



## *Day One: Life From the Secret Place*

In the beginning of our journey to discover that we are chosen, wanted and loved, we asked: Do you know and believe the love of God for YOU?

**John 4:16 (NKJV)** ...We have known and believed the love God has for us.

To know His Presence and His love is the most beautiful and precious privilege. To live in it continually is life unspeakable and full of joy. And I believe this is our Father's desire for us. He wants us to live every moment of our lives, from the secret place.

That's right. Jesus wants us to stay there, with Him, living in the secret place. He doesn't want us to simply visit, but He wants us to abide and dwell – to LIVE – in His Presence with and in and through Him.

**Psalms 91 (AMP)** He that dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty.

To 'dwell' means to STAY, abide, continue, endure, be present, remain, stand, and tarry. In other words, not to leave. To make it our home.

Jesus desires for us to be like Moses. That we would not be willing to be without His presence. That we would not be willing to take even a single step without Him. In Genesis, Moses' abiding heart was revealed when God told him that he and the Israelites were to leave and drive out their enemies and that God would send an angel with them but He Himself would not go with them. How did Moses respond to God?

**Exodus 33:15 – 16 (NIV)** Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?

And incredibly, God changed His mind at Moses' request, and said to him in verse 17, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."

How precious to be known by name by the God of the universe! What a privilege to have influenced His heart! Yet, why would Moses refuse to go



anywhere without God's Presence? And why would God be influenced by the request of a man, when He had been so adamant that He was not going? It was because Moses dwelt with God. When everyone else (except Joshua) would step back, Moses would step in and meet with God at the Tent of Meeting.

**Exodus 33:7 – 11 (NIV)** *Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the “tent of meeting.” Anyone inquiring of the Lord would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp. And whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose and stood at the entrances to their tents, watching Moses until he entered the tent. As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the Lord spoke with Moses. Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshiped, each at the entrance to their tent. The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.*

All were welcome to inquire of the Lord, yet all but Joshua watched from afar. We have the privilege of a continual ‘tent of meeting’ walking around within our hearts! We no longer need to wait for the the cloud of God's Presence to descend – His Presence continually abides within us. Will we continually abide with Him?

➤ **See Also:** Exodus 40:36 - 38

## Soak Time

Who do you most identify with? The Israelites watching from the entrances of their tents, Moses meeting with God in the tent of meeting, or Joshua who chose never to leave the tent? Who do you desire to be?

---

---

---

---



## *Day Two: Finding Out What is Important*

It's in the secret place – in the Presence of our Almighty God – that we find out what's truly important in this world, and for our lives.

**If something is truly important, it is important in the secret place.**

It's amazing how the things that seem important to us and even overwhelm us when we are outside of His Presence, suddenly seems to pale in comparison to Him when we come into His Presence. Such things just fall away in significance and they quickly lose their power over us. Our flesh cannot dominate us when we live in the secret place.

The secret place reveals what's important to God and what's not important in our lives. Nothing can be compared to His Presence and our hunger for everything else simply fades away.

*"I've known times that felt so dry and disappointing that I didn't know how to face the next minute, hour or day. And yet I have also experienced such beauty and depth of intimacy with God - such an overflowing sense of oneness - that I could live and die having known that single joy and be utterly satisfied. The secret place of being drenched in peace and love so unexplainable that no other celebration, success or relationship can possibly rival it." (Ainsley Shepherd)*

We quickly discover what is and is not important in our lives as you see what matters when we are in the secret place. It ruins us for everything else we are not supposed to do. The life that we feel attached to the things that are of God and His will for us, becomes like a fire inside of us that we can't hold back. And the things that are not important to God for us, start to feel so dry and lacking in power that they seem as death to us and we don't even want to touch them again because His Presence is so glorious we can no longer accept His life in any sort of a diminished form!

We don't need to struggle and strive with trying to enforce external change in our lives, or working out a five step plan to break out of ungodly habits. We don't need to push to find His mission statement for our lives, or labour to serve in every arena so we can feel good about ourselves. We simply need to live in His Presence in the secret place – the place where we connect our hearts with His – and everything that should come alive does, and everything that shouldn't, dies. It is so simple, and so beautiful, that we tend to



complicate things and believe that it just couldn't be that easy. But it can and it is. Once we learn to abide in the secret place, everything else in our lives falls into place without force. And as God said to Moses in Exodus 33:14 (NIV), *"My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."*

Rest is a precious promise, and it's yours when you live in the secret place.



Do you know what it feels like to be in the secret place? To experience the Presence of God? What is truly important to you when you're in His Presence? What things pale in significance?

