

*Life from the
Secret Place*


WEEK ONE

Day One: Life From the Secret Place

In the beginning of our journey to discover that we are chosen, wanted and loved, we asked: Do you know and believe the love of God for YOU?

John 4:16 (NKJV) ... We have known and believed the love God has for us.

To know His Presence and His love is the most beautiful and precious privilege. To live in it continually is life unspeakable and full of joy. And I believe this is our Father's desire for us. He wants us to live every moment of our lives, from the secret place.

That's right. Jesus wants us to stay there, with Him, living in the secret place. He doesn't want us to simply visit, but He wants us to abide and dwell – to LIVE – in His Presence with and in and through Him.

Psalm 91 (AMP) He that dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty.

To 'dwell' means to STAY, abide, continue, endure, be present, remain, stand, and tarry. In other words, not to leave. To make it our home.

Jesus desires for us to be like Moses. That we would not be willing to be without His presence. That we would not be willing to take even a single step without Him. In Genesis, Moses' abiding heart was revealed when God told him that he and the Israelites were to leave and drive out their enemies and that God would send an angel with them but He Himself would not go with them. How did Moses respond to God?

Exodus 33:15 – 16 (NIV) Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"

And incredibly, God changed His mind at Moses' request, and said to him in verse 17, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."

How precious to be known by name by the God of the universe! What a privilege to have influenced His heart! Yet, why would Moses refuse to go anywhere without God’s Presence? And why would God be influenced by the request of a man, when He had been so adamant that He was not going? It was because Moses dwelt with God. When everyone else (except Joshua) would step back, Moses would step in and meet with God at the Tent of Meeting.

Exodus 33:7 – 11 (NIV) *Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the “tent of meeting.” Anyone inquiring of the Lord would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp. And whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose and stood at the entrances to their tents, watching Moses until he entered the tent. As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the Lord spoke with Moses. Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshiped, each at the entrance to their tent. The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.*

All were welcome to inquire of the Lord, yet all but Joshua watched from afar. We have the privilege of a continual ‘tent of meeting’ walking around within our hearts! We no longer need to wait for the the cloud of God’s Presence to descend – His Presence continually abides within us. Will we continually abide with Him?

➤ **See Also:** Exodus 40:36 - 38

Soak Time

Who do you most identify with? The Israelites watching from the entrances of their tents, Moses meeting with God in the tent of meeting, or Joshua who chose never to leave the tent? Who do you desire to be?

Day Two: Finding Out What is Important

It's in the secret place – in the Presence of our Almighty God – that we find out what's truly important in this world, and for our lives.

If something is truly important, it is important in the secret place.

It's amazing how the things that seem important to us and even overwhelm us when we are outside of His Presence, suddenly seems to pale in comparison to Him when we come into His Presence. Such things just fall away in significance and they quickly lose their power over us. Our flesh cannot dominate us when we live in the secret place.

The secret place reveals what's important to God and what's not important in our lives. Nothing can be compared to His Presence and our hunger for everything else simply fades away.

"I've known times that felt so dry and disappointing that I didn't know how to face the next minute, hour or day. And yet I have also experienced such beauty and depth of intimacy with God - such an overflowing sense of oneness - that I could live and die having known that single joy and be utterly satisfied. The secret place of being drenched in peace and love so unexplainable that no other celebration, success or relationship can possibly rival it." (Ainsley Shepherd)

We quickly discover what is and is not important in our lives as you see what matters when we are in the secret place. It ruins us for everything else we are not supposed to do. The life that we feel attached to the things that are of God and His will for us, becomes like a fire inside of us that we can't hold back. And the things that are not important to God for us, start to feel so dry and lacking in power that they seem as death to us and we don't even want to touch them again because His Presence is so glorious we can no longer accept His life in any sort of a diminished form!

We don't need to struggle and strive with trying to enforce external change in our lives, or working out a five step plan to break out of ungodly habits. We don't need to push to find His mission statement for our lives, or labour to serve in every arena so we can feel good about ourselves. We simply need to live in His Presence in the secret place – the place where we connect our hearts with His – and everything that should come alive does, and everything that shouldn't, dies. It is so simple, and so beautiful, that we tend to

complicate things and believe that it just couldn't be that easy. But it can and it is. Once we learn to abide in the secret place, everything else in our lives falls into place without force. And as God said to Moses in Exodus 33:14 (NIV), *"My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."*

Rest is a precious promise, and it's yours when you live in the secret place.

Soak Time

Do you know what it feels like to be in the secret place? To experience the Presence of God? What is truly important to you when you're in His Presence? What things pale in significance?

Day Three: Journeying into Life

The journey into a life of abiding was very impacting for me. I was captured by the word 'abide', and the concept of the secret place. Abiding seemed like such an impossible thing when for years on end, I'd struggled to simply keep my mind stayed on God and remember to talk to Him with any sort of regularity outside of my set prayer times in the mornings.

As for the secret place, I had an intense desire to know what it was. I had read about it in the Word, I had heard people speak about it, and I longed for the kind of relationship they talked about having with their God, but I really didn't even know what I was looking for. The secret place – what was it? What did it look like? How could I get there? And most importantly, how could I stay there? These were the unanswered questions that were flowing around my mind and of all things, I just wanted someone not only to tell me what it was like, but to tell me in intricate detail how to get there, how to know that I was there, and how to stay there! Unfortunately, I had never encountered anyone who could explain this to me, so I simply trusted God to lead me there. Somehow in my heart, I knew that it began with understanding and receiving His love for me.

1 John 4:16 (NLT) *We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.*

I knew that I needed to be unshakeable about God's love for me, and He led me for over a year, to focus on nothing else but to truly immerse myself in His love until His love for me became unquestionable. He had me find and collate the many scriptures about His love for me, and to meditate on them and turn them into confessions. Every day, I declared these truths, imagined myself in these scriptures, pondered on His love for me, and communicated with Him about this love. And a funny thing happened! Though my focus was on truly knowing and believing His love for me, I actually started to feel glimmers of His Presence as I was immersing myself in His love. It was glorious, and I just revelled in it. In fact, it seemed as though the more I knew and believed His love for me, the more I felt Him in a tangible way. And I was surprised by it!

Why was I surprised, I wondered? Wasn't this His desire, too? I could see that truth clearly through the scriptures I'd been meditating on, but I realised that

the problem for me was that I'd been told for years by well-meaning people, not to expect it. That it was wrong to 'look for the 'goosebumps', so to speak. And in the context in which this advice had been given, there was an element of truth to it. I was being counselled that we should trust that He is with us and in us even when we cannot actually feel Him! This is certainly true, and I'd made this choice to believe many times before, when I hadn't been feeling a thing in regards to His Presence. However, since I'd been meditating on His love and discovered His Presence showing up, I started to wonder how much of that kind of thinking had actually kept me out of His Presence!

