

The Secret Place

Of the Most-High God

By Paul M Hanssen



*But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, **pray to thy Father which is in secret**; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.*
(Matthew 6:6)

There is a place that most believers have never found; a place where experience with God becomes reality, where battles are won, where impossible things are brought to birth. The place I want to share with you is where strongholds are overcome, and weaknesses bow before the presence and glory of God. This place is where God's power truly becomes known to you – sometimes in quietness and other times in boisterous outbursts, sometimes in stillness and other times in shaking and trembling, sometimes with words of understanding and other times with tongues of the Spirit. *(What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. (1 Corinthians 14:15))*

The place I am speaking of is not a physical place, even though it can be; it is not found in a building of stone nor among a gathering of believers, even though it can be; it is not discovered by traveling to a particular or scheduled destination. This place is not at a distance; it is closer to you than you realize, closer than your own breath - *(But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach - Romans 10:verse 8.)* The place I speak of is where no human sees or hears you; a place you enter alone, often at night or early morning – a place God is calling you to, where he desires to meet and commune with you; it is a **secret place**.

This secret place is so important to your spiritual life that it will determine your destiny, both in time and for eternity. It will define your walk and relationship with God. There we learn to hear God's voice and heartbeat.

In the quoted verse above, Jesus did not say, “Pray to the Father secretly,” but rather, “Pray to thy Father which is in secret.”

The Aramaic New Testament reads, “and pray to your father, who is in secret.” The point is not secret praying but the Father who dwells in the secret place. Seek that place – this is where genuine intimacy with the Father is found.

As ministers, I cannot guide you to a greater place or experience than the Secret Place of the Most-High.

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. (Psalm 91:1)

Pastors, ministers of every kind, leaders, and church workers alike are guilty of neglecting and avoiding the Secret Place. We mask our neglect by claiming the need to serve others and by putting on the cloak of responsibility. We find ourselves controlled by others’ wants, desires, and needs, and therefore neglect to go aside to this place where no one sees, hears, or knows what is going on. My former pastor always told me, “Never be governed by needs – because they will become your God.”

And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. (Matthew 14:23)

The word “alone” stands out on its own. Alone means sole, single, by Himself, remaining, and continuing in a given place. Coming into the secret place alone is not found or experienced in a few minutes spent alone in a room. It is discovered by continuing and remaining in a certain place. In other words, you may not experience the secret place in one, two, or even three prayer sessions, but by continuing in a steadfast, deliberate, and committed search for this place with God. It takes perseverance and laying one’s self-will aside to enter this place with the Father.

This secret Place is not where Jesus simply visited now and then. Rather, it is where he lived. (We will discuss this more later in this study).

No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him. (John 1:18)

ALONE IN THE SECRET PLACE:

Yes, many people “pray”; however, it’s one thing to pray and quite another to find the bosom of the Father – the secret place. We may go to church and attend prayer meetings; we may do “our part,” and yet we remain spiritually barren; we have not tapped into the heartbeat of God because even our prayer time is rushed and filled with our own desires rather than His. You may even go into a closet, “shut the door,” and yet not discover the secret place. Why is this? Because even in the closet, we are frequently not alone. We are all guilty of bringing all manner of things

from the world into the closet, along with feelings, attitudes, and wants. The closet, then, is no longer a secret place but a common thoroughfare for other gods and idols before whom we bow. It isn't wrong to bring our needs before the Lord; we are encouraged in God's Word to do so. But that is not what the secret place is about.

Jesus lived in the secret place, and yet He also took time aside to be alone. There may not have been a visible door; nonetheless, He was in the secret place, alone, with the Father.

And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. (Luke 6:12)

And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed. (Mark 1:35)

The secret place is the space where nothing and no one is permitted to enter or intrude. It is solitary – even when others are around, you can enter the secret place. It is where you go, shut the door, turn off the world and all distractions, and listen for God's heartbeat.

