

# Companion Study Guide



For Personal Reflection  
& Group Discussion

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*SECRETS OF THE SECRET PLACE: COMPANION STUDY GUIDE  
FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION & GROUP DISCUSSION*

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## *How To Use This Companion Study Guide*

### **FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION**

The Personal Reflection section in each chapter is for personal use. Groups have the option of discussing the items in this section, but they are designed primarily for personal contemplation.

1. Read the corresponding chapter in *Secrets Of The Secret Place*.
2. Respond to the questions. There are no right or wrong answers. Write your responses down—so you can return to the things you have journaled.
3. Focus on turning your responses into a conversation with God. Your studies in God's Word will always take you in three directions: things God wants you to believe; things God wants you to know; and things God wants you to do. Allow these three types of responses to draw you into closer intimacy with Him.
4. Use the "Notes" section in each chapter to journal the thoughts that are really moving your heart. Be sure you always remember how God is speaking to you. You may even want to put a date by some entries.

### **FOR GROUP DISCUSSION**

Bring this Guide with you to your small group meeting, together with your Bible and the text, *Secrets Of The Secret Place*. This study will have its greatest impact when you walk through it together with a small group of close friends who are fervently seeking to follow Jesus in the same way you are.

1. Choose a moderator to lead the discussion. (Optional: It can be a different person each time.)
2. Discuss the questions you find most relevant. The point is not to get through all the questions but to engage the group in lively interaction over the chapter's content.
3. Let's guard against "preaching" to one another. You will encourage your brothers and sisters most by speaking of your own pursuit of Jesus—both your successes and your frustrations. The goal is to help each other.
4. Use the "Notes" section to journal your gleanings during the discussion.
5. Before dismissing, offer your petitions to the Lord, together. Express your own desires to the Lord, and pray for other group members as the Lord seems to lead.
6. Homework: Read the next chapter and complete the section, "For Personal Reflection." Where and when is our next small group meeting?

# 1 The Secret of Saying “Yes”

*“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty” (Ps. 91:1).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Read Phil. 4:13. What do you believe can change about your secret life with God?

“Reproductive power is unlocked in the shadow of the Almighty.” Why do you believe that statement?

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Read Acts 10. As you look at the qualities of Cornelius’s life, what role did the secret place have in his life?

How did God honor Cornelius as a result?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

What do you sense God specifically calling you to (as regards the secret place)?

Complete this sentence: “I’m saying YES, Lord, to…”

*The call of God burning in your breast will be uncontainable and unstoppable as you devote yourself to the fiery passion of intimate communion with the Lover of your soul.*



# 2 The Secret of the Shut Door

*“But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place” (Matthew 6:6).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Shut your door. Believe your Father is with you now. Talk to Him. How is He assuring you of His presence?

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Read Matt. 6:1-6; 16-18. What does the phrase mean to you, “your Father who sees in secret”? How does this speak to you about living for “an audience of One?”

Look at the usage of the word “place” in Gen. 28:10-19. Based on that passage, what might be the characteristics of the place where God meets with man?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Read Matt. 7:24-27. Express to the Lord your resolve to establish godly foundations in your life. Tell Him of your determination to shut your door to the secret place. Is there one specific thing you intend to change, to safeguard that secret place?

*The secret place is your portal to the throne, the place where you taste of heaven itself.*



# 3 The Secret of Listening

*“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me” (John 10:27).*

## *For Personal Reflection*

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Satan tries to convince you that you can't hear God's voice. Jesus, however, said that you can (John 10:27). Whom will you believe? Express your stand of faith regarding your ability to hear from God. (see Ps. 40:6)

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Read Isa. 66:1-4 carefully. Which truths from this passage are grabbing your attention most?

According to this Isaiah passage, what are some things that enable us to hear God's voice?

Using a Concordance (I urge you to purchase an exhaustive Concordance such as Strong's, or use a Bible search computer program—and use it frequently during your studies), look at the Scriptures where Jesus used the word, “hear.” What did Jesus teach about the necessity of hearing? Note the verses that mean the most to you.

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Take 10 minutes to stop everything and just listen to God, in expectant faith. Make a note of your impressions.

What do you intend to do to make listening a regular part of your conversation with God?

*Things don't change when I talk to God; things change when God talks to me.*





# 4 The Secret of Radical Obedience

*“Whatever He says to you, do it” (John 2:5).*

## *For Personal Reflection*

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Of the four benefits of obedience listed in the chapter, which one is most important to you right now? What benefit do you believe your obedience will produce?

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Read Gen. 17, noting especially verse 23. Read Gen. 22:1-19, noting especially verse 3. What can we learn from Abraham’s immediate, implicit obedience?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Is there anything—even the tiniest thing—that you know He is asking of you, and yet you’ve hesitated? Take time to consider this carefully, and then when you’re ready, write down what you intend to do in response, by His grace.

*Radical obedience does not seek to comply to the minimal standards but pursues extravagant, lavish fulfillment.*



# The Secret of Rapid Repentance

*“Therefore if anyone cleanses himself...he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work” (2 Tim. 2:21).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Review Ps. 51:1-13. Look again at how David won God’s favor by being a good repenter. Then read slowly through 1 John 1:6-9 and tell the Lord what you believe about each of those verses.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Study the relationship between Rev. 3:18, 2 Tim. 2:19-21, and 1 Cor. 3:12-15. What are some other Scriptures that point to God’s refining fires in our lives? How would you define the difference between wood and gold?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Is there any way in which, through the crucifying of self, you can become a faster repenter? Express your heart to God. Take time today to calibrate your soul once again (take inventory). Don’t move on until you sense His affections wrapping around you.

*Ready repentance opens the channels for intimate communion with God.*



# **G** The Secret of Sowing

*"He who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life" (Gal. 6:8).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Do you believe that investing time in the secret place will be honored and rewarded by God? Pray over this until you really believe it!