Between that counsel and also the theology that we walk through wilderness seasons and God withdraws His Presence, I had struggled to believe that He wanted me to experience so much of His Presence that I could actually abide there. Yet I realised that the reason it says in James 4:8 for us to draw near to God is because He has already loved us! We love Him because He first loved us (1 John 4:10)! We are never waiting on God to draw near to us because He has already loved us with His life and is every moment waiting in anticipation for us to respond to that love! Why on earth would someone Who loves us so intensely that He would pour out His last drop of blood to re-connect us with Himself, then play some sort of silly game and withdraw from us? I knew in my heart this theology had serious holes in it, and this was confirmed for me even more when God spoke to me so strongly about the wilderness that I felt His voice word for word. He said:

The wilderness is rubbish! There was no wilderness for Moses. My Presence was ever available. He and Joshua accessed it and to them, they were walking through desert but their communion with me was so rich, it never felt like a wilderness. It was only those who chose not to enter into the tent of meeting who didn't enjoy My Presence every day of the 40 years. And they could have experienced victory on the 11th day!

Soak Time

What have you believed that has kept you out of the Presence of God?

Day Four: A Woman in Love

Once I determined that it was the Lord's desire to abide with me as much as it was my desire to abide with Him and I aligned my faith with this, experiencing His Presence came more and more easily. God is the God of the individual and the path He led me on to learn to live in the secret place is not necessarily the path He will lead you on. However I also I firmly believe that two foundations of revelation are necessary in order for anyone to live out of the secret place:

- We must know the nature of God – that He is a good and trustworthy God who desires intimacy with us. We cannot be intimate with someone we are afraid of or thinks is responsible for all of the bad things in this earth. We must know that He desires to bless us – not hurt us.
- We must know that we know that we know and have received His individual love for us.

Aligning my heart with His love through meditating on the scriptures about His love for me was where things changed for me.

“If you will meditate on these scriptures, and you'll see yourself in there, you'll kick your toe on the way in... you'll BE in the secret place!” Mandy Ballin

During this timeframe, I was so hungry to abide in the secret place, I sought this experience with desire both internally and externally. I even wore a ring to remind me to connect with Him. I put it on my right hand ring finger as a sign of my covenant with Him, even before I understood about being His Bride. These revelations came in time. Every time I saw that ring, I'd remember to connect with Jesus, however it was still an external prompt – it wasn't yet coming out of my heart.

However in time, the scales tipped. He gradually taught me about the secret place and I experienced more and more of a sense of connectedness with Him. I learned who He was more and more and He started revealing who He was to me individually, and who I was to Him. I remember one time I was in prayer with friends and I'd asked Him to show me who He was to me. During prayer, I had a vision of Jesus coming down on His white horse to rescue me. I knew that He was revealing to me Jesus as my hero. The intimacy grew.

God led me to Jim Richard’s Heart Physics meditations and through these I learned how to rest in His Presence and the importance of seeing, believing and connecting with Jesus in my heart. My God-inside-mindedness increased dramatically.

One day, I realised the change had taken place. Silently, quietly, the tables had turned. And I realised that I felt it when He was NOT there! Instead of reminding myself to talk to Him, I realised I’d become constantly aware of His Presence within me - sensing connectedness with Him - and it was actual when I was separated from this Presence (by getting into my flesh and not my spirit) that I was jolted to realise I couldn’t feel Him. And I didn’t like it. I’d become some comfortable in His love that this had now become my default. It certainly made choosing walking in the Spirit rather than the flesh so much easier! I never wanted to be disconnected with Him again!

My love for Him felt as though I could never get enough. I was thinking about Him constantly, talking to Him, looking forward to quiet and intimate times together, cherishing His words and anticipating His touch. One day, I realised that I felt like a woman in love!

1 John 4:16 (NKJV) *And we have known and believed the love God has for us. God is love and he who dwells and continues in love dwells and continues in God and God dwells and continues in him.*

He wants us to LIVE CONNECTED. Like the vine and the branches – never separated, life flowing through us from its source of God inside of us. He wants us to make the secret place our home – to find it for ourselves, and to stay there. Is that your heart’s desire, too?

Soak Time

Do you feel like a woman in love? Why/why not?

Day Five: A Place of REST

What I'd always wanted to know was what was the secret place, and what did it look like or feel like, so I would know when I was and wasn't there, and I believe many people would find it far easier to enter and live in the secret place if it became more quantified or tangible in their eyes. So let's look at the first aspect of finding the secret place:

The Secret Place is a Place of **REST**. Dwelling in the secret place with Jesus doesn't always feel like goosebumps and adventures (though many times it does). In fact, the overriding aspect of the secret place is simply being at rest, and in this rest we notice things – we live with a constant and tangible sense of awareness, connection and peace. We stop striving, and we simply enter His rest, trusting God to take care for us completely and do the things we cannot do.

Hebrews 4:1 & 3 (NIV) *Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it...Now we who have believed enter that rest...*

Hebrews 4:10 (AMP) *For he who has once entered [God's] rest has also ceased from [the weariness and pain] of human labors just as God rested from those labors peculiarly His own.*

When God finished creating, He rested from His works on the seventh day. If you read Hebrews 4:1 – 11, you will see that God promises this seventh day rest to us today – every day! When we (once and for all) enter into His rest, the peace which comes with this by knowing we are in Him, is primarily what it feels like to live in the secret place.

Can we ever get out of the secret place once we've entered into it? Sure we can. Every time I step out of rest and into my flesh or stress, or negative emotions, I've stepped out of the secret place. When we are being ruled by our flesh, we have by default disconnected ourselves from the things of the Spirit.

In actual fact, what we are doing in those instances is not only taking ourselves out of the secret place, but out of the Kingdom of God. The secret place can only be experienced in the Kingdom of God, which is God's way of doing things and experiencing life. And it's the polar opposite to the Kingdom of this world

and the world's way of doing things. The world is full of stress, worry and force, but that is not the way of the Kingdom of God.

Romans 14:17 (NKJV) *For the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

We know when we're in the Kingdom of God when we are walking in righteousness (a clear sense of our identity in Christ), peace and joy, being led by the Holy Spirit. If that is not our experience, then the Kingdom is not where we're dwelling at that moment in time. However, the Bible also tells us that the Kingdom of God is within us (see Luke 17:21), so we can access it at any time we choose to. The key is our willingness to rest in His grace in our lives. To lay down force and our own self effort and trust in His efforts. To choose peace even when circumstances surround us and scream that we should worry or stress or DO SOMETHING.

Rest is a beautiful promise and it's in that place of rest that we find the secret place.

Soak Time

Read Hebrews 4:1 – 11. Have you entered into the rest of God?

WEEK TWO

Day One: Entering His Rest

The frantic pace of life steals many things from us. It steals the peace that Jesus died to give us, and it steals our ability to hear the still, small voice of God in our hearts and share the precious intimacy that we could be having with Him.

Matthew 11:28 – 30 (MSG) *Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me, get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.*

Does that sound like how we're living? Are we recovering our lives or are we tired and worn out? Are we living freely and lightly or are we struggling under the weight of heavy burdens?

Psalms 46:10 (AMP) *Let be and be still, and know...that I am God...*

It's when we're still and in the place of peace and rest in our hearts, that we hear the voice of God clearly and we know that we know that we know what He is saying to us. The place of rest opens the door to revelation – it's already contained in our spirits but it's when we are resting in the secret place that we are still enough to align our hearts with what He's already implanted within us, and we 'see' things we'd never seen before. That's what revelation is – seeing something new because we're looking from a different perspective. And for most of us, when we're resting instead of running, our perspective is immediately changed.

