



Day One: Entering His Rest

The frantic pace of life steals many things from us. It steals the peace that Jesus died to give us, and it steals our ability to hear the still, small voice of God in our hearts and share the precious intimacy that we could be having with Him.

Matthew 11:28 – 30 (MSG) *Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me, get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.*

Does that sound like how we're living? Are we recovering our lives or are we tired and worn out? Are we living freely and lightly or are we struggling under the weight of heavy burdens?

Psalms 46:10 (AMP) *Let be and be still, and know...that I am God...*

It's when we're still and in the place of peace and rest in our hearts, that we hear the voice of God clearly and we know that we know that we know what He is saying to us. The place of rest opens the door to revelation – it's already contained in our spirits but it's when we are resting in the secret place that we are still enough to align our hearts with what He's already implanted within us, and we 'see' things we'd never seen before. That's what revelation is – seeing something new because we're looking from a different perspective. And for most of us, when we're resting instead of running, our perspective is immediately changed.

In the intimacy described between Jesus and His bride in the Song of Songs, we see something very interesting:

Song of Songs 2:3 (TPT) *My Beloved is to me as the finest, fragrant apple tree - He stands above the sons of men, sitting under His grace-shadow, I blossom in His shade. Enjoying the sweet taste of His pleasant, delicious fruit. Resting with delight where His glory never fades. Suddenly He transported me into His house of wine – I see His unfurled banner of victory covering me...*

Wine is indicative of the Holy Spirit. What actually happened here is that she was at rest, blossoming in His shade and enjoying His fruitfulness. She was



delighted in Him as she rested with Him in the secret place. And in that rest, she suddenly saw from a new perspective and understood something she'd never had revelation about before – His victory over her.

As we read the entire Song of Songs, we see that she only started receiving revelation from Him from that moment onwards, when she was at rest and peace. Prior to that, she was still talking about how dry and desolate she was, but from that point on, she walked in the revelation of who He said she was.

We also see near the end of the Song of Songs, that the Bridegroom-King (Jesus) said that it was at the point where she found rest under the apple tree, that He awakened her from sleep to life.

Song of Songs 8:5 (TPT) *When I awakened you under the apple tree...*

That's when the whole process began for her. She was transported into His house of wine and received revelation of His banner of victory that was over her. She started to see a vision of who He saw her as His bride and it made her hungry to arise and step into this. It all began with the place of rest.

Hebrews 4:3 (NKJV) *For we who have believed do enter that rest...*

➤ **See:** Hebrews 4:1 – 11

Entering His rest takes faith – He asks us to BE, when all we've known is how to DO, do, do. But if we will put our doing aside and strive diligently instead to enter His rest, we won't miss out on His promises due to our unbelief. And the most important promise of all is the promise of intimacy with Him.



Read Hebrews 4:1 – 11. What is this speaking to you?



Day Two: A Place of Intimacy & Romance

The second aspect about life from the secret place is **INTIMACY**. It is living in the romance. When we're living in the romance, our thoughts are constantly on another person. We longingly look forward to the next time we can see them and whenever we get that opportunity, we drop everything else to be with them. We think about how we can show love to them and look for opportunities to bless them and express our love to them. We delight in the little surprises and the beautiful things that they do for us and we feel so loved by them. The object of our romance is on our mind when we wake up in the morning and when we fall to sleep again at night.

Have you entered into the romance with Jesus? Are you not sure? Let's see what the romance with Him looks like some more.

Romance causes you to stop. Nothing else is important in that moment. When you are with the one you love, you really couldn't care less about anything else. And these moments become the thing you look forward to, and the thing you live for. Does this describe our intimacy and the romance that we share with Jesus?

Q: Do we live for the moments with Him?

Do we feel as though those moments are the most precious moments of our life? Do we long to live with such intimacy that these moments are not just once-off joyful experiences but that they become our daily reality? People get married because they love the moments and want that person with them at all times. Do we long for these moments so much, we never want to be without Him?

Romance causes you to discover one another. One of the most special aspects of falling in love with someone is the talking – asking questions, being asked questions and learning about who this other person is and what is contained in the depths of their heart. It's no different when we are in the secret place with Jesus. He shows us who He is. He even tells us questions to ask Him so we can discover what we are yearning for. We learn about His nature, His dreams, and His heartbeat. We find out who He is and then He shows us who we are.

Romance causes you to enjoy one another. Part of the discovery is finding out that we love to be with them. It's fun, it's exciting and it's an adventure. They



bless us and we bless them. We're looking for ways to surprise one another, and be sure, Jesus is an intricate planner and His surprises are beyond compare!