What do you believe about the power of God's seed (God's word) to effect change in your heart? Write down your conviction about the power inherent in God's seed.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Linking 2 Cor. 4:1 & 16 with Luke 18:1-8, what principles can you glean from Jesus' parable about always sowing to the Spirit in prayer and not losing heart?

How does Ps. 126:5-6 apply to your life right now?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

With Gal. 6:7-9 open before you, express to God the resolve of your heart to sow to the Spirit.

*Every moment you spend in the secret place is an investment.  
You are investing into eternal realities.*



# 7

## The Secret of Refuge

*“Be my strong refuge, to which I may resort continually” (Ps. 71:3).*

### *For Personal Reflection*

#### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Do you really believe that God is your refuge—even when the storms seem to escalate around your prayer life? If so, worship Him now from Ps. 18:1-3. Affirm your confidence in God’s protection.

#### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Read Ps. 91 carefully. List the things the Psalm says we can escape from as we flee to the secret place of the Most High.

Compare Ps. 91 with 2 Cor. 6:3-10, and write down your insights.

#### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

My prayer: “I resolve, Lord, to run into You in times of distress. You alone are my strong tower. Teach me, Lord, how to hide in You.” Make a note of those things you sense the Lord is putting in your heart right now.

*There is a place where God hides His beloved—in the sanctuary of His presence.*





# 8 The Secret of Decision Making

*"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
I will guide you with My eye" (Ps. 32:8).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Choose right now to believe that, according to Ps. 32:8-9, God is helping you to learn His will from the context of intimacy and proximity. Complete the sentence: "I believe God wants to reveal to me His will because..."

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Compare 1 Sam. 28:5-8 (a passage about Saul) with 1 Sam. 30:7-8 (a passage about David). Both incidents happened pretty much simultaneously. What principles can you draw out from these passages, in order to know how to walk in the will of God? Why did God not guide Saul, and why did He guide David?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Consider Col. 1:9 prayerfully. How are you determining to walk in the coming days, by His grace, so that He will reveal His will to you?

*Jesus wants you making decisions from the fountainhead of intimacy with Him.*



# **Q**The Secret of No Plan B

*“My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him” (Ps. 62:5).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Declare Ps. 108:12 to the Lord, “The help of man is useless.” Then tell the Lord what you believe about His all-sufficient power. Confess the confidence of Daniel 3:17. You may want to sing a song to the Lord that declares He is enough.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Study the life of King Asa, who knew the mighty delivering power of God (2 Chron. 14:9-13), but then years later when in distress, he did not turn to the Lord again for deliverance (2 Chron. 16, note especially verse 9). Look also at 2 Chron. 16:12. What strikes you most about Asa’s example? Do you find 1 John 5:21 relevant here?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Speak Ps. 57:7 to the Lord, “My heart is steadfast.” Tell Him of the resolve of your heart to look to Him alone (Ps. 57:3). “Lord, I don’t simply want relief from some other source, I want to see Your mighty salvation.”

*Our God loves to prove Himself strong on behalf  
of those who have no other gods before Him.*



# 10 The Secret of Burning

*“Who makes...His ministers a flame of fire” (Heb. 1:7).*

## *For Personal Reflection*

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Tell the Lord that you believe Jer. 23:29, that His word has the ability to set your cold heart on fire. Tell Him you're putting more confidence in His word than in the coldness of your heart. Will you believe that, like John the Baptist, you too can be a “burning and shining lamp?”

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Look up the word “fire” in a Concordance or Bible search program, and write down the Scriptures that are most striking to you.

Meditate upon James 4:5. In what ways do you believe the Holy Spirit yearns jealously over us?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

“Lord, I determine, by your grace, to stoke the fire of a burning heart by constantly returning to the secret place.” Add another sentence of your own to that prayer.

*When you draw close to the fire of God's word,  
you are actually taking fire into your bosom.*



# 11 The Secret of Violence

*“The kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force” (Matt. 11:12).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Meditate in Heb. 11:6 until it burns in your heart with fresh confidence. “I believe, Lord, that if I seek You diligently, You will reward me. Help me to be even more diligent!”

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Based on Heb. 12:1, what are some weights that could potentially slow down your race? What are some sins that would seek to trip you up?

Look at 1 Cor. 15:10 and 1 Tim. 1:14. Write down how His grace is at work in us to enable us to pursue Him with intensity. What is His role? What is ours?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Cry out for grace. Write down the specific steps you desire to take to increase the intensity of your spiritual pace.

*Swing your sword against the encroaching tentacles that seek to overgrow your secret life with God. Get alone with God, O man of violence! Kiss the Son, O woman of violence!*





# 12 The Secret of Humility

*“And I will be even more undignified than this,  
and will be humble in my own sight” (2 Sam. 6:22).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

In what ways do you see yourself in Rev. 3:17? Tell the Lord about it. And then tell Him how much you believe Col. 2:9-10.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Look closely at 1 Pet. 5:5-7 and James 4:6. What is God speaking to you about humility? In what ways do you see humility modeled by God Himself? (See Ps. 113:5-6 and Ps. 45:4.)

Spend some time in Isa. 57:15. God has chosen to manifest Himself to the humble. There are some paradoxes in this verse; what do you understand the verse to be saying? Write out your explanation of the verse.

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Prostrate yourself with 1 Tim. 1:17 open before you, and worship Him.

*The servant of God finds no greater joy than searching out ways  
to humble himself in the presence of the Almighty One.*



# 13 The Secret of Intercession

*“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men” (1 Tim. 2:1).*

## *For Personal Reflection*

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

With your fingers at Hebrews 13:18-19 and 2 Peter 3:12, tell the Lord how you believe you have the ability, through intercession, to accelerate the coming of His kingdom.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Look up the Scriptures listed in your Bible search program or Concordance for the words “intercessor” and “intercession.” Write down the things God is teaching you about intercession.