---

---

---

---



### *Day Three: Journeying into Life*

The journey into a life of abiding was very impacting for me. I was captured by the word ‘abide’, and the concept of the secret place. Abiding seemed like such an impossible thing when for years on end, I’d struggled to simply keep my mind stayed on God and remember to talk to Him with any sort of regularity outside of my set prayer times in the mornings.

As for the secret place, I had an intense desire to know what it was. I had read about it in the Word, I had heard people speak about it, and I longed for the kind of relationship they talked about having with their God, but I really didn’t even know what I was looking for. The secret place – what was it? What did it look like? How could I get there? And most importantly, how could I stay there? These were the unanswered questions that were flowing around my mind and of all things, I just wanted someone not only to tell me what it was like, but to tell me in intricate detail how to get there, how to know that I was there, and how to stay there! Unfortunately, I had never encountered anyone who could explain this to me, so I simply trusted God to lead me there. Somehow in my heart, I knew that it began with understanding and receiving His love for me.

***1 John 4:16 (NLT)*** *We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.*

I knew that I needed to be unshakeable about God’s love for me, and He led me for over a year, to focus on nothing else but to truly immerse myself in His love until His love for me became unquestionable. He had me find and collate the many scriptures about His love for me, and to meditate on them and turn them into confessions. Every day, I declared these truths, imagined myself in these scriptures, pondered on His love for me, and communicated with Him about this love. And a funny thing happened! Though my focus was on truly knowing and believing His love for me, I actually started to feel glimmers of His Presence as I was immersing myself in His love. It was glorious, and I just revelled in it. In fact, it seemed as though the more I knew and believed His love for me, the more I felt Him in a tangible way. And I was surprised by it!

Why was I surprised, I wondered? Wasn’t this His desire, too? I could see that truth clearly through the scriptures I’d been meditating on, but I realised that



the problem for me was that I'd been told for years by well-meaning people, not to expect it. That it was wrong to 'look for the goosebumps', so to speak. And in the context in which this advice had been given, there was an element of truth to it. I was being counselled that we should trust that He is with us and in us even when we cannot actually feel Him! This is certainly true, and I'd made this choice to believe many times before, when I hadn't been feeling a thing in regards to His Presence. However, since I'd been meditating on His love and discovered His Presence showing up, I started to wonder how much of that kind of thinking had actually kept me out of His Presence!

Between that counsel and also the theology that we walk through wilderness seasons and God withdraws His Presence, I had struggled to believe that He wanted me to experience so much of His Presence that I could actually abide there. Yet I realised that the reason it says in James 4:8 for us to draw near to God is because He has already loved us! We love Him because He first loved us (1 John 4:10)! We are never waiting on God to draw near to us because He has already loved us with His life and is every moment waiting in anticipation for us to respond to that love! Why on earth would someone Who loves us so intensely that He would pour out His last drop of blood to re-connect us with Himself, then play some sort of silly game and withdraw from us? I knew in my heart this theology had serious holes in it, and this was confirmed for me even more when God spoke to me so strongly about the wilderness that I felt His voice word for word. He said:

*The wilderness is rubbish! There was no wilderness for Moses. My Presence was ever available. He and Joshua accessed it and to them, they were walking through desert but their communion with me was so rich, it never felt like a wilderness. It was only those who chose not to enter into the tent of meeting who didn't enjoy My Presence every day of the 40 years. And they could have experienced victory on the 11<sup>th</sup> day!*

## Soak Time

What have you believed that has kept you out of the Presence of God?

---

---



### *Day Four: A Woman in Love*

Once I determined that it was the Lord's desire to abide with me as much as it was my desire to abide with Him and I aligned my faith with this, experiencing His Presence came more and more easily. God is the God of the individual and the path He led me on to learn to live in the secret place is not necessarily the path He will lead you on. However I also I firmly believe that two foundations of revelation are necessary in order for anyone to live out of the secret place:

- We must know the nature of God – that He is a good and trustworthy God who desires intimacy with us. We cannot be intimate with someone we are afraid of or thinks is responsible for all of the bad things in this earth. We must know that He desires to bless us – not hurt us.
- We must know that we know that we know and have received His individual love for us.

Aligning my heart with His love through meditating on the scriptures about His love for me was where things changed for me.

*"If you will meditate on these scriptures, and you'll see yourself in there, you'll kick your toe on the way in... you'll BE in the secret place!" Mandy Ballin*

During this timeframe, I was so hungry to abide in the secret place, I sought this experience with desire both internally and externally. I even wore a ring to remind me to connect with Him. I put it on my right hand ring finger as a sign of my covenant with Him, even before I understood about being His Bride. These revelations came in time. Every time I saw that ring, I'd remember to connect with Jesus, however it was still an external prompt – it wasn't yet coming out of my heart.

