 1:17). But Jesus placed His right hand on John, and lifted him up . . . and then He unfolded one of the greatest revelations of God that mankind has ever received.

I want to meet with Jesus Christ in the secret and holy place where He dwells in Spirit and, like John, be taken into the depths of God. I want to be a vessel that reveals the awesome mysteries of God's grace and truth to the world. Isn't that the greatest goal of your life, too?

The problem for most of us is that life crowds out the time we need to spend alone answering God's call.

Our God is God. It makes no difference what circumstances surround us; He can still meet with us, and He can still provide for our every need.¹

¹ Michal Ann Goll, A Call To The Secret Place