In the intimacy described between Jesus and His bride in the Song of Songs, we see something very interesting:

Song of Songs 2:3 (TPT) *My Beloved is to me as the finest, fragrant apple tree - He stands above the sons of men, sitting under His grace-shadow, I blossom in His shade. Enjoying the sweet taste of His pleasant, delicious fruit. Resting with delight where His glory never fades. Suddenly He transported me into His house of wine – I see His unfurled banner of victory covering me...*

Wine is indicative of the Holy Spirit. What actually happened here is that she was at rest, blossoming in His shade and enjoying His fruitfulness. She was delighted in Him as she rested with Him in the secret place. And in that rest, she suddenly saw from a new perspective and understood something she'd never had revelation about before – His victory over her.

As we read the entire Song of Songs, we see that she only started receiving revelation from Him from that moment onwards, when she was at rest and peace. Prior to that, she was still talking about how dry and desolate she was, but from that point on, she walked in the revelation of who He said she was.

We also see near the end of the Song of Songs, that the Bridegroom-King (Jesus) said that it was at the point where she found rest under the apple tree, that He awakened her from sleep to life.

Song of Songs 8:5 (TPT) When I awakened you under the apple tree...

That's when the whole process began for her. She was transported into His house of wine and received revelation of His banner of victory that was over her. She started to see a vision of who He saw her as His bride and it made her hungry to arise and step into this. It all began with the place of rest.

Hebrews 4:3 (NKJV) For we who have believed do enter that rest...

➤ **See:** Hebrews 4:1 – 11

Entering His rest takes faith – He asks us to BE, when all we've known is how to DO, do, do. But if we will put our doing aside and strive diligently instead to enter His rest, we won't miss out on His promises due to our unbelief. And the most important promise of all is the promise of intimacy with Him.

Soak Time

Read Hebrews 4:1 – 11. What is this speaking to you?

Day Two: A Place of Intimacy & Romance

The second aspect about life from the secret place is **INTIMACY**. It is living in the romance. When we're living in the romance, our thoughts are constantly on another person. We longingly look forward to the next time we can see them and whenever we get that opportunity, we drop everything else to be with them. We think about how we can show love to them and look for opportunities to bless them and express our love to them. We delight in the little surprises and the beautiful things that they do for us and we feel so loved by them. The object of our romance is on our mind when we wake up in the morning and when we fall to sleep again at night.

Have you entered into the romance with Jesus? Are you not sure? Let's see what the romance with Him looks like some more.

Romance causes you to stop. Nothing else is important in that moment. When you are with the one you love, you really couldn't care less about anything else. And these moments become the thing you look forward to, and the thing you live for. Does this describe our intimacy and the romance that we share with Jesus?

Q: Do we live for the moments with Him?

Do we feel as though those moments are the most precious moments of our life? Do we long to live with such intimacy that these moments are not just once-off joyful experiences but that they become our daily reality? People get married because they love the moments and want that person with them at all times. Do we long for these moments so much, we never want to be without Him?

Romance causes you to discover one another. One of the most special aspects of falling in love with someone is the talking – asking questions, being asked questions and learning about who this other person is and what is contained in the depths of their heart. It's no different when we are in the secret place with Jesus. He shows us who He is. He even tells us questions to ask Him so we can discover what we are yearning for. We learn about His nature, His dreams, and His heartbeat. We find out who He is and then He shows us who we are.

Romance causes you to enjoy one another. Part of the discovery is finding out that we love to be with them. It's fun, it's exciting and it's an adventure. They



bless us and we bless them. We're looking for ways to surprise one another, and be sure, Jesus is an intricate planner and His surprises are beyond compare!

I remember a time in which my friend had absolutely loved a pair of sandals but she couldn't get them because of either size or price and she was really disappointed. Yet when she was on the other side of the world in Europe, she saw the very same pair of shoes drastically marked down in price and it was her very size that was available! She felt so loved by her Jesus who had gone to such intricate lengths to surprise and bless her!

I had often walked a certain track past a paddock with some horses in it. I absolutely loved horses but they had never even been close enough to the fence to get a good look at them. I expressed my desire to pat these horses when talking to Jesus and the next morning they were both at the fence and stood still as I patted and talked to them. I felt so blessed! Another time, I had needed a certain, fairly large amount of money and I'd had no idea where I could get it from but trusted Jesus to take care of me. A few days later at work, there was an envelope of cash waiting for me with my name on it, and no mention whatsoever of where it had come from or who had delivered it there – and it was \$500 over the amount I'd needed. To say I felt loved would be a gross understatement – it felt to me like getting a bunch of flowers from Him! There have been so many other moments of intricate blessing – prophetic words or scriptures from others which have confirmed exactly what was in my heart, or just an overriding sense of His wrapping His arms around me. Jesus' nature is to bless and surprise – He truly is the Great Romancer!

Soak Time

Intimacy and romance is also vulnerability. Are you willing to enter into this romance, or are you blessed by the romance you've already stepped into?



Day Three: He Gets to Enjoy YOU!

Of course, Jesus is so good and so beautiful that we can understand Him wanting us to enjoy Him and it's very easy for us to do that because He is just so wonderful towards us. However, one of the hardest things for us to believe is that He not only wants us to enjoy Him, but He also wants to enjoy us.

We can be just like the Shulamite woman in Song of Songs and only be able to see how 'dry' and 'dark' we are and wonder why on earth He would want us and how on earth he could enjoy us. But we're forgetting who we are – the true treasure that is planted within us - we who are created in the image of Almighty God.

Jesus gets to enjoy you – YOU are His reward and inheritance! It's not only that He is our everything and we are to enjoy Him, but also that we mean everything to Him and He wants to enjoy us. It's almost unthinkable! The moment the Shulamite woman realises this in Song of Songs is absolutely beautiful:

Song of Songs 6:2 - 3 (TPT) *My Lover has gone down into His garden of delight, the place where His spices grow to feast with those pure in heart. I know we shall find Him there. He is within me - I am His garden of delight. I have Him fully and now He fully has me!*

She'd been answering a seeker who asked where they could find Him. It was as the Shulamite woman started describing where He could be found that she suddenly realised where He was. For her, she could hardly believe it, but in that moment she realised it to be true. His delight was actually HER! His home had actually become her heart. He was near her, with her, in her and that's where He wanted to be! Here's how He described it:

Song of Songs 4:12 & 4:3 (TPT) *My darling bride, My private paradise fastened to My heart. A secret spring are you that no one else can have - My bubbling fountain hidden from public view...what pleasure you bring to Me!*

And it's no different with you. Please know that Jesus lives for the moments with you. You cause Him to stop. You are the one He wants to know and He wants you to know Him. He wants to enjoy you and He wants you to enjoy Him.

Song of Songs 2:16 (TPT) I know my Lover is mine and I have everything in You, for we delight ourselves in each other.

Our experiences of earthly romances can vary. For some, such memories or present experiences are beautiful; for others they have not yet experienced the sense of being romantically pursued, or they have felt the disappointment of a romantic fire going cold. This longing or this hurt you will never know with Jesus.