Locate the verses in the New Testament where the apostles asked for the prayers of others on their behalf (e.g., Hebrews 13:18-19). How important was it to the apostles that other believers were standing with them in prayer and intercession?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Choose three people to intercede for, and then jot them a brief note or email, telling them of your prayers on their behalf. Include a Scripture in your note to them.

*Intercession is a response to pain.*



# 14 The Secret of Watching

*“Take heed, watch and pray” (Mark 13:33).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Tell the Lord, “I know it’s my responsibility to be alert and attentive in this hour.” Confess your faith in His ability to make you quick to perceive. “I believe in the power of Your grace, Lord.”

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Look at Matthew 26:41. There is a time to sleep and a time to pray. How can we know when it’s time to stay awake in watchful prayer? (compare Mark 13:32-37)

Read Jer. 8:7 and Matt. 16:1-4. What were the signs the Pharisees had missed? Take inventory: Am I able to see what God is doing, or do I have to see something spectacular before I tune in?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Cry to God for the Proverbs 2:3 ability to see and discern. In what specific way is God challenging you to watch and pray?

*In the secret place, we do not hide from current events; rather we bring our awareness of current events to the searching lamp of the Scriptures and the Spirit of God.*



# 15 The Secret of Radiation Therapy

*“For the Lord God is a sun” (Ps. 84:11).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Do you believe that time in His presence changes you? Tell the Lord in your own words how much you believe this is true. Marvel at the power of His presence.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Pray thoughtfully over 2 Cor. 3:18 and Heb. 10:19-22. What insights is God giving you about drawing close to Him?

Meditate on the radiation that exudes from God’s glory. Can you think of any verses that give clarity to that truth? Start with 2 Cor. 3 and 2 Thess. 1:9.

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Is there an area of sin or weakness in which you desire greater victory? Strategize how you can expose your heart to radiation treatments—how you can spend extended periods of time exposing that area to God’s presence. What’s the plan?

*When we place ourselves in the sun of His countenance, the radiation of His glory does violence to those cancerous iniquities that we often feel helpless to fully overcome.*





# 16 The Secret of Time

*"But as for me, my prayer is to You, O Lord, in the acceptable time" (Ps. 69:13).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Establish yourself in the principle of 2 Corinthians 9:6. Tell the Lord you really do believe this: "The more time I spend with You, the greater the harvest I will enjoy."

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Go deeper with the statement, "When you neglect the secret place, He's not disappointed *in* you, He's disappointed *for* you." Pursue the truth that even in our weakness and immaturity and shortcomings we are desirable and delightful to God. We realize we are "dark, but lovely" (Song of Solomon 1:5), meaning that even though we are darkened by sin, we are still stunningly attractive to God. What other Scriptures do you want to note here?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Tell the Lord how you are resolving to spend more time in His presence, and that you refuse to listen to the accuser's berating voice if you don't follow through perfectly.

*The more exclusive time you devote to Him,  
the more meaningful the relationship becomes.*



# 17

## The Secret of Retreats

*“My beloved spoke, and said to me: ‘Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away’” (Song 2:10).*

### *For Personal Reflection*

#### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Look at Jesus’ prophecy in Luke 5:35. Was Jesus prophesying about you? Tell the Lord that you believe fasting from food and social interaction is your privilege as much as anybody’s, and that His grace is sufficient to enable and empower you to do it.

#### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Which biblical characters spent extended time alone with God in fasting? Note their names, length of days, and a Scripture reference for your study. (Hint: start with Moses, Elijah, Daniel, Jonah, Jesus, Paul.)

What compelling qualities do you see in their lives as a result, to which you would aspire?

#### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Plan a fasting retreat. How many day(s) shall it last? What options can you pursue for a location? Which are your target dates? What will you bring?

*Your secret life can be ignited into new levels with God through the strategic employment of prayer and fasting retreats at planned intervals throughout the journey.*



# 18 The Secret of Journaling

*“Then He said to them, ‘Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given’” (Mark 4:24).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Do you believe that if truth is to find a permanent home in your understanding that you’re going to have to write it down? Tell the Lord what you believe about the necessity of journaling.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Look up 2 Timothy 4:13. Do you think the “parchments” could have been Paul’s collection of personal notes and journaled insights? Could this account for why they were so valuable to him? Do you see evidence in the Bible that any others had a practice of reviewing their collection of notes?

Starting with Psalm 119:11, which verses in Psalm 119 speak of retaining and clinging to God’s word within our hearts?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Write down the specific steps you intend to take to remember more clearly the insights you gain from God’s word.

*Make your journal the place where you chronicle the spiritual truths that quicken your spirit while you’re in the secret place.*



# 10 The Secret of Meditating

*“This book of Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it” (Joshua 1:8).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Do you believe there is more richness in most Bible verses than you are currently able to see? If so, express to the Lord the longing of your heart for “the spirit of wisdom and revelation” (Eph. 1:17) to rest upon you mightily as you meditate in the word.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Using a word search (computer program or Concordance), look up the words “meditate” and “meditation.” Write out the verses that are most striking to you.

Choose one of those verses, and take 10 minutes to meditate in just that verse. Write your thoughts concerning that verse.

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

If you want to make meditation a stronger part of your secret place, write down specifically how you want this to happen.

*The only way to internalize good treasure is by squirreling it away diligently in the secret place of meditation.*





# 20 The Secret of Simultaneous Reading

*“By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established” (2 Cor. 13:1).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Meditate in Rev. 1:3 and 2 Tim. 3:16. Stay there until you find yourself desiring to read the Bible carefully, cover to cover.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Read Heb. 1 & 2. Notice how the writer takes verses from different parts of Scripture and places them juxtaposed to each other, for effect. By doing this, how does Scripture help to interpret Scripture? Note the benefit of reading in several places simultaneously.

