

# The Secret Place in God



## 1. Paul's Dream - The Secret Place (29 Jul 2022)

- a. **Scene #1** - *I found myself on a brand new land. I do not know how I got there, but apparently, I was taken there by another person, whom I will call 'my guide'. I could not see her face although I spoke to her.*

*The first thing that struck me about this place was that everything was so clean. Clean air, clean environment, no pollution whatsoever. The land was full of fruit and crop-yielding trees, so well organised that it felt almost like an 'agricultural research centre.' Everything I needed was there in plenty. Another striking feature of this place is that there is such a sense of serenity and restfulness over the whole place - a total absence of conflict or stress unlike the rest of the world.*

*I asked my guide about the location of this land. She told me that it was a 'secret place.' It is not found on any of the existing world maps, and there is only one way in. You must be 'brought in' by their aeroplane. I was amazed by this statement. I wondered, 'How is that possible in this day and age that there could still be such a large land mass that is kept secret from the rest of the world?' I saw also that though the land was very large, there were very few people on it.*

**Scene #2** - *Then the scene changed, and this mysterious guide took me to a garden full of luscious green trees. (vine?) Then she uncovered the soil that was over the root of one tree, and I saw the source of life for the tree. Multiple channels of clean water were flowing out and circling the root system of this plant. I marvelled that such a wonderful and creative way of farming was possible. Later in the dream, I understood this was what Jesus meant by 'out of his belly will flow out the rivers of the living water,' and in great excitement, I was speaking this truth to a small group of people, and pointing to the tree.*

- b. After I woke up, I understood this dream was a parable. The secret land that is so clean and peaceful with plenty of resources, and hidden from the rest of the world, represents Ps 91. The secret place in God. The tree with the multiple streams of living water flowing through its root system represents the inner spiritual condition of those who dwell in that secret place in God. (Ps 1, John 15:9-11 – abiding in the vine.) There is a secret place in God that is available to every believer who desires a closer walk with Christ. These want their primary address to be in God.

Who was the guide? I believe the guide represents 'wisdom' who calls to those who will hear her, and invites them to come to the secret place in God. *'Wisdom calls aloud outside. She raises her voice in the open squares...But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, and will be secure without fear of evil.'* (Prov 1:20-31).

I believe that God is calling His people to dwell in this secret place with Him. I would like us to seek the Lord about this. This message is just an 'introduction' to our quest to find this place in God.

- c. **Question 1** - Have we found that place of total security in God in an increasingly insecure world? Are we moving toward this place of security in God?

**Question 2** - Do we have access to the streams of living water within us, independent of the external conditions around us? What is the source of your joy? Is it entirely dependent on the favourable circumstances, or on the life in the Spirit that does not change?

## 2. Ps 91 - Those Who Dwell in the Secret Place in God

- a. **'I' Section – v1-2: The Psalmist's bold confession**

There is a secret place in God: *'He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.'* (v1)

'Secret place' means it is hidden from the public view. Unless one searches and finds the right door, he will not get in. 'Dwell' means our continual position or a permanent address. This hidden place in God is available to those who are determined to dwell in that place as their permanent address. *'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you...'* (Luke 1:35)

The Importance of Personal Confession: 'I will say of the LORD, 'He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.' (v2)

**b. 'You' Section – v3-13: The Psalmist's Declaration to Those Who Seek to Abide in God**

The Promise of Total Security: The list of various troubles against which God protects and covers us: 'the fowler's snare', 'the perilous pestilence', 'terror by night', 'arrow that flies by day', 'the pestilence in darkness', 'destruction at noonday', 'various plagues', 'anything that lays low to bite to cause harm' such as cobras and serpents. This is a comprehensive list of potential harm.

Emotional Condition of Those Who Dwell in God: 'You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day...' (v5) Does it reflect your emotional state? '1,000 may fall at your side, 10,000 at your right hand, but it shall not come near you.' (v7)

How? By the invisible spiritual realm of angels. (Ps 104:4, Heb 1:14) 'He shall give His angels charge over you to keep you in all your ways.' (v11) You are walking in step with the angelic hosts assigned to you when you walk in heaven's agenda (Lk 4:10-11, Mt 4:6).

**c. 'He' Section – v14-16: God's Direct Speech to the One who Abides in the Secret Place**

The Lord's promise of seven-fold blessing: (1) I will deliver him; (2) I will set him on high; (3) I will answer him; (4) I will be with him in trouble; (5) I will honour him; (6) I will satisfy him with long life; (7) I will show him My salvation.

Are there clues for the hidden door into this secret place in God? 'Because' is repeated 3 times in v9, 14, 15. A direct and personal relationship with God through the cross is the door to this secret place. There is no substitute for this. *Ps 23:1, 'The LORD is my Shepherd I shall not want' (I shall lack nothing.)*

3 Components of the Direct Personal Relationship

(1) The decision of total commitment: 'Because you have made the LORD...your dwelling place...' (v9)

(2) The affection of our heart: 'Because he has set his love [affection] upon Me...' (v14) cf. *Ps 18:1*

(3) The revelation of the knowledge of God: 'Because he has known My name...' (v15)

We are all standing on the sand of time which is quickly eroding under us – trapped in the futility cycle. First, we must renounce our confidence in the temporal life, in our own strength, wisdom, achievement, and possession which are all built on the sand of time. Second, we must make a concrete decision to surrender to Jesus Christ and to do His will, which alone will stand the test of time.

**3. Ps 90 – God's Eternity VS Man's Frailty**

**a. Man's THREE frustrations**

(i) Our insecurity outside of God (Ps 90:10)

(ii) Our iniquity before God (Ps 90:7-8)

(iii) Our inability without God to enjoy life and to produce lasting good (Ps 90:9-10)

**b. Moses' THREE prayers:**

(i) Heart of wisdom to number our days (Ps 90:12)

(ii) Mercy and compassion for satisfaction in life (Ps 90:14)

(iii) God's glory and beauty to touch us and establish the work of our hands for eternity (Ps 90:16-17)

**4. Jesus' Source of Joy**

What was Jesus' source of joy? Was Jesus a joyful person inside? How is Jesus' joy different from our pursuit of happiness? His joy certainly did not come from this world from His birth to death. (C.f. John 15:9-11)

(i) The joy of knowing the Father's pleasure.

Do I know that the Father is pleased with me?

(ii) The joy of pleasing the Father rather than pleasing myself.

Do I get joy from knowing that I am pleasing the Father?

(iii) The joy of finishing the race and homecoming – the joy set before Him.

Do I look forward to finishing the race and seeing His face?