



The Secret Place # 1

Hello everyone. Welcome to "Notes From the Presence." Today, I am going to talk for about the secret place. I have entertained a lot of questions lately that go something like this: "Ok, so do you really go to heaven, how do you get there, is it in your imagination, is it mystical, or is it a real place. In response I would like to say that there are three different experiences that I have had but the first and most common one is what I would like to call being in the "secret place." I will talk primarily about this realm in this article and the next as well. Let's look at some scripture.

Matthew 6:6 But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

This passage is right before the prayer that Jesus taught to His disciples commonly known as the "Lord's Prayer" and I believe it, and also the subsequent prayer, contains some clues to the secret place. The first thing I would like to say is that secret place prayer happens inside you. Jesus instructs us to go to our inner room and then close the door. If you will recall, in the Revelation passages we talked about in the series ([I Want To See You # 5](#)) it was all about finding this door, opening the door to another realm, and then stepping inside. Most of the time I have heard this scripture talked about, it is in the context of a physical place - a prayer room or closet that we can go to in order to be private and shut off from the world. Although there is truth in this approach, I do not believe it is the whole truth. The other half of the "inner room" that I believe Jesus is talking about here is a place inside our heart. Most people I have met simply do not know that this room exists. Once again, there is a door that leads to it and it must be found

So here are a couple of things that I have learned that have helped me to enter this inner portal to the Kingdom of Heaven within me. First, the door must be closed to the outside

world. This was probably my greatest struggle at first; there seemed to be so many distractions. My mind is always very active and I used to spend vast amounts of energy trying to self-discipline myself into a quiet enough inner place to experience the realities of heaven. I found it a nearly impossible task until I discovered one key thing - the presence of God, or in other words His glory. In hindsight, I now realize that there is only one way to effectively quiet all of the outside noise and that is by being in the glory of God. It is the great equaliser, the place of peace, and the source of life. For this reason I generally start my secret place journey with worship. I simply worship until the presence of God begins to fall upon me. Then I worship some more until it comes even stronger, and stronger. In this place of His presence, I find the quiet comes easily. Once I am in this place of quiet, I have learned to shut the door to the outside world, all of the competing thoughts, and the distractions, and then open the door to the heavenly world. I would almost describe it as turning the light dimmer switch down on the natural world. In fact, in His presence, this dimmer, if left alone will almost turn down on its own. Then we turn the light dial up on the heavenly realm. The only way that I know how to do this is in the presence of the glory. It is the only way that I personally can get quiet enough.

So now the second question - is this a real place, is it imagination, or is it mystical? Let us look briefly at Jesus' model prayer to answer this question.

Matthew 6:9-10 So then, pray in this way: Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

The first thing that is mentioned in this prayer is worship. The person praying is told to begin by extolling our Father God, and then blessing His holy name. Once this is done, the prayer continues with making some kingdom declarations - things are to be on earth as they are in heaven. Now I have a simple question to ask here. How can we know what is in heaven if we can't see into heaven? I suppose we could hear about it or read about it but there is only one way to be really sure – to see it. This echoes a statement that Jesus made:

John 5:19 Truly, truly I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

I guess if there is one thing that makes me unique as a person, it might be the fact that when I read scriptures such as this one, I take them literally rather than figuratively. And so, this tenacity has drawn me into the experiences that I have talked about in the blogs of past weeks. Is it a real place? Yes. Is it as real as this earth? Absolutely. Is it mystical?

No, it is not mystical unless you believe that heaven is a mystical place. Are these experiences real or imagined? They are not imagined or conjured up in the imagination. They are brought forth and birthed from the spirit or heavenly realm that has been placed inside each one of us. For me, the intensity or clarity of sight might vary from just a few megapixels to all out HD but it is always life giving.

Today, I will end with the lyrics to an old song that was no doubt inspired by its author going to the secret place.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace

In my next article, I will continue to discuss the "Secret Place" realm, and how Jesus describes it.

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real and He stands at the door.