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Decide upon your own Bible reading plan. How can you read through the entire Bible in a way that works best for you? Write down the methodology of your plan.

*I want every single portion of God's inspired word to have a chance at my heart.*



# 21 The Secret of Praying the Scriptures

*“In this manner, therefore, pray” (Matt. 6:8).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

“I believe my Bible comprises \_\_\_\_\_ pages (enter the page count of your Bible) of prayer prompts. I can turn almost any Scripture into a prayer. God has given me language to approach Him in wisdom and faith.” Allow the Holy Spirit to personalize this confession to your heart.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Read Acts 4:23-31. Which Scripture did they pray back to God? How is verse 27 a direct reference to the quotation that is in verses 25-26? What was the Lord’s response when they prayed this Scripture?

Can you find any other instances in the Bible where someone prayed over a Scripture? Make a note of them and their significance (e.g., Daniel).

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Tell the Lord of your resolve to pray to Him with biblical language. Ask His fire to be on your tongue. Take some time right now to pray to Him from the Scripture of your choice.

*As we pray God’s word back to Him, the language of His word becomes the working language of our daily dialogue with Him.*



# 22 The Secret of Finishing

*“Do not be hasty to go from his presence” (Eccl. 8:3).*

## *For Personal Reflection*

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Look at 1 Sam. 21:7. Tell the Lord you believe He has the right to detain you in His presence for as long as He might desire.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Read Exo. 24:12. When God called Moses to the mountain, did He tell him it would be for 40 days? What does it mean for your life that sometimes God says, as He did to Moses, for you to simply “be there”?

Meditate in Eccl. 8:3. Note the things coming to mind as you consider this verse. How might we know when the King has given us the release to move on to the next thing?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Write down how you sense the Holy Spirit is challenging you about letting Him decide when the time is finished. Is there something specific you plan to change about the time you make available to the secret place? Wait attentively in His presence until He releases you.

*Having come into His presence boldly through the blood of Christ,  
let us not be hasty to leave.*



# 23 The Secret of the Morning

*“Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed” (Mark 1:35).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Write down what you believe Jesus' example in Mark 1:35 speaks to your life.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Applying the term “the womb of the morning” (Psalm 110:3) to the secret place, what are the implications of that term for your personal secret place?

Doing a word search (computer or concordance), look up the verses that have “firstfruits” in them. If our secret place is a firstfruits of our best energies to God, what principles from these verses give you further instruction regarding the secret place?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

What is your best time of day? What are you determined to do to give Jesus your best?

*Even when His body craved more sleep, Jesus knew His true source of revitalization would not be on His back but on His face.*





# 24 The Secret of Getting Dressed

*“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Eph. 6:11).*

## *For Personal Reflection*

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Meditate for a while in 2 Pet. 1:3. Give thanks that He has equipped you with everything you need to resist the devil. Rejoice in the fearlessness with which you enter the battle.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Why does the warfare escalate as soon as we turn toward the face of God (Rev. 12:10)? Write the reasons.

Look at Isaiah 59:17, 1 Thess. 5:8, and any similar verses. How does a believer clothe oneself with these garments?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

What can you do to clothe yourself with spiritual armor before the enemy assails you? What specific steps is the Lord showing you to take, to be better prepared for the warfare?

*Jesus is your every article of clothing.*



# 25 The Secret of Self-Denial

*“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desire to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me’” (Matt. 16:24).*

## *For Personal Reflection*

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Do you perceive Jesus’ invitation to self-denial as something to dread and endure, or as something to invoke with anticipation because of what is being offered? Write down what you believe about self-denial.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

When Jesus invited the rich young ruler to sell all and follow Him, all he could see was the pricetag. But what was the invitation Jesus was offering Him? (Matthew 19:16-22) Does He extend the same invitation today to those whom He calls to sell all?

Look at John 17:19 and its context. In what ways did Jesus sanctify Himself? What does that mean for us—how can we also sanctify ourselves?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

What are some areas of self-denial that you believe God desires to be part of your future walk with Him? What do you sense His grace empowering you to embrace in the here and now? Is your love awakening in anticipation? What is your next step?

*Self-denial and intimacy go hand in hand.*



# 26 The Secret of Boredom

*“Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matt. 26:41).*

## *For Personal Reflection*

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Declare: “I believe that Jesus is bigger than my boredom. I believe the pursuit of God carries the potential of unparalleled exhilaration. I believe God is strengthening my faith in what He has in store for me, to empower me to press past the boredom threshold into the joys beyond that await me.”

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Look up John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7. How would you describe the Holy Spirit’s ministry in relation to the saints? How might we access the Holy Spirit’s help?

Who are some people in the Bible who fell asleep? (Suggestion: look in your concordance for words like sleep, slept, asleep.) Was spiritual boredom ever a factor? What other factors were involved? What lessons are you learning about boredom?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

The next time you are hit with boredom in the secret place, how are you going to respond? Decide now, in advance, how you intend to handle that moment. Is it an offering to Jesus when we persevere in prayer in spite of the boredom?

*Allow nothing to dissuade or detour you, boredom included.*



# 27 The Secret of Feeling Attractive to God

*“So the King will greatly desire your beauty;  
because He is your Lord, worship Him” (Ps. 45:11).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Meditate in Hebrews 10:19-22. Let the reality of the “in” you have with God impact the depths of your understanding. Then go to Song of Solomon 4:7-11, and listen as He speaks every phrase over your life. Agree with what He says about you. Believe Him!

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Read Psalm 45. Write down every aspect of the way in which Christ views us, His beloved Bride.

Why has God made humans with the longing to be desired by another? What happens within us when He tells us He desires us?

He is your Father and you are His child. How does He, as Father, view you—even when you’re still childish or immature? Which verses substantiate this best for you?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

When the enemy begins to demean you and tell you you’re unlovely, what will your response be? Which scriptural truths will best extinguish his flaming arrows aimed at your heart?