And it came to pass, as he was alone praying, his disciples were with him: and he asked them, saying, Whom say the people that I am? (Luke 9:18)

Jesus was surrounded by His disciples, yet He was alone. How can you be alone while surrounded by people? This secret place is found by "closing the door" on influence, sounds, words, noise, objects, distractions – anything that can draw your focus and attention away from God. Jesus knew how to be surrounded and yet to fellowship with His Father in the secret place. This is a mystery that few discover.

I have often been accused of being rude, cold, or distant with people, not because that is my nature, but because it is not uncommon for me to retreat into a place where God's heartbeat is louder than the voices, cares, and concerns of those around me. We cannot, and should not, live our lives to please people. Our goal in life is to please and satisfy God's heart.

For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. (Galatians 1:10)

For those in any form of ministry, it is imperative to learn and understand the balance between pleasing men (serving men) and being dedicated and true in one's service to God.

The Root Motivation

- **Healthy Love:** Driven by a selfless desire for the other person's true well-being, rooted in your love for God and His Will.
- **People-Pleasing:** Driven by fear of rejection, a need for human approval, or an attempt to manage your own anxiety.

The Source of Truth

- **Healthy Love:** Guided by God's truth. It is willing to speak difficult truths or set firm boundaries if it is genuinely best for the other person, but more importantly for you and your relationship with God.
- **People-Pleasing:** Guided by the other person's emotions or demands. It compromises biblical values, avoids necessary conflict, and condones harmful behavior just to keep the peace. This can become an example of "thou sufferest that woman Jezebel." (Revelation 2:20)

The Ultimate Master

- **Healthy Love:** Seeks to please God first. It serves others out of obedience to Him, meaning you can say "no" to a person when saying "yes" would dishonor God.
- **People-Pleasing:** Treats human approval as an idol. It sacrifices God's standards on the altar of human acceptance.

But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. (1 Thessalonians 2:4)

The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe. (Proverbs 29:25)

Discovering the Secret Place is like being clothed in a cloak that creates a barrier between men's praise and God's pleasure.

THE SECRET PLACE IS WHERE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER IS FORMED:

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:23-24)

Jesus wasn't referring to worshippers, but "true worshippers" – meaning those who are filled with Truth and are true (faithful) for the Truth. True worshippers enter a relationship with the Father through worshipping in the Spirit with a truthful, sincere heart before Him. They have found the Secret Place in the Spirit. It's not about a room, a place, an atmosphere, or a surrounding. The Secret Place is a spiritual place found by those who learn to walk in the Spirit.

Your relationship with God is formed and shaped in this secret place – it is forged in the fire of the Spirit of God (to forge means to make or shape an object by heating it in a fire or furnace and beating or hammering it). This secret place is like a furnace of fire – where God's fiery glory dwells. Every time you enter this place, a beating and hammering take place in the spirit. Something is shaped in you – something will change – you will change. Within this secret place, the heart is transformed – it is refashioned, and the purpose of the spirit within the depths of your being becomes your reality.

IN THE SECRET PLACE YOU TRANSCEND THE PHYSICAL WORLD TO THE SPIRITUAL:

From this secret place, you transcend the physical world and enter God's spiritual world. It is a place where you encounter spiritual heights among the host of heaven, a place where God's throne room comes into view. Finding this place will change the trajectory of your spiritual life.

A PRACTICE LEADING TO POWER – HEALTHY HABITS:

If your walk with God is dull, dry, dead, powerless, or non-existent, it is probably because you have not found this secret place, or because you have found it but you have ignored it. Multitudes of Christians live empty spiritual lives. There are, of course, different reasons for this. However, one of the main reasons for spiritual barrenness and dryness is that the secret place has never become part of your life and practice.

The thing that separates successful people from unsuccessful people is “what they practice,” or their routine of life and their habits. It is easy to get hyped up about something for a moment during a Summit, seminar, or special event. But hype will not change your spiritual life or the trajectory of your life. If you do not develop healthy habits and routine, you will not succeed in anything.