I remember a time in which my friend had absolutely loved a pair of sandals but she couldn't get them because of either size or price and she was really disappointed. Yet when she was on the other side of the world in Europe, she saw the very same pair of shoes drastically marked down in price and it was her very size that was available! She felt so loved by her Jesus who had gone to such intricate lengths to surprise and bless her!

I had often walked a certain track past a paddock with some horses in it. I absolutely loved horses but they had never even been close enough to the fence to get a good look at them. I expressed my desire to pat these horses when talking to Jesus and the next morning they were both at the fence and stood still as I patted and talked to them. I felt so blessed! Another time, I had needed a certain, fairly large amount of money and I'd had no idea where I could get it from but trusted Jesus to take care of me. A few days later at work, there was an envelope of cash waiting for me with my name on it, and no mention whatsoever of where it had come from or who had delivered it there – and it was \$500 over the amount I'd needed. To say I felt loved would be a gross understatement – it felt to me like getting a bunch of flowers from Him! There have been so many other moments of intricate blessing – prophetic words or scriptures from others which have confirmed exactly what was in my heart, or just an overriding sense of His wrapping His arms around me. Jesus' nature is to bless and surprise – He truly is the Great Romancer!

Soak Time

Intimacy and romance is also vulnerability. Are you willing to enter into this romance, or are you blessed by the romance you've already stepped into?



Day Three: He Gets to Enjoy YOU!

Of course, Jesus is so good and so beautiful that we can understand Him wanting us to enjoy Him and it's very easy for us to do that because He is just so wonderful towards us. However, one of the hardest things for us to believe is that He not only wants us to enjoy Him, but He also wants to enjoy us.

We can be just like the Shulamite woman in Song of Songs and only be able to see how 'dry' and 'dark' we are and wonder why on earth He would want us and how on earth he could enjoy us. But we're forgetting who we are – the true treasure that is planted within us - we who are created in the image of Almighty God.

Jesus gets to enjoy you – YOU are His reward and inheritance! It's not only that He is our everything and we are to enjoy Him, but also that we mean everything to Him and He wants to enjoy us. It's almost unthinkable! The moment the Shulamite woman realises this in Song of Songs is absolutely beautiful:

Song of Songs 6:2 - 3 (TPT) *My Lover has gone down into His garden of delight, the place where His spices grow to feast with those pure in heart. I know we shall find Him there. He is within me - I am His garden of delight. I have Him fully and now He fully has me!*

She'd been answering a seeker who asked where they could find Him. It was as the Shulamite woman started describing where He could be found that she suddenly realised where He was. For her, she could hardly believe it, but in that moment she realised it to be true. His delight was actually HER! His home had actually become her heart. He was near her, with her, in her and that's where He wanted to be! Here's how He described it:

Song of Songs 4:12 & 4:3 (TPT) *My darling bride, My private paradise fastened to My heart. A secret spring are you that no one else can have - My bubbling fountain hidden from public view...what pleasure you bring to Me!*

And it's no different with you. Please know that Jesus lives for the moments with you. You cause Him to stop. You are the one He wants to know and He wants you to know Him. He wants to enjoy you and He wants you to enjoy Him.



Song of Songs 2:16 (TPT) *I know my Lover is mine and I have everything in You, for we delight ourselves in each other.*

Our experiences of earthly romances can vary. For some, such memories or present experiences are beautiful; for others they have not yet experienced the sense of being romantically pursued, or they have felt the disappointment of a romantic fire going cold. This longing or this hurt you will never know with Jesus.

For those who've known an earthly romance, consider how you felt, knowing you were the chosen one in your lover's eyes. When he comes to see you, when you know his thoughts are full of you, when your thoughts are full of him. It's so precious, and yet that's an earthy romance and the most incredible romance on this earth is only but a scratch of what we can experience moment by moment with Jesus. Men may have let us down – the romance may have lasted for a little while but men can't love us in the way Jesus can. The difference is that He will never not love you, He will never not be around, and intimacy with Jesus will never not be romantic... unless we're the ones who slip into familiarity and let the romance go cold. But Jesus wants us to constantly think of Him with the same delight and desire as the Shulamite woman. Hear her excitement as she thinks of Him and longs to be with Him.

Song of Songs 1:4 (TPT) *We will run away together - into Your cloud-filled chamber!*



How does the thought of Jesus getting to enjoy you make you feel? Why do you think you feel that way about it?



Day Four: Looking to Your Heart

Romance is a beautiful thing, but until we've tasted of it, we just don't know how incredibly beautiful it actually is!

Until you know that He sets aside time for you and in fact will walk beside you and within you every second of every day... until you've experienced His gifts and surprises set aside for you when he fulfils a desire of your heart that no one but he knew... until you've heard His voice in the secret place whisper to your heart His love for you... you won't really know how beautiful this romance can be. He dwells in you and wants to be with you so much that He's moved into your heart. He speaks to you, spends time with you, and does life with you.

