

IN THE SECRET PLACE WITH GOD

One of the most helpful ways we've found to meet with God in the secret place is through a combination of Scripture reading, Scripture meditation and Scripture prayer.

This time with God is not a time for reading large quantities of Scripture. Times of Bible study or a structured Bible reading program are of great value. However, this is a time when your goal is to receive deeper revelation of the Scripture and to experience a heart-to-heart time with God in His presence.

Your ultimate goal is God himself. You want to be hungry for God and thirsty for more of Him. Be unwilling to settle for anything less. You want to be like someone lost in the desert who is dying of thirst, knowing that God is the only one who can quench that thirst.

Some Steps To Follow

When you approach the Scriptures in this way, you are seeking to meet with the Lord in a very personal way. The Bible is His Word, so, as you read and meditate upon it, God will speak to your heart. This is prayer at a deep personal level.

This kind of prayer is a dialogue – a conversation between you and God. As you proceed, you will find yourself in communion with God.

The following outline of steps will help you engage in communion with God. It is not meant to be followed rigidly.

As you proceed, allow yourself to be led by the Holy Spirit. Your sense of God's presence may ebb and flow, but your goal is to remain focused upon Him and let Him lead the way.

- ❖ Find a passage you wish to focus on – one that is simple, inspirational, and applicable to your own life.**

- ❖ As you open the Bible, ask God to give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. (See Eph. 1:17.)
- ❖ Lift your heart in worship and welcome His presence.
- ❖ Wait in the Lord's presence. Focus on Him. Set your love upon Him.
- ❖ Let quietness and humility prevail, as you prepare to delve into the Word.
- ❖ Read a verse or small section of the passage you have selected.
- ❖ Let its rich meaning penetrate deep within you. Wait awhile, and let God give you fresh insights into what He is saying to you through His Word.
- ❖ Meditate upon, feed upon, chew, reflect upon, ponder, ruminate upon, and contemplate the words and their meaning as personal messages and promises to you from God.
- ❖ Read slowly, with understanding. Seek God and His wisdom as you read.
- ❖ Seek the heart of God – His intention for you – in the passage. Stay with the passage until you sense that the Holy Spirit wants you to proceed.
- ❖ After meditating on the truths of the passage, you may want to turn it into a prayer by personalizing its message and applying it to your own life. Ask God to make the truths it contains reality to you.
- ❖ Stay silent in His presence. Listen for His voice. See if there's more He wants to share with you.

- ❖ When you feel satisfied, move on to the next verse or section of the Scripture and follow the same approach we've just outlined.
- ❖ Remember, this is not a time of Bible study. It is a *spiritual* endeavor, not an *intellectual* one.
- ❖ Keep a journal or a note pad handy to record key thoughts and insights you have received.

After this wonderful time with God in the secret place has ended, you may be surprised that you did not read a great deal of Scripture. This is because most passages of the Bible are laden with golden nuggets of truth that can be looked at from many different angles. Each passage contains powerful truth for your life that you may meditate upon for extended periods of time.

As often as possible, memorize key verses of the Bible. By hiding the Word in your heart you will be able to continue wherever you are throughout the day in meditation and prayer in the secret place.

Another thing we have learned as a result of praying the Scriptures is that the more we do so, the more we are drawn into the secret place with the Father, a place of abiding, communion, and revelation.

The Old Testament refers to "the secret place of the Most High" as a place to dwell. (See Ps. 91:1.) Therefore by very definition, it is a location, a "place." It is the place where we find the presence of God. In truth, the more time we spend in seeking God where He lives inside of us, the richer will be our awareness of His presence in our outward lives. The secret place is really very little more than getting our spirit in touch with God, through the Holy Spirit, so that we are truly being led by God, fellowshiping with Him, and immersed in Him.¹

¹ In *The Secret Place With God*, Clift and Kathleen Richards