And Moses took the tabernacle, and pitched it without the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it the Tabernacle of the congregation. (Exodus 33:7a KJV)

It was Moses' practice to take the Tent of Meeting and set it up some distance from the camp. (Exodus 33:7a NLT)

It was Moses' practice to take his own tent and set it apart outside the regular daily activities of the camp. His tent became called “The tabernacle of meeting, or the tabernacle of the congregation.” We need to make a practice of removing ourselves from the norm, from busy schedules, from the camp and the crowds, and set up a place of meeting with God. Experiencing the Secret Place will never happen with random, casual prayer times with the Lord. This place is found through dedicated and habitual practices that set you apart. Don't be afraid of a routine – however, be careful not to make this search into a religious bondage. For example, we practice holiness not to be saved, but because we are saved. In like manner, we should seek the Secret Place not because we must, but because we love Him who dwells there. If that becomes your motive, your practice will never become religious bondage but a living experience.

- Few have the courage to enter this place
- Few take the time to seek it out
- Few are willing to pay the price to experience the power of this place
- Few have the level of spiritual fervor it takes to be committed to this place

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. (Psalm 91:1)

The word secret means *concealed, hidden, private, and inward*. This place can indeed be discovered in a physical closet, a room, or a space of any kind – but more importantly, it must be found inwardly (within), in a spiritual reality. When Jesus exhorted His disciples to go into a closet and shut the door, He was revealing the door through which one must enter to experience the spiritual power available to those who enter. The door can be our eyes, our ears, and the various ways we open ourselves to the environment around us. Shutting the door is shutting out all the distractions that cause us to lose focus on Him and His voice. Like Moses, remove your life from the environment and establish a meeting place with God.

Jesus' words on the secret place were not merely an encouragement to people who may decide to take a few moments to pray. It was much more than that. Neither was He simply inviting us to a physical room – rather, He is pointing His disciples to an experience with His Father.

Imagine the Father seeking true worshippers who, in Spirit and Truth, enter this secret place of intimacy. Worship is not about singing a song accompanied by good music. To worship means to bow down, to crouch, to prostrate oneself in homage and reverence, and to adore. We can sing a song, but that doesn't mean we have worshipped. Worship is not something set aside for an hour during a Sunday service. Worship is a way of life. The Father is calling us to this place – it's a secret place; a place entered in Spirit and in Truth.

True anointing comes from spending time in the secret place where we are broken, molded, purified, and shaped for God's purpose. The anointing is not a feeling; it is not goosebumps up and down your spine. No, the anointing is the power to accomplish what God has called you to be and to do.

THE SECRET PLACE IS ABOUT “DWELLING” NOT VISITING:

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. (Psalm 91:1)

Many people seek the “shadow of the Almighty.” Christians desire to possess and experience everything that God offers in the Secret Place. However, this place is about an abiding, consistent, continual commitment. It is a lifestyle – it's where you live.

In Hebrew, the word dwelleth is yaw-shab'. It means to remain, to sit down in quiet, to marry, to settle down, continue, make a habitation, and endure. To abide under the shadow of the wings of the Almighty is experienced by those who don't back down, don't quit, endure the hardship, remain steadfast, and marry the will and purpose of God.

SECRET PLACE INTRODUCES YOU TO GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE:

The secret place will introduce you to God's eternal purpose. The ultimate purpose of the heart is first and foremost to host and entertain the glory-presence of God.

Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him. (Isaiah 43:7)

In Matthew 6:6, the Greek word from which “prayest” is translated is *pros-yoo'-khom-ahee*, which means to *worship and to earnestly supplicate* (to humbly and passionately ask for something). In other words, the dimension of prayer Jesus specifically mentioned for the secret place is prayer combined with humble bowing and submission. This Greek word also means to *ascend and to come near; to move forward in a certain direction or destination, and to go above*.