For those who've known an earthly romance, consider how you felt, knowing you were the chosen one in your lover's eyes. When he comes to see you, when you know his thoughts are full of you, when your thoughts are full of him. It's so precious, and yet that's an earthy romance and the most incredible romance on this earth is only but a scratch of what we can experience moment by moment with Jesus. Men may have let us down – the romance may have lasted for a little while but men can't love us in the way Jesus can. The difference is that He will never not love you, He will never not be around, and intimacy with Jesus will never not be romantic... unless we're the ones who slip into familiarity and let the romance go cold. But Jesus wants us to constantly think of Him with the same delight and desire as the Shulamite woman. Hear her excitement as she thinks of Him and longs to be with Him.

Song of Songs 1:4 (TPT) We will run away together - into Your cloud-filled chamber!

Soak Time

How does the thought of Jesus getting to enjoy you make you feel? Why do you think you feel that way about it?

Day Four: Looking to Your Heart

Romance is a beautiful thing, but until we've tasted of it, we just don't know how incredibly beautiful it actually is!

Until you know that He sets aside time for you and in fact will walk beside you and within you every second of every day... until you've experienced His gifts and surprises set aside for you when he fulfils a desire of your heart that no one but he knew... until you've heard His voice in the secret place whisper to your heart His love for you... you won't really know how beautiful this romance can be. He dwells in you and wants to be with you so much that He's moved into your heart. He speaks to you, spends time with you, and does life with you.

Jesus does not want you to be an outsider, looking in and longing for romance but thinking somehow that you are unqualified. That is a lie from your enemy, and you absolutely cannot receive it because it's designed not only to steal your delight, but the delight of your Bridegroom-King.

We often think that life is all about being a servant and about doing – sometimes we even burn ourselves out on acts of service. And while there are many good works we have been assigned to do, our endlessly doing for Him is not actually what He's after – in fact, it's not why we're here. God wants sons and daughters, not slaves. Jesus wants a bride, not a servant, and all that we do for Him is to be an extension of our adoration and romance with Him.

John tells us that eternal life has nothing to do with anything other than our life of intimacy with God, Jesus and Holy Spirit. It is our purpose, our very being.

John 17:3 (TPT) *Eternal life means to know and experience You as the only true God, and to know and experience Jesus Christ, as the Son whom You have sent.*

We are here to know Him, feel Him, love Him and be loved by Him. Full stop.

That can really mess with our head, and it's no surprise. Romance is purely a heart connection. It's not an intellectual connection, and if we're going to enter into the romance, we must throw off our reasoning, our fear and our intellectual ways of looking at things and we must look only to our hearts. Intimacy can never be experienced by a heart which is worried about what



they look like, or reserved in case they give too much of themselves. Jesus will never, ever disappoint or hurt us. We are safe in His arms. We just need to stop trying to enter into the romance with our intellectual mind in the drivers seat, and instead become abandoned and let our hearts lead.

Once we have experienced His love... once we have entered the romance, we are ruined for anything else. How can you behold the face of your beloved and turn back? You can't.

So cast off your fear. Rebuke the lies that tell you that you can't enter in. Stop listening to your head, throw caution and reasoning to the wind and follow your heart. You will find it takes you right into the arms of your loving and awaiting King, whose adoration of you and pleasure in you are immeasurable.

Enjoy the beauty of this romance. It's His delight that you do.

Soak Time

When it comes to your relationship with Jesus, who has been in charge – your intellectual mind or your heart? And why?

Day Five: A Place of Confidence

The third aspect of the secret place is that it is a place of **CONFIDENCE**. In the secret place, we truly know that “There is no fear here!”

It’s living in the constant knowledge that we are not alone – that He is in us, with us and for us, and because of this there is no reason to fear, fret or worry. We can go about our lives in complete confidence because it’s in the secret place that we experience the intimacy and passion of His love for us, and we know that He will never leave us or forsake us.

In fact, it even goes beyond that. The Bible tells us that we are one with Him.

1 Corinthians 6:17 (NLT) *But the person who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.*

Will Jesus ever reject Himself? Would He neglect His spirit? Of course not! There are endless scriptures in the Bible telling us that we are in Him and He is in us. We can also see the parallels between how Jesus instructs husbands to treat their wives, and how He as our Husband treats His bride, the church.

Ephesians 5:28 – 30 (NASB) *So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body...*

It is our assurance of His love for us and the fact that we fear no judgment, which gives us this confidence as we live in the secret place. After all, we know that *perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18)*, but why does the Bible say that fear can exist in the first place?

1 John 4:18 (NLT) *Such love has no fear, because love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.*

Which means we could also state the opposite as truth, too. If we HAVE fully experienced His perfect love, we will experience no fear. In fact, all we will feel is confidence. We see this more clearly when we look at this scripture in context:

1 John 4:17 - 19 (AMP) *And we know...and believe... the love God cherishes for us. God is love, and he who dwells and continues in love dwells and continues in God, and God dwells and continues in him. In this [union and communion with Him] love is brought to completion and attains perfection with us, that we may have confidence for the day of judgment [with assurance and boldness to face Him], because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love [dread does not exist], but full-grown (complete, perfect) love turns fear out of doors and expels every trace of terror! For fear brings with it the thought of punishment, and [so] he who is afraid has not reached the full maturity of love [is not yet grown into love's complete perfection]. We love Him, because He first loved us.*

We don't have to fear anything from Jesus. There is no judgment for us. We are in Christ and we receive the judgment that He is due – none! He's already paid for our judgment and we get to enjoy this fearless freedom as our inheritance, because He has made us to be righteous in Him.

Isaiah 32:17 (NIV) *The fruit of that righteousness will be peace; its effect will be quietness and confidence forever.*

So we do not need to be afraid of God, who He is, or His heart towards us. When we live in the secret place of confidence, there is NO fear.

Soak Time

See Jesus as one with you – loving and nourishing you as He would Himself. See yourself as confident in His love, free from the fear of ever being rejected. How does that make you feel?

WEEK THREE

Day One: Secrets are Shared in the Secret Place

There are so many incredible aspects of the secret place – the fourth we are looking at is that it is a place of **REVELATION**.

Guess what He shares with us in the secret place?

Secrets!

The Lord has always shared secrets with His people. He shares secrets for many reasons:

- To protect us from our enemy.
- To identify hunger in people.
- To keep His strategies from the evil one.
- To work through us on this earth.
- To be our intimate friend and partner.

We've probably all known the delight of having a friend we can trust, with whom we share the most intimate thoughts of our hearts. Where do we think we got that desire from? And when someone shares a secret with us, we know that we are being entrusted with a precious part of who they are, and that their desire in choosing to share this with us is a privilege. Only friends share secrets, and Jesus is no different. He doesn't shout out His plans from the rooftops, or write His strategies on the walls. He shares them with the hearts of His intimate ones – those who seek Him out and who will be open before Him, and delight to hear His whispers.

Amos 3:7 (ESV) *For the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets.*

He has always revealed His secrets to His friends on the earth, and they have worked with Him to speak His life and His prophecies into being. We have to remember that God gave man authority to rule and reign on this earth, and once we lost it to satan, Jesus got it back for us. So God always works through people on this earth. Also, it is only Jesus' intimate lovers that will hear His voice AND His timing. For if we speak and prophesy His secrets too soon, we will reveal what He is hiding on purpose. And if He declares His intentions

across the whole world, not only will we know, but so too will our enemy. Just think about it! The Bible says that if Satan had realised God's plan, He would never have crucified Jesus!