*When you come to the secret place, you are coming into the chambers of  
the King who finds you both beautiful and desirable.*





# 28 The Secret of Desperation

*“When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment” (Mark 5:27).*

## *For Personal Reflection*

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

“Lord, I am choosing to believe that the circumstances in my life which I don’t understand are, in fact, designed by Your kindness to bring me into spiritual desperation. Thank You for loving me enough to direct my heart to something higher in You.” Add your own words to this statement of faith.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Read the story of the siege of Samaria, 2 Ki. 6-7. When you see the dire conditions of the siege, what characteristics or qualities of desperation are you able to see? (For example, “Desperation produces a change of values.”)

Do you see some of the same characteristics in the story of the woman in Mark 5:25-34?

Job called himself a “desperate one” (Job 6:26). How did God produce desperation in Job’s life? (see Job 1-2) What was the result? (Job 38-42)

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

If you have been made desperate by God, write out the resolve of your heart to pursue Him with utter abandonment. Or if you’re wanting to be made desperate, write out your prayer to Him.

*Desperation will turn you into a different person.*



# 29 The Secret of Manna Gathering

*"The person who labors, labors for himself,  
for his hungry mouth drives him on" (Pro. 16:26).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Read Matt. 4:4, and then tell the Lord what you believe about that verse. Express to Him that He is your very life and survival. Express your confidence in the power of His word to satisfy every craving and need of your heart.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Read Exodus 12:16-31. What are some principles you see regarding manna-gathering that are relevant to your life?

Write out approximately 5-10 verses from Psalm 119 that stir your appetite to pursue the food of God's word.

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Resolve to make this your daily cry, "Give us this day our daily bread." Are you determined to pursue feeding yourself daily in the word of God until the secret place becomes your primary source of sustenance? Tell the Lord what you're after, and receive grace to go digging.

*Spiritual hunger is absolutely essential to spiritual health because without it we won't be motivated to feed on the manna of God's word.*



# 30 The Secret of Enduring

*"You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2 Tim. 2:3).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Read Matt. 10:22 and 24:13. Also look again at what the author says about Col. 1:11 (page 122). Tell the Lord what you believe about endurance and the necessity of endurance to the success of the Christian life.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Sometimes, we may endure in the word for many days without seeing any significant results. Perhaps it's like gardening. A gardener doesn't see his garden responding immediately to his labors (see Mark 4:26-29). What truths about gardening might encourage you to continue to endure in the word?

Look at Rom. 15:4. In what ways would you say the Scriptures are patient?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

There is nothing the enemy will resist more than a commitment to endure in faith and love. Prepare yourself for the war. Tell the Lord how you are purposing to endure in the secret place, and express your confidence in Him that He will bring you to the finish line.

*The longer the distress, the more valuable the pearl.*



# 31 The Secret of Confinement

*"You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it" (Ps. 139:5-6).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Will you dare to believe that God has imprisoned you with purpose? Consider Luke 22:31-32. Do you believe that Jesus will pray you through this thing? Express your faith and confidence in God's sovereignty in your life.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Look at Ps. 87:7. What does it mean to have all our springs (or fountains) in Him? In what ways would you say the Lord is your only source of refreshment or renewal? Did He confine you to enlarge your understanding?

Are you in any kind of prison for the Lord's sake? Consider Ps. 69:33 and its context. What is the Lord showing you about your prison or season of confinement?

Look again at Joseph's story, Gen. 37-46. How did God use Joseph's confinement as a place of secret encounter with Him? How did Joseph change?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

How is the Lord inviting you to respond to your chains? Are you willing to see this prison as an invitation to a greater intimacy? Tell Him how you are positioning your heart for the race set before you.

*When the lights of understanding go out and you're plunged into emotional darkness,  
you are actually being issued an invitation into God's secret place.*





# 32 The Secret of Waiting

*“For since the beginning of the world men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, nor has the eye seen any God besides You, who acts for the one who waits for Him” (Isa. 64:4).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Renew yourself in Isa. 40:28-31. Why is God asking you to wait upon Him? Write those things down; then declare your confidence in His good purposes for your life. Let the Lord speak Isa. 49:23 to your heart.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

The 14th verse of Ps. 27 is the capstone on an incredible Psalm. Read the entire Psalm in light of verse 14, and notate the insights you see throughout Ps. 27 regarding waiting on God.

What do you believe Ps. 69:6 means? Turn the verse into your own prayer.

Study Ps. 106:13-15. Look at the passage in light of the phrase, “They did not wait for His counsel” (v. 13). What do we risk when we are impatient? Write out your insights on waiting from this passage.

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Consider Col. 1:9 prayerfully. How are you determining to walk in the coming days, by His grace, so that He will reveal His will to you?

*Here’s what God does with His ministers who wait on Him:  
He makes them a flame of fire!*



# 33 The Secret of Tears

*"Put my tears into Your bottle" (Ps. 56:8).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Do you believe that God stores and remembers your tears (Ps. 56:8)? Tell the Lord what you believe about the power and purity of tears, and of your openness to this expression.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Read Luke 7:36-48. What role do tears play in this story? Would the story be the same without them? What did this woman touch of spiritual reality through her tears?

See the role that tears played in Hannah's story (1 Sam. 1:10 and surrounding verses). Are there any other examples of weeping and tears in the Bible that are striking to you?

Consider Heb. 5:7. At what points in His life and ministry did Jesus weep? Are you compelled by His example?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Is there any way in which you have choked back your tears in prayer? Is the Lord speaking a fresh release to your heart in this area? Express to Him the desire and intent of your soul.