Prayer in the secret place is where intimacy with God is discovered and encountered above and beyond all distraction and “noises” of the world. God’s eternal purpose is discovered and becomes a reality in your life in this place. God’s heartbeat is known, felt, and experienced in the bosom of the Secret Place.

*But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, **pray to thy Father which is in secret**; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall **reward thee openly**. (Matthew 6:6)*

The Father, who sees in secret, openly rewards those who find this place. But the reward is not necessarily in worldly gain or recognition, but rather His presence surrounding you and moreover living within you. When the Father rewards you openly, people notice; they can feel and sense something about you. People noticed when Moses had been with God in the secret place (Exodus 34:29). His face glowed with the Father’s glory. Paul said to the church in Corinth, “*But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*” (2 Corinthians 3:18)

THE HEARTBEAT OF GOD:

We can have spiritual experiences in church services, prayer meetings, and gatherings with other believers – that is all good and well. However, experiencing intimacy with God does not occur in the public arena of church gatherings but rather in a place hidden from others' eyes and ears. There is a reason Jesus said, “*Pray to thy Father who is in secret.*” The secret place is where the Father’s bosom and heartbeat are discovered.

No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him. (John 1:18)

Jesus lived in this place with His Father. He resided within the heartbeat of God; hence, He did and said nothing that did not originate from the Father’s heartbeat. So many want to know God’s will and purpose, but they don’t want to find the secret place. Many want power and anointing, but they don’t want to spend time alone with God listening for His heartbeat.

The secret place is not just about prayer and worship but about knowing the Father, His Will, and His Purpose – it is about intimacy with Him as a son of God.

The Father desires that we become acquainted with His Secret Place because this is where we experience intimacy with Him and His heartbeat. In biblical times, people did not refer to inner desires and thoughts as a “heartbeat.” Instead, terms such as bowels, belly, womb, inward parts, and thoughts of the heart were used. For example:

*The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.
(Psalm 33:11)*

The LORD’s counsel refers to His eternal purpose, and the thoughts of His heart express His heartbeat to bring that purpose to pass. God has a purpose for our lives. Yet few ever discover His purpose because they don’t find the Secret Place within His bosom – His bowels, belly, and womb, or His heartbeat (the thoughts and intent of His heart). The Hebrew word here for heart is *labe*, meaning the feelings, the will, the center, and the mind. The Secret Place is the center of God’s will, where His feelings and mind concerning you are made known. Is it any wonder that the demonic powers of darkness collaborate with the carnal mind to keep the door to the Secret Place closed?

Hearken unto me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, which are borne by me from the belly, which are carried from the womb: (Isaiah 46:3)

Through the prophet Isaiah, God addresses both the exiled captives of Jacob (Judah) taken into Babylonian captivity and the remnant of Israel exiled to Assyria. Here we find a striking reference to the “belly” and “womb” of God. This Secret Place is also called the bosom, where the Son of God resides. This place is not merely about presence – rather, it’s the core essence of God, the center of His being, His heartbeat, and the source from which His purpose and will are birthed. It is a Secret Place; it is a place of mystery and revelation. It is to this place that He is calling His elect! Here, nothing matters because His heartbeat drowns out all the sounds of distraction.

The secret place is the dwelling place of God the Father. Look at the following verses. There, we can see that entering the secret place is honored and rewarded by the Father. The secret, hidden place is about the Father and intimacy with Him.

But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly. (Matthew 6:17-18)

But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly. (Matthew 6:3-4)

It is not possible to hide a life hidden with God. The Secret Place experience with the Father is openly rewarded, honored, and displayed. However, take note, it is the Father who rewards, not we ourselves who proclaim or profess. Many people proclaim to walk with God, but their pride, arrogance, and “carnal” displays of spirituality show exactly the opposite. True intimacy with the

Father is rewarded by the Father, not by you. People who try to prove who they are do not have an intimate relationship with God.