Jesus does not want you to be an outsider, looking in and longing for romance but thinking somehow that you are unqualified. That is a lie from your enemy, and you absolutely cannot receive it because it's designed not only to steal your delight, but the delight of your Bridegroom-King.

We often think that life is all about being a servant and about doing – sometimes we even burn ourselves out on acts of service. And while there are many good works we have been assigned to do, our endlessly doing for Him is not actually what He's after – in fact, it's not why we're here. God wants sons and daughters, not slaves. Jesus wants a bride, not a servant, and all that we do for Him is to be an extension of our adoration and romance with Him.

John tells us that eternal life has nothing to do with anything other than our life of intimacy with God, Jesus and Holy Spirit. It is our purpose, our very being.

John 17:3 (TPT) *Eternal life means to know and experience You as the only true God, and to know and experience Jesus Christ, as the Son whom You have sent.*

We are here to know Him, feel Him, love Him and be loved by Him. Full stop.

That can really mess with our head, and it's no surprise. Romance is purely a heart connection. It's not an intellectual connection, and if we're going to enter into the romance, we must throw off our reasoning, our fear and our intellectual ways of looking at things and we must look only to our hearts. Intimacy can never be experienced by a heart which is worried about what



they look like, or reserved in case they give too much of themselves. Jesus will never, ever disappoint or hurt us. We are safe in His arms. We just need to stop trying to enter into the romance with our intellectual mind in the drivers seat, and instead become abandoned and let our hearts lead.

Once we have experienced His love... once we have entered the romance, we are ruined for anything else. How can you behold the face of your beloved and turn back? You can't.

So cast off your fear. Rebuke the lies that tell you that you can't enter in. Stop listening to your head, throw caution and reasoning to the wind and follow your heart. You will find it takes you right into the arms of your loving and awaiting King, whose adoration of you and pleasure in you are immeasurable.

Enjoy the beauty of this romance. It's His delight that you do.

Soak Time

When it comes to your relationship with Jesus, who has been in charge – your intellectual mind or your heart? And why?



Day Five: A Place of Confidence

The third aspect of the secret place is that it is a place of **CONFIDENCE**. In the secret place, we truly know that “There is no fear here!”

It’s living in the constant knowledge that we are not alone – that He is in us, with us and for us, and because of this there is no reason to fear, fret or worry. We can go about our lives in complete confidence because it’s in the secret place that we experience the intimacy and passion of His love for us, and we know that He will never leave us or forsake us.

In fact, it even goes beyond that. The Bible tells us that we are one with Him.

1 Corinthians 6:17 (NLT) *But the person who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.*

Will Jesus ever reject Himself? Would He neglect His spirit? Of course not! There are endless scriptures in the Bible telling us that we are in Him and He is in us. We can also see the parallels between how Jesus instructs husbands to treat their wives, and how He as our Husband treats His bride, the church.

Ephesians 5:28 – 30 (NASB) *So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body...*

It is our assurance of His love for us and the fact that we fear no judgment, which gives us this confidence as we live in the secret place. After all, we know that *perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18)*, but why does the Bible say that fear can exist in the first place?

1 John 4:18 (NLT) *Such love has no fear, because love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.*

Which means we could also state the opposite as truth, too. If we HAVE fully experienced His perfect love, we will experience no fear. In fact, all we will feel is confidence. We see this more clearly when we look at this scripture in context:



1 John 4:17 - 19 (AMP) *And we know...and believe... the love God cherishes 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. In this [union and communion with Him] love is brought to completion and attains perfection with us, that we may have confidence for the day of judgment [with assurance and boldness to face Him], because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love [dread does not exist], but full-grown (complete, perfect) love turns fear out of doors and expels every trace of terror! For fear brings with it the thought of punishment, and [so] he who is afraid has not reached the full maturity of love [is not yet grown into love's complete perfection]. We love Him, because He first loved us.*

We don't have to fear anything from Jesus. There is no judgment for us. We are in Christ and we receive the judgment that He is due – none! He's already paid for our judgment and we get to enjoy this fearless freedom as our inheritance, because He has made us to be righteous in Him.

Isaiah 32:17 (NIV) *The fruit of that righteousness will be peace; its effect will be quietness and confidence forever.*

So we do not need to be afraid of God, who He is, or His heart towards us. When we live in the secret place of confidence, there is NO fear.

Soak Time

See Jesus as one with you – loving and nourishing you as He would Himself.
See yourself as confident in His love, free from the fear of ever being rejected.
How does that make you feel?