*The inner chamber of prayer gains its impetus from the liquid power of tears.*



# 3 The Secret of Holiness

*“Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart” (Ps. 15:1-2).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Tell the Lord, “I believe I can live in holiness, by Your grace. You are eager to empower me to live in Your presence.” With Jam. 5:16 before you, meditate in the authority you have before God in prayer because you live in the holiness of His presence.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Read Ps. 51 in light of verse 11, where the Spirit is first called the “Holy Spirit.” In this Psalm, David is returning to holiness. What steps do you see he took to return to holiness? Put a verse with each step you cite.

Read Ps. 15 and Ps. 24. Formulate your own personal definition of holiness. Holiness is:

How is it that God’s disciplines bring us into His holiness (Heb. 12:10)? How have you experienced this dynamic? Get ready to share this with the group when you come together.

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Consider Col. 1:9 prayerfully. How are you determining to walk in the coming days, by His grace, so that He will reveal His will to you?

*I am holy only to the extent that I abide in His holy presence.*



# 35 The Secret of Buying Gold

*"I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich" (Rev. 3:18).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Tell the Lord you are inviting His fire into your life because you believe that His refining fire will produce Christlikeness in your life. With fullness of faith, ask Him to baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire (Matt. 3:11).

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Read Chapter 35 carefully again, and then write out in your own words how we buy gold in the fire.

There is no cheap way to become more Christlike. When something is bought, one thing is lost while another thing is gained. When we buy Christlikeness in the fire, what are some of the things we lose? What is the pricetag? Can you find any supporting Scriptures for your answers?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Tell the Lord that He is your "pearl of great price," and that you are willing to sell all in order to gain Him (see Matt. 13:45-46). How are you setting your will to respond when His fires reveal areas of darkness in your heart?

*The gold we buy is called Christlikeness.*





# 36 The Secret of Inviting His Gaze

*"His countenance beholds the upright" (Ps. 11:7).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Do you believe that, as His child, His eyes are upon you for good? Meditate in Gen. 6:8; 2 Chr. 16:9; Ps. 34:15. Write your belief in the tenderness with which God looks upon you.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Look carefully at Isa. 66:2, using whatever study tools you have. Using cross references, write out what it means to be poor; to be contrite (smitten of heart); to tremble at His word. What part of this verse means the most to you today?

Look at all the occurrences of the word "eyes" in the Song of Solomon. What role does the locking of our gaze have in our relationship with our Beloved?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Determine to paint on your chest the largest bull's eye you possibly can. What can you do to get His full attention? How can you invoke the strength of His direct gaze? Write here the resolve of your heart.

*If He likes you, He looks at you.*



# 37 The Secret of the Cross

*“And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me” (Matt. 10:38).*

## *For Personal Reflection*

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

The cross is the most extravagant way to say, “I love you.” Will you believe that your cross is His invitation to an everlasting love? Take up your cross in faith. Tell Him what you believe about this cross.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Consider 1 Pet. 4:19. What do you believe it means to suffer “according to the will of God?”

Pursue further the declaration of this chapter that the cross is the place of the highest intimacy. Which Scriptures can you find to support the truth that the taking up of one’s cross is the greatest way to give one’s love to Christ?

In what ways do you see Ps. 91:1 pointing to the cross of Christ?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Meditate in Heb. 12:2. Decide by God’s grace to endure the cross. Fasten your eyes upon Jesus, and give Him your love. Whisper to Him the passionate resolve of your heart to follow Him even unto death.

*The cross’s shadow is the saint’s home.*



# 38 The Secret of Rest

*“And He said to them, ‘Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while’” (Mark 6:31).*

## *For Personal Reflection*

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Our chapter reads, “God can empower us to be more effective in 23 hours of Spirit-filled service than the 24 hours that the world has without His indwelling presence.” Do you believe this? Express to God your confidence.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Study Heb. 4:1 and its context carefully. What exactly is the rest that is available to us? What is so important about it that we should fear lest we fall short of it? What must we do to enter it?

Using your concordance to research “Sabbath,” look at some of the Old Testament Scriptures that point to the purpose of the Sabbath (include Ex. 31:13). How do these principles relate to our rest?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Are you willing to work hard to find God’s rest (Heb. 4:11)? Write down what you’re wanting to pursue in God regarding rest.

*The Sabbath is to the week as the secret place is to the day.*



# 30 The Secret of Pursuing True Riches

*“Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?” (Luke 16:11).*

## *For Personal Reflection*

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Do you believe that the greatest riches are to be found only in the pursuit of the knowledge of God? Tell the Lord that you believe all wealth is bound up in Him, and that He has changed your heart so that you might value eternal riches above all perishable riches.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Take some time to peer into 2 Cor. 4:6-7. Do you agree with the author’s interpretation of what the treasure is? What is the main word to be emphasized in verse 6? Some think it’s the word “knowledge” that is being emphasized, do you agree?

Looking at Luke 16:11, what do you see as the link between faithfulness in financial stewardship and being entrusted with the true riches of the knowledge of Christ?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

With Pro. 4:7 before you, tell the Lord what you’re chasing after. What are you determined to get? Ask Him to seal this resolve with His grace.

*The treasure is the knowledge of Christ.*





# 40 The Secret of Beholding Jesus

*“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Cor. 3:18).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Do you believe that Jesus is to be seen in every book of the Bible? Tell Him so, and tell Him how you feel when He reveals Himself to you. Tell Him that He is your fountain of life, your meaning for living, your universe. Tell Him your devotion to the secret place is a massive statement of faith in who He is.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Look carefully at John 5:39-40. Herein lies the great key in approaching Scripture properly. What can we do to make our Bible reading a search for a Person rather than for principles? Be prepared to share your gleanings with the group.

Read through one of the Gospels (or get as far as you can), and make a note of those things you see in Jesus that are totally different from you. Do you find the quip to be true, “Opposites attract”? When you see Jesus in His unique beauty, does your heart begin to burn?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

If you have come to the Bible in the past for any reason other than to behold Jesus Himself, tell the Lord and repent clearly. Then set your face like flint. Determine that your pursuit of the Scriptures will be from henceforth a pursuit of the knowledge of Christ.