When Jacob had an intimate encounter with God, he came away limping (Genesis 32:44-45). Something had changed, and everyone could see it. When Moses came down from the mountain after his experience in the Secret Place with God, his face was shining, and he didn't know it (Exodus 34:19). When the disciples spent time with Jesus, the religious leaders and the Sanhedrin noticed their boldness, courage, teaching, and miraculous works (Acts 4:13). God openly rewards those who find the Secret Place!! You can't hide it.

THE BATTLE GROUND TO THE SECRET PLACE – THE SHADOW OF HIS WINGS

The secret place is a battleground. It is not easy to reach, and it is not easy to maintain – the powers of hell, along with your flesh and carnal man, do not want you to conquer this place. On the contrary, the carnal mind will find every reason and excuse not to enter this place alone with God. There will be times when your prayer feels like a lead balloon rather than a balloon filled with helium – when heaven feels like brass and when God's presence seems as if it doesn't exist. There will be days, even weeks, when the words of your prayers seem meaningless, unanswered, unheard, and like discarded trash. But that is not the time to give up seeking this place. Why? Because finding this place determines your destiny and defines the power your spiritual life will generate.

The secret place will be a place of war – a place where you learn to persist, fight through your own dryness and dreary emotions, press through demons, and strive to know the Lord your God. Those who build their spiritual lives in the secret place will remain standing when others fall and fail.

I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. (Psalm 18:1-3)

The Hebrew word for fortress is *maw-tsood*, meaning a stronghold and a defense. This stronghold is the secret place!

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. (Psalm 91:1-2)

King David conquered the stronghold of Zion, which became the place where David's Tabernacle was raised. The Tabernacle of David was, as it were, "God's Secret Place" among His people. This is what David was referring to. It was the Holiest of All where the ark of God rested, and the glory of God resided.

Nevertheless David took the strong hold of Zion: the same is the city of David. (2 Samuel 5:7)

Within David's Tabernacle was only one item, one combined piece of furniture, a central focus – the Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat, the throne of God. Upon the Ark, on the Mercy Seat, sat two Cherubim, each with two outstretched wings, hovering over it.

And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel. (Exodus 25:22)

And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: and he was seen upon the wings of the wind. (2 Samuel 22:11)

And for the altar of incense refined gold by weight; and gold for the pattern of the chariot of the cherubims, that spread out their wings, and covered the ark of the covenant of the Lord. (1 Chronicles 28:18)

And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind. [11] He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies. (Psalm 18:10-11)

Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast. (Psalm 57:1)

Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings. (Psalm 17:8)

To hide means a secret place and to conceal.

What are “thy wings?” Does God have wings like the angels? The simple answer is no. However, God's glory-presence is sheltered under the wings of the cherub; He flies on the wings of the cherub, and the wings carry His throne! His glory-presence is inherently connected to the wings of the cherubim. To those who find the Secret Place, the wings are not a threat; they are a protective covering against the onslaught and warfare of demonic powers. There is no place like the Secret Place!

THE SECRET PLACE OF HIS PRESENCE SETS YOU APART:

And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence. For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth. Exodus 33:15-16 KJV)

Then Moses said, “If you don’t personally go with us, don’t make us leave this place. How will anyone know that you look favorably on me—on me and on your people—if you don’t go with us? For your presence among us sets your people and me apart from all other people on the earth. (Exodus 33:15-16 NLT)

The miracles God performed did not set Israel apart; the revelation they had of God did not set them apart; and the strength of their military did not set them apart. It was the presence of the LORD that set them apart from all others. We can have many good things: good morals, good music, good services, good preaching, and an overall good “religion,” but without God’s presence we don’t have much of anything. His presence sets you apart!

Finding and dwelling in the Secret Place of the Most-High places you in high spiritual places; not the high places you try to create, but the high places into which He draws you and hides you. The Secret Place wraps you up in His presence. This is why the battle for this place is so fierce – it is a battle against the spiritual wickedness in high places, the powers on high that wage war against anyone who draws closer to God (Ephesians 6:12).

Seek the Secret Place! There is no place like it!