1 Corinthians 2:8 (NIV) *None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*

Secrets are for the protection of God's people and God's plan. And it's these secrets that are only heard by the true worshippers – those who worship in Spirit and in truth. Those who are searching and listening with their spiritual ears.

Matthew 13:3 (NLT) *That is why I use these parables, For they look, but they don't really see. They hear, but they don't really listen or understand.*

Jesus told parables, knowing that those who were truly hungry and searching would understand, and those who were simply religious or carnal would go away wondering what on earth He was talking about! He is waiting for those who are hungry, who will ask Him to, 'Draw me into Your heart and lead me out' (Song of Songs 1:4 TPT).

Once you've heard Him share things between you that no one else knows, conversations and whispers unheard of by man; once you've heard Him share secrets with you, you will know the secret place. He desires for you to commune with Him there. He is just waiting with baited breath, hoping to pour out His heart to YOU! Will you meet Him there today?

Soak Time

Do you desire to hear His secrets in the secret place? Take some time today and just be with Him and listen to what He has to say. Be expectant that He wants to share His heart with you. See Him waiting for you to be with Him, just as a friend, excitedly longing to share something intimate with you.

Day Two: A Place of Protection

The fifth aspect of the secret place is that it is a place of **PROTECTION**. No scripture shows this more beautifully than Psalm 91:1.

Psalm 91:1 (AMP) *He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty [Whose power no foe can withstand].*

Psalm 121 (AMP) *I will lift up my eyes to the hills...From whence shall my help come? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to slip or to be moved; He Who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand [the side not carrying a sword]. The sun shall not smite you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.*

Who shall we fear when we are with Him?!?!

Psalm 56:11 (NASB) *In God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?*

When we live with Jesus in the secret place, we are sitting together with Him in the King's marriage-carriage! Consider how it is described in Song of Songs:

Song of Songs 3:7 - 11 (TPT) *Look! It is the King's marriage-carriage! The love-seat surrounded by sixty champions - the mightiest of Israel's host like pillars of protection. They are angelic warriors standing ready with swords to defend the King and His fiancé from every terror of the night. The King made this mercy seat for Himself out of the finest wood that will not decay. Pillars of smoke, like silver mist - a canopy of golden glory dwells above it. The place where they sit together is sprinkled with crimson. Love and mercy cover this carriage, blanketing His tabernacle-throne. The King Himself has made it for those who will become His bride! Rise up Zion maidens, brides-to-be! Come and feast your eyes on this King as He passes in procession on His way to His wedding!...*

We sit in rest with Him because we are safe with Him. He protects us as the mightiest force on this planet, and He gives us discernment to be in the right place at the right time and to avoid the evil plans satan may have for us.

I remember hearing a testimony from Jim Richards about when he was driving with his family on the way to their holiday. He has five children and some of them were travelling in the vehicle behind. The children that were in the car with him were being very rowdy, but he purposed to stay at peace and rest and the Holy Spirit showed him a vision. He saw himself driving along the road and a man in a vehicle from the opposite direction veered into his lane on the highway. In the vision, Jim swerved, and the car hit the vehicle behind him and he heard the words 'All killed'. He felt strongly to pray in the spirit and continued praying and driving. About 45minutes later, this exact event began to play out. An oncoming car drifted into his lane, but Jim knew that he was not to swerve. He stayed his course and the car came so close that he saw the man's eyes open from his sleep with a startle right before he yanked the steering wheel and got over into the correct lane. Because Jim chose to abide in peace, the Holy Spirit was able to warn Jim and keep his family safe and protected through revelation.

Song of Songs 7:4 (TPT) ...Such great discernment now surrounds you, protecting you from the enemy's advance.

If we are too busy running or we are not familiar with His voice, we will not hear or heed His warnings meant to give us discernment and protect us. Let's abide in the secret place with Him!

Soak Time

Read the 91st Psalm in its entirety and as you do, see yourself hidden in the shadow of His wings as He protects you. How do you feel?

Day Three: A Place of Conception

The secret place is a place of **CONCEPTION**. It is the place where the Holy Spirit conceives in us the seeds of destiny, purpose and fruitfulness that will yield the harvest He intends. As He whispers to us and we agree with His whispers and our will and faith comes into alignment with what He has said, Divine conception takes place. Just as in the marriage chamber conception takes place, so too is the secret place as a place of intimacy where conception occurs in our hearts. Everything that we are going to see in our destinies and our world, must first be conceived in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

He intends for us to live a life of continual conceiving, birthing and nurturing. This is the cycle of fruitfulness. We see this cycle in the journey of the Shulamite woman throughout the Song of Songs, who goes from being the Shulamite woman to the Bride, to the one birthing sons and daughters.

Song of Songs 7:2 - 3 (TPT) *Within your womb there is a birthing of harvest-wheat; They are the sons and daughters who will be nurtured by the purity you impart.*

When we live in the secret place – the chamber of the King – we will conceive, birth and be fruitful. When we stay in the secret place, we will no longer abort what has been conceived within us.

Have you ever felt barren before? For me, I lived in a continual condition of barrenness and the shame that comes with it. I had conceived many things in my own strength but found that when they were birthed they were weak and died. It was like I literally felt I could not birth anything of spiritual and eternal worth. But I discovered the exciting news that there is a place of no barrenness. There's a place of life. It's the secret place. It's the place of conceiving. It's the place of nurturing. And it's the place of birthing. If we will stay in it and live from it, we'll never know barrenness again!

Life comes from the secret place. There is no life until it is conceived by the Holy Spirit. THE SECRET PLACE IS THE ONLY SOURCE OF LIFE.

We are all like Mary. Only the seeds conceived here will grow and birth and thrive. Let the Holy Spirit plant seeds in you. Let yourself co-create together with Him and let everything else fall by the wayside and die. For nothing birthed by any other means will truly live.



If it is not birthed in intimacy with my King in the secret place, it will not live.

And if it will not live, it is not worth pursuing. So for every project we are considering, every word we want to write or say, every vision we are seeing, the question to ask ourselves is this:

Q: Was it conceived by the Holy Spirit in the secret place?

Just as the Israelites did not move until the cloud or the pillar of fire moved, neither are we to move until this conception has taken place.

Exodus 40:36 (AMP) *In all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the Israelites went onward; But if the cloud was not taken up, they did not journey on till the day that it was taken up.*

Only we don't need to see a cloud or a pillar of fire... it's when we hear His voice in our hearts that we know it's time to move, and not before.

Song of Songs 7:11 – 12 (TPT) *Come away, my Lover, Come with me to the far away fields.*

Soak Time

How much of what you are currently trying to birth was conceived in the secret place? And how much of it was conceived in your strength? Is it time to lay down anything in your life? What do you feel the Holy Spirit want to conceive and birth in you?

Day Four: Yours Alone to Share With Him

So we've seen that the secret place is a place of rest, intimacy, confidence, revelation, protection and conception. When we are experiencing these aspects, we know that we're in the secret place, where the Presence of God dwells. But what, actually, does it look like?

You see, we're not physically going anywhere. While there may be a specific place in which we like to spend time with the Lord, it's never about what's going on externally, but it's always about what is going on internally because our secret place is where we meet with Jesus in our heart. We can't see it with our physical eyes, but we can see it with our spiritual eyes. God created us with an imagination and it is a powerful tool which can build an inner awareness of our God-connection within.