*The Living Word desires to meet us in the Written Word,  
if we will but come to Him in the reading.*



# 41 The Secret of Standing

*“And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory... standing on the sea of glass” (Rev. 15:2).*

## *For Personal Reflection*

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Do you believe that when in prayer and worship, you are actually standing on the sea of glass and gazing at the throne of God? And that all you lack is the ability to see it with your eyes? Write down what you believe about your calling to stand before God and minister to Him.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Review Deut. 10:8. How does this Scripture delineate your job description? Or is there another Scripture that says it better?

It must have been challenging for Elijah to simply stand during the three years he was in the widow's house. Can you think of any other biblical characters who had a lengthy stint of just standing before God, perhaps even against their personal preferences? Jot down the name, the passages involved, and the main points of that person's life that speak to you.

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

God isn't looking for your strength but for your availability. What are you determining in your heart that you will do to make yourself totally available to Him? Is there one specific thing you intend to do that you can write down?

*One of our prime responsibilities (and privileges!)  
is to stand before the Lord to minister to Him.*



# 42 The Secret of Bodily Light

*“If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, the whole body will be full of light, as when the bright shining of a lamp gives you light” (Luke 11:36).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Declare: “I believe that the light of God—filling my mind, soul, spirit, and body—has the power to change every atom of my being.” Write down how you believe you can pursue this reality in the secret place.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Study Luke 11:33-36. Write down the things you’re seeing about this passage. How is your eye the lamp of your body? What does it mean to have a good eye? A bad eye? What are the benefits of a body full of light?

Connect this truth with Job 31:1. How significant was bodily light in Job’s destiny?

Rev. 3:18, what do you think it means to anoint your eyes with salve?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Are you intent upon getting your whole body full of light? Write down how important this is to you, and what you are purposing to do about it.

*When the body is full of light, bodily sins lose their power over us,  
and we walk in a fantastic dimension of victory.*



# 43 The Secret of Just Loving Him

*"Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him" (Ps. 91:14).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Do you believe, in those seasons when all you can do is love Him, that love is enough? Do you believe that love is the most powerful force in the universe? Tell Him so.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Look at Pro. 30:15-16. The fire of love never says, "Enough!" God's love is always searching for more of our hearts. Consider how His fire is always wanting more of You, and how your fire is always wanting more of Him. Make a note of the things you're seeing.

What are some of the scriptural promises to those who love God? Note the reference, and the promise.

What role does singing have in our giving of our love to Jesus? Which supporting Scriptures can you find?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Spend some time right now simply in loving Him. Put all else aside and just give Him your love. Look for fresh ways to articulate your passion. Say it with the entirety of your passions and emotions. Tell Him that you're in this thing for love. And that's the way it's always going to be for you.

*When you simply release your love to your Lord, you are stepping into the dimension where God works on behalf of His loved ones.*





# 4 The Secret of Being Known

*"But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him" (1 Cor. 8:3).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Do some personal inventory right now. Do you believe that God knows you? Why? Declare your humble confidence in God's acceptance of you, and of your total sincerity before Him.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Look at a couple instances where Jesus rebuked the disciples. What evidence do you see that He totally knew their motives, so He was able to correct them in a way that called them higher rather than shutting them down?

David said that he was known by God, and He invited God to know him even more (Ps. 139:1, 23). Using these verses, as well as Jer. 12:3 and John 1:48 and any others you find, list the benefits of being known by God.

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Pull back the veil from before your heart right now, and give every part of your heart to Him. Is there any part that you've withheld from God? If so, determine to receive the grace to give it all to Him. Whisper your passionate cry, "Know me, Lord."

*His acceptance is so incredible that it inspires me to open every single crevice of my heart to His loving eyes.*



# 45 The Secret of Intimacy First

*"I'm calling you back to your first love" (see Rev. 2:4).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Pray these statements to the Lord: "I believe that love must be the primary motivating force in my life. Love for God must be foremost in my soul. Intimacy with Jesus is the highest priority of my life." (add your own convictions)

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Look at Matt. 22:37-38. What does the context reveal about these verses? What is the Lord showing you about the greatness of the first commandment?

Consider the wine of His love (Song 1:2) versus the wine of ministry. How is it that each is intoxicating and inebriating? What is God speaking to you personally about this? Which do you find more intoxicating?

Look up the "one thing" verses on page 182, and study them in their context. Write down the things the Lord is showing you.

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Are you returning to your first love? Are you determined to not only recover that fire of intimacy, but to nurture and sustain and guard it? How would you express this resolve?

*It's the first commandment in first place, the pursuit of a loving relationship with our dazzling Bridegroom.*



# 4 The Secret of Bridal Identity

*“Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband” (Rev. 21:2).*

## *For Personal Reflection*

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Pray these things until you own them: “I believe I am part of the bride of Christ, and that You are empowering me to relate to You as my Bridegroom. We’re getting married! I am ravished with love for You. Your cross has captured my heart. I am Your bride. Yours. Forever.”

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Look at Adam & Eve’s wedding in Genesis, and then the final wedding Rev. 21-22. As the Bible’s bookends, these two weddings depict our relationship to Christ. What significance do you see in looking at these two weddings?

Choose another famous wedding in the Bible (such as the story of Gen. 24), and note the things you are seeing about the wedding that is to come.

Find all the biblical metaphors you can that reveal our identity, such as army, temple, body, etc. Put a verse with each metaphor. Do you agree with the author that “bride” is the highest metaphor of our identity in Christ?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Ask the Lord to settle forever the issue of your identity. Ask Him to burn something so deeply in your heart that you will never again go through an identity crisis. Are you resolved to continue to study the theme of the bride of Christ in the Scriptures until this truth of your identity is fully established in your heart?