However in time, the scales tipped. He gradually taught me about the secret place and I experienced more and more of a sense of connectedness with Him. I learned who He was more and more and He started revealing who He was to me individually, and who I was to Him. I remember one time I was in prayer with friends and I'd asked Him to show me who He was to me. During prayer, I had a vision of Jesus coming down on His white horse to rescue me. I knew that He was revealing to me Jesus as my hero. The intimacy grew.

God led me to Jim Richard's Heart Physics meditations and through these I learned how to rest in His Presence and the importance of seeing, believing





and connecting with Jesus in my heart. My God-inside-mindedness increased dramatically.

One day, I realised the change had taken place. Silently, quietly, the tables had turned. And I realised that I felt it when He was NOT there! Instead of reminding myself to talk to Him, I realised I'd become constantly aware of His Presence within me - sensing connectedness with Him - and it was actual when I was separated from this Presence (by getting into my flesh and not my spirit) that I was jolted to realise I couldn't feel Him. And I didn't like it. I'd become so comfortable in His love that this had now become my default. It certainly made choosing walking in the Spirit rather than the flesh so much easier! I never wanted to be disconnected with Him again!

My love for Him felt as though I could never get enough. I was thinking about Him constantly, talking to Him, looking forward to quiet and intimate times together, cherishing His words and anticipating His touch. One day, I realised that I felt like a woman in love!

**1 John 4:16 (NKJV)** *And we have known and believed the love God has for us. God is love and he who dwells and continues in love dwells and continues in God and God dwells and continues in him.*

He wants us to LIVE CONNECTED. Like the vine and the branches – never separated, life flowing through us from its source of God inside of us. He wants us to make the secret place our home – to find it for ourselves, and to stay there. Is that your heart's desire, too?



Do you feel like a woman in love? Why/why not?

---

---

---

---

---





## *Day Five: A Place of REST*

What I'd always wanted to know was what was the secret place, and what did it look like or feel like, so I would know when I was and wasn't there, and I believe many people would find it far easier to enter and live in the secret place if it became more quantified or tangible in their eyes. So let's look at the first aspect of finding the secret place:

### **1. The Secret Place is a Place of REST**

Dwelling in the secret place with Jesus doesn't always feel like goosebumps and adventures (though many times it does). In fact, the overriding aspect of the secret place is simply being at rest, and in this rest we notice things – we live with a constant and tangible sense of awareness, connection and peace. We stop striving, and we simply enter His rest, trusting God to take care for us completely and do the things we cannot do.

**Hebrews 4:1 & 3 (NIV)** *Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it...Now we who have believed enter that rest...*

**Hebrews 4:10 (AMP)** *For he who has once entered [God's] rest has also ceased from [the weariness and pain] of human labors just as God rested from those labors peculiarly His own.*

When God finished creating, He rested from His works on the seventh day. If you read Hebrews 4:1 – 11, you will see that God promises this seventh day rest to us today – every day! When we (once and for all) enter into His rest, the peace which comes with this by knowing we are in Him, is primarily what it feels like to live in the secret place.

Can we ever get out of the secret place once we've entered into it? Sure we can. Every time I step out of rest and into my flesh or stress, or negative emotions, I've stepped out of the secret place. When we are being ruled by our flesh, we have by default disconnected ourselves from the things of the Spirit.

In actual fact, what we are doing in those instances is not only taking ourselves out of the secret place, but out of the Kingdom of God. The secret place can only be experienced in the Kingdom of God, which is God's way of doing things and experiencing life. And it's the polar opposite to the Kingdom of this world



and the world's way of doing things. The world is full of stress, worry and force, but that is not the way of the Kingdom of God.

***Romans 14:17 (NKJV)*** *For the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

We know when we're in the Kingdom of God when we are walking in righteousness (a clear sense of our identity in Christ), peace and joy, being led by the Holy Spirit. If that is not our experience, then the Kingdom is not where we're dwelling at that moment in time. However, the Bible also tells us that the Kingdom of God is within us (see Luke 17:21), so we can access it at any time we choose to. The key is our willingness to rest in His grace in our lives. To lay down force and our own self effort and trust in His efforts. To choose peace even when circumstances surround us and scream that we should worry or stress or DO SOMETHING.

Rest is a beautiful promise and it's in that place of rest that we find the secret place.



Read Hebrews 4:1 – 11. Have you entered into the rest of God?

---

---

---

---

---