The Bible describes the inner tabernacle of our heart in so many ways. In the message, *She Wears White*, we saw the correlation between the tabernacle and our hearts. The tabernacle contained intricate tapestries, cherubim, and significant golden objects, but God said in the new covenant our hearts are the tabernacle. Our hearts have also been described as treasures and precious jewels and stones.

2 Corinthians 4:7 (NKJV) *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels...*

Malachi 3:17 (NKJV) *They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, on the day that I make them My jewels...*

And in Song of Songs, their secret place was described as both a cloud-filled chamber and a secret garden of delight.

Song of Songs 1:14 (TPT) *Draw me into Your heart and lead me out, we will run away together – into Your cloud-filled chamber!*

Song of Songs 4:12 (TPT) *My darling Bride, My private paradise fastened to my heart. A secret spring are you that no one else can have – my bubbling fountain hidden from public view.*

Song of Songs 6:3 (TPT) *He is within me – I am His garden of delight. I have Him fully and now He fully has me!*

In other words, the secret place can look like anything you feel is right and brings peace and joy to your soul. In fact, you may already know what it looks like. As you've been doing the soak time activities in this devotional, where have you been in your imagination? What have you seen with your spiritual eyes?

For me, when I first desired to meet with Jesus in my heart and closed my eyes, I immediately saw myself with Him on a seat under a beautiful flowering tree, in a grass-covered area on top of a mountain, overlooking a spectacular view. I have a precious friend who, when she goes to her secret place, meets Jesus in a beautiful field. Everyone has a unique and personal secret place which they can see with their spiritual eyes that is beautiful to them and floods their souls with joy and peace. Where do you meet with Jesus?

You won't always see this place. Sometimes you will just sense His Presence. But when you feel to 'go' there, this will be a special place for you and Jesus alone.

Soak Time

Don't try to force it. Close your eyes and simply imagine yourself and Jesus together in a place that thrills your soul. What is the first thing you see when you close your eyes? How does this place look in your heart?

Stay there until you see Jesus there with you. Don't think about the clock or rush away. Spend time with Him there. What does He say to you?

Day Five: Life Beyond the Veil

The most beautiful part about the secret place is that there is no veil. God demonstrated His intention to never again be separated from His people when, at the moment of Jesus' death, the thick veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

Imagine yourself at the altar of your wedding and Jesus is your Bridegroom. You have a veil over your face, but when He turns and looks at you, He lifts the veil up and places it over your head, just as a Groom does before the minister says, "You may kiss the Bride." There is intimacy in this moment, because there is nothing between the Bride and the Groom. You can look into each other's eyes and see each other face to face. Beautiful! This is how Jesus intends for our relationship with Him to be.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT) *So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord...*

The problem is that as soon as that veil is removed... as soon as we can see His face clearly and there is nothing between us, satan works as hard as he can to have us pull the veil back down by drawing us back into our old lives and ways of thinking. He wants us to be looking through veils, trying to see our Bridegroom but getting a distorted view. Here are some of the veils that can exist in our lives:

The Veil of Running (Busyness)

How easy it is to go from standing at the altar looking into the eyes of our Bridegroom King, to running again and believing that this is showing love to Him. In Luke 10:38 – 42, Mary wanted to look in His face, but Martha thought her running was loving Him. However Jesus told Martha that only one thing was needed and that Mary had chosen what was better. When we try to see Jesus while running, we will not see Him clearly – we will see only a veil.

The irony of it all is that usually all of our running is a result of trying to birth and nurture things that were never conceived by the Holy Spirit in the secret place to begin with. Stop! Look into His face. When your running holds no sense of security or identity for you and all of your identity comes from the

love that you see emanating from His eyes towards you, you'll never want to lift that veil and take off again!

The Veil of Religion

Religion is a thief – when it's all boiled down, religion is specific moulds and theologies that give us rules or 'philosophies' that are ways of thinking and doing things. We approach certain situations or certain scriptures with our religious ways in our minds rather than looking Jesus in the eyes and hearing and doing exactly what He says. How many times have you made a choice based on something you've always believed, or the way things are done in your church, without even so much as consulting your King about how He would have you do it? Religion tells us that there is only option A, or possibly at a stretch Option A & Option B. But Jesus has ways of doing things that are so expansive, we might never be able to even conceive them without His whispers. We are created to be one heart with Him, but any time we make a decision based on religious thinking and beliefs rather than direct interaction with our King, we are placing a veil between Jesus and us. Are our hearts submitted only to Him, or are they submitted to the religious structures, ideas, ways of doing things that we've embraced? Are we allowing Him to direct how He wants us to do things in this moment, or are we holding onto familiarity?

Some denominations believe, for example, that we should always submit to our spiritual leaders and do exactly what they say, regardless of how we feel about it. The Bible says to submit to one another, so submission is not necessarily wrong. But if we do what someone else says without reservation, we've believed that someone else is more qualified to hear from Jesus about our lives than we are, and that leader becomes the veil between us and Jesus because we are no longer going directly to Him, but are trying to reach him through someone else. You could call that an idol.

Many leaders are beautiful and spirit-filled people who are a valuable part of our spiritual progress, and such leaders encourage people to go directly to Jesus. However, many are more interested in filling positions and getting jobs done rather than valuing the importance of Holy Spirit conception in the secret place. People who submit to this end up trying to birth Ishmaels while aborting their Isaacs. Some leaders are also insecure and when they see people going forward in intimacy with God that exceeds what they know and have experienced, they will find fault with it in order to defend their own position.

Sometimes we will never encounter Jesus until we go further than the spiritual leaders around us. We see two examples of this in the Song of Songs:

- In Song of Songs 3:3 - 4 while she was looking for her Bridegroom-King, she encountered the overseers (representative of the spiritual leaders of the church) and only found Him *'when I moved past them.*
- In Song of Songs 5:7 when she was again looking for her Bridegroom-King, the same overseers actually beat her and bruised her *'until I could take no more'*, and removed their "covering" from her.

There are, quite simply, some foundations we need to re-build. Our relationship with Jesus is between Jesus and ourselves – no one else is responsible for it. Let's discard the veil of religion and see Him face to face.

The Veil of the Old Man

Satan wants to keep us looking in the mirror of our old man rather than the mirror of the Word of God which tells us who our new man now is in Christ Jesus. He wants to shackle and bind us to our old identity.

We must remember that our old man is dead and our new man is within us and is alive to God. The quickest way satan will get us looking again at the old man, is in trying to deal with our problems or our sins. Yet these things become a veil and we think Jesus can't look at us without seeing them. Wrong! He sees us after the spirit, not after the flesh.

Let's remember that He's given us an exchanged life, not an improved one. When we look at Jesus face to face in that secret place, He'll deal with things in our lives that we've tried for years to accomplish in our own strength, to no avail. The most beautiful life we can have is the life of oneness with Christ, with no veils between Him and us. His face is beautiful!

Soak Time

Can you see any of these veils operating in your life? Will you choose to remove them and see Him face to face?