*The secret place is the king’s chamber; the place where  
we nurture our growing love relationship.*



# 47 The Secret of Clinging

*"I cling to Your testimonies; O Lord, do not put me to shame!" (Ps. 119:31).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

With John 15:5 before you, express to the Lord your awareness that you are helpless without Him. And then with Phi. 4:13 before you, express your confidence in God's ability to fulfill His purposes through your life.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Read John 15:1-9. In what way would you say a branch "clings" to the vine? When you view the branch as "clinging" to the vine, what truths do you see in these verses that apply to you as you cling to Christ?

Look at Song 8:5 and its context. Which words describe what "leaning on Jesus" means for us? For starters, "dependence" and "uncertainty." What are some other words that come to mind?

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Spend some time contemplating how you could cling more fervently to Jesus. How would this clinging relationship be expressed in your own life? Cling to Him even now for a few minutes in prayer. Make a note of what God is doing in you.

*During crisis seasons, the secret place becomes our source of survival  
as we come aside to cling to Him and cry out for help.*





# 48 The Secret of Walking With God

*"Enoch walked with God three hundred years" (Gen. 5:22).*

## *For Personal Reflection*

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Do you believe that a walking relationship with God is within your reach? Tell the Lord that you believe this is His will for your life, and that you know He will empower and help you.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Meditate in Gen. 5:22-24. What are the things about Enoch's example that are standing out to you right now? Do the same with Gen. 6:9 (Noah) and Gen. 24:40 (Abraham).

Look closely at John 15:15. What is the difference between a servant of God and a friend of God? List as many distinctions as you can uncover.

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Ask the Lord what you could do to take another step toward a walking relationship with Him. Wait on Him for His answer. Then write down how you purpose in your heart to implement this step, by His grace.

*The goal we're after is an everyday walk of unbroken communion with our Lord and Friend.*



# 49 The Secret of Buying Oil

*“Buy [oil] for yourselves” (Matt. 25:9).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Tell the Lord: “Lord, I believe that getting and having oil is my responsibility. I believe You will teach me how to buy oil, because when You command us to do something, You always empower us to fulfill that command.”

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Study Matt. 25:1-13 carefully. Make note of your own insights. When is the “Then” of verse 1 pointing to? Ten virgins: is the number ten significant? Why did the wise fall asleep? What do you believe is the eternal destiny of the five foolish virgins?

The overpowering message of the parable is, Buy oil! Can you find any other Scriptures that give a similar exhortation? Start with Isa. 55:1-2.

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Have you had a tendency to get just enough oil for the demands of the hour, without necessarily being prepared for the evil day? Are you ready to decide that you will buy and maintain an excess of the Holy Spirit’s oil in your heart? Start today to implement your resolve by spending of yourself in the secret place until the oil is flowing.

*When I am joined to Him, I lose my identity in the ocean of His greatness.*



# 50 The Secret of Constant Supply

*“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the LORD of hosts” (Zech. 4:6).*

## *For Personal Reflection*

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

A prayer: “I believe, Lord, that Your Spirit is the never-ending Source of life and strength to my inner person. I draw upon Your Spirit today. Fill me again, Holy Spirit. I am Yours. Fill me to overflowing.” Meditate in John 7:37-39, and tell the Lord what you believe about the Holy Spirit as your source.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Read Zech. 4 prayerfully. Underline the statements that strike you. What are you seeing in those underlined statements?

Viewing yourself as a lampstand with seven fires burning in your heart, if one of the flames is the fire of God’s love, what might be some of the other six fires burning in your heart? Do you have any verses to substantiate your ideas?

The key to understanding Zech. 4 is in discovering what the source is—represented by the two olive trees. What do you believe those two trees represent? Seek the Lord in prayer for a connection to this limitless supply.

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

If our pipes are clogged, the oil can’t get to our flames. Have you got any clogged pipes? Ask God to do some divine angioplasty on your pipes. How can you apply yourself to enlarging your connection to the source of divine oil?

*God has made available the opportunity to tap into a ceaseless supply of the Spirit.*





# 51 The Secret of Abiding In Christ

*“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you” (John 15:7).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

“I believe that the great secret of Christianity is right here, in an abiding connection with Jesus Christ. Because I believe in this so strongly, this is all my aspiration, all my desire.”

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Choose one aspect of Joseph’s pilgrimage and study it intently (Gen. 37-47). How do you see God preparing Joseph for a dimension of Spirit activity beyond anything he had ever known?

Can you think of any other Bible characters that God strategically guided through a season of difficulty in order to train and teach them to find the power of an abiding relationship with God? Write down the names of the persons, the applicable Scripture passages, and the main ways in which their life witnesses to you.

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

Are you determined to put down deeper roots in God until you find the river of God? This will require lifestyle changes on your part. How are you resolved to be not only a hearer but a doer of this word?

*The great condition to answered prayer is an abiding relationship with Christ and His words.*





# 52 The Secret of Union With God

*“But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him” (1 Cor. 6:17).*

## ***For Personal Reflection***

### **I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

“I believe I am joined to the Lord, and therefore I believe that I am one spirit with Christ.”  
Meditate in this truth until you have personal ownership of it.

### **I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND**

Ponder John 17:21-23. Are you able to form a mental picture of the union Christ is describing? How would you describe the picture you have of it?

From Eph. 5:22-32, what principles do you see that help us to understand union with Christ?

What do you think it means to be one spirit with God? If you have any fresh perspectives on Gal. 2:20, write them down.

### **I RESOLVE TO RESPOND**

In prayer, see yourself joined to Christ. You are now one spirit. Your spirit is lost in His Spirit. Enjoy this moment of intimacy. Then resolve in your heart to return to this again and again. Ask God for grace to explore the vast frontiers of union with Christ. Your personal pursuit doesn't end here—this is but the beginning!

*“When I am joined to Him, I lose my identity in the ocean of His greatness.”*











