
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; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly” (Matthew 6:6).

Jesus Himself spoke these blessed words. All Scripture is God-breathed, but followers of Jesus always find special delight in giving particular attention the words Jesus Himself gave us. When Jesus taught on prayer, He gave primary emphasis to the secret place. In fact, the first thing He taught concerning prayer was the primacy of the secret place. In the verses following, He would teach us *how* to pray, but first He teaches *where* to pray.

Matthew 6:6 contains a powerful secret regarding the *where* of prayer, but before I share it let me ask a question. Do you struggle frequently with feeling disconnected from God? Do you strain to feel God’s presence when you pray? Does He seem distant to you? Do you long to know that He is with you, right now, drawing near to you?

If your answer to any of those questions is, “Yes,” then I have some wonderful news for you. There is a guaranteed way to get

into God's presence. There is a sure-fire 100% guaranteed way to have instant intimacy with the Father, and Jesus Himself gave us the key. Jesus gave us this secret in the above verse when He said, "Your Father who is in the secret place." Jesus is saying, "Your Father is already in the secret place. He has gone ahead of you; He is waiting for you. The moment you get to the secret place, you are in the immediate presence of your Father."

Jesus affirmed this truth twice in the same chapter. He says it the second time in Matthew 6:18, "So that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but *to your Father who is in the secret place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly." Jesus says it twice for emphasis, so we know this word is absolutely certain. *Our Father is in the secret place!*

Furthermore, Jesus gives us the key to finding this secret place. If you're wondering what you must do to place yourself in the secret place, Jesus made it clear. To get there, all you have to do is *shut your door!*

When you enter your room, and *shut your door*, you are in the presence of your Father. Instantaneously! It matters not how you feel. Regardless of your soul's climate at that moment, you know with absolute confidence you have stepped into the chamber of your Father in heaven. *The secret place is your portal to the throne, the place where you taste of heaven itself.* Receive this word and you have gained one of the greatest secrets to intimacy with God. Because when you know you are in the immediate presence of your Father, your spirit and soul will often respond to that knowledge with heartfelt connectedness. The knowledge of this truth will set your spirit free to soar.

When you build your life on the blessed intimacy of a secret place relationship with God, you are building on the rock. You're getting your foundations in order. That's not simply my opinion, that's the explicit teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ. The principles Jesus gave in Chapters 5-7 of Matthew's Gospel were all given at one time, in one great sermon. Jesus said that in this sermon He was laying forth the foundation stones of a disciple's life. Here's how He expressed it:

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall” (Matthew 7:24-27).

Jesus’ message is unmistakable. He is saying, “If you will hear and do what I have taught you in this Sermon on the Mount, you will build foundations into your life that will survive the harshest storms of life.” And believe me, friend, storms will most certainly come! There are some storms that have yet to hit your life. The question is, will you have the foundation in place to survive the storms?

One of the most essential elements of that foundation is to have an intact secret life with God. Those who hear this word and do it will not only enjoy intimacy with the Father on a daily basis, but they will also be equipped to sustain the greatest storms—whether they originate from hell’s fury or the world’s distractions or the floodgates of heaven’s blessings.

Don’t forget the secret: *shut your door.*