WEEK FOUR

Day One: Do Not Disturb My Love

There is an interesting warning in the Song of Songs. We see it first right after the Shulamite woman is resting in His Presence and has just received revelation of His love and how He sees her. She says, *'His left hand cradles my head while His right hand holds me close. I'm at rest in this love!'* (Song of Songs 2:6 TPT). Immediately afterwards, the Bridegroom-King (representative of Jesus) says, *Do not disturb My love until she is ready to arise* (Song of Songs 2:7 TPT). He even says it again in Song of Songs 3:5. What does that mean?

It means that there is a time to just stay there and soak in His love, and to soak in His revelation of who we are, before we climb the mountains to wage warfare with Him, and build the Kingdom of God on this earth. It is so easy to slip back into our same practices of running and running. In fact, once we've come to realise and receive His great love for us, there's actually the danger that we will quickly jump back up from resting in His arms of love and become even more passionate about DOING FOR Him in our joy. But this is not about DOING. It's about BEING WITH Him. The snare of religion tells us that we love Him by serving Him. His love tells us that we love Him by BEing one with Him.

In fact, God tells us to enter once into His rest (see Hebrews 4), and He never wants us to leave this place of rest, whether we are walking or working (Matthew 11:28 – 30 MSG). We will, of course, do things, but they will be done out of His life and His strength working through us, not by our fevered energy and zeal, even if it is fuelled by love for Him.

He wants us to stay in His rest and soak in His love until we are truly ready to arise. And we'll know that we're ready to arise when it is a natural outflowing of our abiding in His Presence with Him, not something we manage, control or require from ourselves because we feel like we 'have to get up and do something'. As His people are receiving this revelation, many are going into extended periods of quietness and rest at His leading. In these times, the flesh is often screaming because it wants to get up and run, but while it's still screaming, we are not ready to arise, because there is still some sense of identity for us which is held in 'doing'.

We are ready to arise when we can BE still and our 'BEing' is enough.

After all, the Bridegroom-King did not mention the mountains from which they would wage warfare together, until not only she knew, but also He knew that she was ready to arise. When she had soaked in His love and she could see herself as His bride (her sense of identity, her BEing had changed), that's when He said, "Now you are ready, bride of the mountains..." (Song of Songs 4:8 TPT).

We should never arise and hurry back into DOING because we think it's the right thing to do, religion requires it of us, we feel guilty, or someone else is expecting something of us. We should only arise to the mountains when we hear His voice in the secret place saying, "NOW YOU are ready." If we do anything for any other reason other than His voice prompting us, we will feel just like we and the Shulamite woman did in the beginning...

Song of Songs 1:6 (TPT) ...I have faced the angry glare of my brothers as they appointed me guardian of their ministry-vineyards, yet the care of my vineyard-within I've neglected.

This is the picture of a woman who has served, served, served, focussed on DOING and fulfilling the expectations of others, yet she has never just rested and soaked in His love and intimacy, to simply BE with Him and discover what He has planted within her. Until He says we are ready to arise, we simply need to BE. Be with Him and learn to live in the secret place. We can be excited about the story, the victory and the mountaintops, but as the Bride, we are always to BE with Him.

Soak Time

Has HE told you that you are ready to arise?

In what ways have you become the guardians of the ministry-vineyards of your 'brothers' while neglecting the care of your own vineyard-within?

Day Two: Wasted Perfume or Precious Treasure?

When we decide to rest in His Presence until He tells us we are ready to arise, we must be warned... not everyone will like it. In Song of Songs 5:7, as the Shulamite woman was intensely seeking her Bridegroom-King, the overseers (representative of religious leadership in the church) happened to find her as they made their rounds. *"They beat me and bruised me until I could take no more. In my wounding they removed their "covering" from me..."* Even the spiritual leadership around her did not understand her longing for Him and berated her for it.

There are some people whose hearts are tied to religion. There are others whose hearts are tied directly to Jesus. Your passion will awaken those with hearts directly tied to Jesus... but it will offend those who hold religion in the highest esteem. They will tell you that you can't be spiritual DOING nothing. But you are not doing nothing. You are BEING until His love for you can never be shaken again, and your identity becomes fully found in who He is in you. If you attempt to wage warfare on the mountains before this arising in your heart happens, you will either be shadow boxing, warring against the wrong enemies, or become easily defeated because you will do it in your strength. But if you will arise in the fullness of His life and His love in you, there is no weapon formed against you that will prosper, because you will be established in love and righteousness.

➤ **See:** Isaiah 54:10 – 17

He won't ask you to arise to the mountains until you are ready.

Anything we want to see manifested externally, first begins internally. Religion says that only what we DO is important. Religion prizes and values action, activity and 'progress' it can measure. But our Bridegroom-King values and prizes our BEing one with Him. This is a time of meditation, rest and stillness, where His life in us becomes as much reality to us as our hands that we can see with our natural eyes, and as much our sense of identity as recognising our own face in a mirror.

There is little Doing in this time. There is simply BEing. And the Lord knows when our BEing has become our reality. We may not feel ready, but He will tell us when it's time to arise... when we are ready to allow His Spirit within us to

emerge as our life and we will thereafter live from the inside-out, not the outside-in.

The Kingdom of God operates differently to our western culture (which unfortunately the church has often embraced along with the world). The Kingdom values Jesus, time with Jesus, relationship, intimacy, meditation, identity and BEing. Consider Mary, who anointed Jesus' feet with perfume (see John 12:1 – 8). She even wiped his feet with her own hair and tears! There's a song about her by Bethel Worship, which says, "I'm going to waste it all on you." The religious people were offended. They saw it as a waste because there's something they could have DOne with that perfume (sold it and given it to the poor). But to Jesus, her BEing with Him was a precious treasure.

We also see it in the account of Mary and Martha where Martha was busily serving and DOing, but Mary was sitting at Jesus feet. Jesus told Martha that Mary had chosen the better thing, which was simply to BE in relationship and intimacy with Him. It's time to stop emphasising the DO. If you want to birth something, just BE. He will conceive it, He will nurture it, and it will be beautiful. It is not only OK to rest until He says to arise in the power of His life in you... it is the better way despite your anxiety or the anxiety of those around you who can only see the value in what we DO.

Soak Time

Have you ever really learned how to BE? Or has your life been consumed and prized by DOing?

What is Holy Spirit saying to you about how to value this precious treasure in your life?

Day Three: Serving or Soaking?

BEing and simply soaking in His Presence doesn't always feel like it comes naturally to us. This was certainly the case for me – I thought I would burst with all of the many things I wanted to DO for my King! My natural inclination was always getting the job done and seeing the victory – all motivated out of a zealous heart of love for Him! Yet I still didn't know how much He loved me, who I was, nor was their fruitfulness in my life. I was almost burned out!

Then my beautiful Father caught my attention through something very simple



– a few Willow Tree carved angels that silently spoke volumes to me! I had loved them but didn't own any, until one day I'd saved the money to get just one of these beautiful angels. I searched online for which one to order and I wanted to find one which I felt was the most significant to who I felt I was and what I was believing for my life, and I chose this angel with her arms raised in victory.

It felt to me like it signified the completion of my destiny. Being victorious for Him and expanding His Kingdom. DOing all that was in my heart to do.

It arrived and I excitedly put it on the shelf and I loved and admired it... but it didn't feel right, though I wasn't sure why.



