

DWELL

The Sacred, Secret Place

LOCK THE DOOR

Matthew 6:6 — “But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is in the secret place...”

Jesus wasn't simply teaching them a new prayer technique. He was confronting some very established Jewish religious patterns and cultural expectations.

Public prayer was the practice - Jesus was teaching them - Don't let your relationship with God become dependent on being seen by people.

DWELL

Psalm 91:1–2 — “He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”

Where is your dwelling? What are you dwelling on / thinking on the whole time

Because whatever becomes your dwelling shapes you.

IN CHRIST

Ephesians 2:6 — “God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.”

Where is the secret place? We often think: “I need to go somewhere to find God.”

But Paul says: I am already IN CHRIST.

You aren't trying to get into God's presence.

In Christ, you have been brought into His presence.

The secret place is where I become aware of Christ who already lives in me.

BEHOLD

Psalm 27:4: “One thing I ask from the LORD... that I may dwell in the house of the LORD... to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD...”

DWELL → BEHOLD

David doesn't say: "One thing I want is more blessings."

He says: "I want Him."

Have you ever looked at someone you love and simply enjoyed looking at them? You aren't studying their face. You're not asking them for something or trying to accomplish anything. Lord, I'm just looking at You... then He becomes bigger than anything else you're looking at that brings anxiety and stress.

2 Corinthians 3:18 "We all... beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image..."

WE BECOME LIKE THE ONE WE BEHOLD.

The secret place is not primarily where I go to get something from God; it is where I go to behold God—and the more I behold Him, the more I become like Him.

If I constantly behold fear, I become fearful.

If I constantly behold criticism, I become critical.

If I constantly behold myself, I become self-absorbed.

But:

If I behold Jesus, I become like Jesus.

UNLOCK THE DOOR - FROM THE SECRET PLACE TO THE MARKETPLACE

What happens in the room must eventually show up in the workplace.

From Sunday's faith (experience at church) to Monday's work (empowered and equipped)

At work: I don't have to manipulate people to get ahead.

I reflect Jesus.

When my boss is unfair: I don't immediately become bitter.

I reflect Jesus.

When somebody gets the promotion I wanted: I don't have to live from comparison.

I reflect Jesus.

When I'm dealing with a difficult customer: I don't lose my character.

I reflect Jesus.

When I'm a single mother coming home exhausted: The secret place doesn't mean I escape my responsibilities.

It means I discover Christ in the middle of them.

When I'm running a business: My faith isn't something I leave at church on Sunday.

Christ is in me on Monday.

LOCK THE DOOR - DWELL - IN CHRIST - BEHOLD - BECOME AND REFLECT = THE UNLOCK THE DOOR

FROM THE SECRET PLACE TO THE PUBLIC PLACE

Worship - Draw me close - Bring me back to the heart of worship!