I believe that the next one was given to me as a gift, and it was a beautiful angel thoughtfully holding a rose to her heart. To me, it symbolised the giving of a gift. God showed me that it was symbolic of my giving His love, sharing His love, loving others and loving those around me. I knew He was saying that actually this loving others came first – before the victory. So I displayed them in order. Yet somehow, it still didn't feel right.



However, when I saw this angel with her arms held to her chest, I knew it was the missing one – the one God wanted me to put first.

I could see that she's in love, she's receiving, she's connected to His heart, she's enjoying intimacy and oneness with Him... she's living in the secret place! And He showed me that without that intimacy of oneness in the secret place with Him - without that BEing - we cannot love others and we cannot live in victory. Yet, when we put that oneness, intimacy and BEing first, a

supernatural love for others will naturally flow out of our hearts, and victory will be inevitable. I keep these angels in order as a reminder that if I will BE with Him, the DOing will be effortless, fruitful and anointed.



Soak Time

What order have you had your 'angels' in?

Day Four: Inevitable Victory

When we rest until He says we are ready to arise, and then we arise in the power of His life in us, what happens? Where does this take us? There is only one inevitable destination - VICTORY. HIS VICTORY!

Song of Songs 2:4 (TPT) *I see His unfurled banner of victory covering me with His unrelenting love Divine.*

You see, He has said that He will change us from glory to glory (see 2 Corinthians 3:18). We are meant to be successful and why wouldn't we be – the Victorious One lives in us! We are one with the One who is victorious in all things.

In the Song of Songs, the Bridegroom King calls her *Bride of the Mountains* (Song of Songs 4:8), right after the Shulamite says “Yes, I will be your bride”. He tells her how beautiful she is and what they will do together on those mountains, and how they will wage warfare together. She knows now that she is going WITH Him – she will never again be trying to make something happen in her own strength. And only one thing happens on the mountaintops when we're with Him: Victory!

“You are in Him and all He has is yours. His every victory is yours.” Jim Richards

We know who we are looking at when we see if the idea of being on the mountaintops makes us excited and fearless about this victory, or if we still think it's impossible.

“The truth is, they knew God was able. They had seen all His works as they had come out of Egypt. They had seen Pharaoh and his armies defeated. They had seen the miracle of the Red Sea parting. They had experienced enough miraculous phenomena with God that they should have had no problem believing His promise. The fact of the matter is that they really didn't trust themselves. Like us, they had no problem believing in the mighty power of God. The Israelites believed His every promise - until it had to be done through them...they trusted God's power until they had to trust it to work through them.” Jim Richards

If the idea of the mountaintops fills us with excitement, we know that we feel established in our oneness with the Victorious One. If, however, the idea of the mountaintops fills us with fear, we know that we are still looking at ourselves. Our old identity is gone. We are now simply one with Him and we can't fail.

All He asks us to do is...

"Receive the Holy seed, conceive the miraculous and birth the impossible."

We're either going to stay in the shadows, afraid to look inside our hearts. Or we're going to say *"Yes! I'm going to the mountaintops with you! Your unfurled banner of victory is over my head and I'm marching with your heart as my heart and your victory as my victory and let's see this unfold together..."* And when we do, here's what happens by looking at how it all unfolds for the Shulamite Bride in Song of Songs:

1. She Becomes Part of His Army

Song of Songs 6:10 (TPT) *Look at you now – arising as the dayspring of the dawn, fair as the shining moon. Bright and brilliant as the sun in all its strength. Astonishing to behold as a majestic army waving banners of victory!*

His Army is not an Army of fighters. Jesus has already paraded satan and made an open spectacle of Him. His Army is an Army of lovers. He asks us to advance with Him. He asks us to believe big with Him. In the same way she went from not being able to believe who she was, to believing and experiencing it, He will expand our minds about what He's about to do through us.

2. She Awakens the Hearts of Others

Our Bridegroom King's discipleship plan is to awaken the sleeping ones with our passion for Jesus.

Song of Songs 7:11 - 12 (TPT) *Come away, my Lover, Come with me to the far away fields. We will run way together to the forgotten places and show them redeeming love. Let us arise and run to the vineyards of Your people to see if the budding vines of love are now in full bloom! We will see if their passion is awakened. There I will display my love for You! (The Shulamite Bride)*

Song of Songs 6:1 (TPT) *O rarest of beauty, where then has your Lover gone? We long to see Him too! Where may we find Him? As you seek after Him we will follow you.* (N.B. The Brides-to-Be asking the Shulamite Bride)

Song of Songs 7:9 (TPT) *...Your kisses of love awaken even the lips of sleeping ones to kiss Me as you have done.* (The Bridegroom King to His Bride)

3. She Fulfils Her Destiny

And in loving Him, and through her love awakening the passion of others, she fulfils her destiny. She lives the story that He died for. It's not about us – it's always about Him and He shed blood for our destinies.

Song of Songs 7:4 (TPT) *Your life now stands tall as a tower; like a shining light on a hill. Your revelation-eyes are pure, as pools of refreshing; sparkling light for a multitude!*

We are each destined to shine for Him because we shine WITH Him!



Does the idea of the mountaintops excite you or scare you? What Has He shown you is going on in your heart?



Day Five: Beautiful Bride in Australia

If we will live in the restful intimacy of His love and Arise when He says we are ready, we will find that the glory which arises and shines from us will not just be a little candle – it will be a blazing torch that will affect whole nations. No one says it better than Heidi Baker:

"We can only find rest in the secret place of God's heart. There we will lie down and we will listen until God tells us to stand up. But when we do stand up, whole nations will run to Jesus." Heidi Baker (Compelled by Love)

You are part of His beautiful Bride in our nation of Australia. Read and receive the following portions of a prophetic word by Maria Mason (of Byron Bay), which was given on Australia Day 2014.

Beautiful Bride in Australia, now is the time of new beginnings! We are in a season where all things are becoming NEW. The old is passing away, and the new is coming! It is a season of laying to rest the things of the past. Stepping up into the new things, new plans and new purposes that I have for you as a Bride here in this nation.

The old is passed away and this is a new time to build. I am releasing fresh blueprints for a holy temple in this nation that can house my Glory. I am releasing divine plans and purposes and I am coming with an increase of power to confirm my word and works.

I have poured out my Sprit in hungry places and I will pour out my Sprit in Australia in the places where I am longed for. This is a time to go to the high places and holler out your praise and your desire. I will give you the desire of your heart. I will pour into you what you long for. According to My plans and My purposes I will establish my Kingdom in you and through you. Australia this is your greatest hour!! I want and need your full attention for My Spirit to accomplish all that I desire in this nation and in the South Pacific region.

The lovers in the mountains:

This is a year of transformation. Living from the high places is the word for this nation! Australia... come up above what is happening. The world will have trouble but I have called you to live in the mountains of my love.

The lovers of the cross the wild ones... are un-offendable because they live for Me. Australia is raising up an army of wild ones!! They will stop at nothing to do what I desire.

Australia I love you and I honour you my bride. You will shine in these days with radiant love of the Father and the Son. Be sure and confident in My love. I am your all sufficiency and will never ever leave your side. You are mine. A nation called to shine! You're beautiful! A nation destined for glory!! Get ready for the best is yet to come!! Get ready for the next wave!!!

Soak Time

What is the Lord saying to your heart? What part does He have for you to play in this, as His beautiful Bride in Australia? Are you one of His wild ones?
