**An Overview**

The secret place:

1. A place of being

a. I can be transparent, I can be myself. *“My heart says I am dark, but You call me lovely.”* I can be real with God.

1. A place of belonging

a. Where I find my identity

“*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”* Eph 2:13

“*We have received the spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.”* Rom 8:15

1. A place of searching

“*Who are You God?” “Show me Your ways teach me Your paths.”*Ps 25

1. A place of discovering

a.*It is the glory of God to conceal a matter but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.”* Prov 5:2

**I. We Were Not Made To Serve At a Distance**

We see in Genesis 2 when God created Adam He commended him to *tend and keep* the garden.

1. This is such a beautiful picture. It's not just external labor but internal; his internal garden; the place of rest and serenity.
2. His primary occupation was to cultivate that secret place through encounters and fellowship with the Triune God.
3. Adam was in daily communion with God. There was absolutely no hindrance between God and man. God dwelt with Adam and Eve. He was in the midst of them.

**II. He is Looking For Voluntary Lovers**

Today, Jesus is looking for voluntary lovers. The spirit is searching to and fro for a resting place. *“Where is the place of my rest?”*Is. 66

1. The Hub's vision is intimacy with Jesus than the works of the kingdom.

“*Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”*John 17:24

**III. The First Commandment**

The Lord is restoring the 1st commandment in the church because we've lost it.

“*One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying,****“****Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”Jesus said to him,“‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'**This is the first and great commandment.**And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’*Mat 22:35-38

1. The majority of the church has left her first love but I believe with all my heart that the Lord is restoring the first commandment in the Body of Christ today. But in order to do that He needs voluntary lovers that would get familiar with His character, His beauty, and His emotions.
2. This is a quote by Mike Bickle, *“Serving God and others without a foundation of extravagant devotion to Jesus often leads to burnout and disappointment. Thus, our service is not sustained over decades. Without encountering Jesus’ heart in love (intimacy with God), we often work as slaves instead of a bride who is refreshed as she labors.”*Therefore, we ought to serve out of that place of rest; place of devotion.
3. We've gotten so caught up with doing that we have forgotten about the thing that is actually needed.

a. The enemy knows the value of intimacy. He knows if he were to distract us from spending time with God and growing in fellowship, we would never reach that place of identity and rest. Paul said,*“I am afraid, lest as the serpent [Satan] deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.”* (2 Cor. 11:3, NAS)

**IV. Why Is It So Important?**

Cultivating the secret place bears fruit and is sustainable in the longevity.

1. Jesus talked to His disciples in Matthew 7 about the house that was built/founded on the rock and the house that was built on sand; which had no foundation. God calls that person foolish. I want to be wise and build my foundation on the Lord and that requires daily devotion.

a. *“Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it.”* Ps. 127:1

1. Think about your friendships. How else would you know about someone unless you hang out with them. So, it is with God. I want to know God's emotions; how He feels about me and what He says about me. And when trials, tribulations, famine, whatever I come to face I would not be offended nor afraid because of the confidence of who He is.
2. Abide in the vine. The Lord prunes those He loves so that they can bear more fruit.

Some may say, “Well, I read the word everyday.” It is not enough to study the Bible—we must talk to God as we study it.

1. We use the word as a tool, a resource to declare and pray the promises of God through His word. David prayed, *“Revive me according to Your word.”* This principle has helped me a lot in my preparation years. Meditating on the word and taking/declaring them for myself.

a. I got the privilege to go to IHOPU and there I was given practical ways on how to meditate on the word. I would daily sit in the prayer room, sing the word and ask the Lord to touch my heart through that particular verse.

**V. You Must Fight For It**

It hasn't always been fireworks when I've set before the Lord but I know *“the Lord rewards those who diligently seek Him,”* who are intentional in carving out time for Him. I want to spill with His love and glory; I want that to bear fruit. I want my songs to come out of that place of intimacy. I want to write in glory. I don't care what the new sound is out there, what I care mostly is what the new sound of heaven is like. I want that to filter through me. When people see me they see the Father.*“She has been with God.”*

1. Jesus declared that Mary chose this lifestyle, we must choose also in order to grow in extravagant love for Him.
2. Sustaining this focus for a lifetime is rare.
3. My prayer is that Your heart is stirred to sign up again where You might have stopped pursuing the Lord in an extravagant way. Maybe it has been a hard season for you, circumstances and now you're saying, “That used to be me. I used to go hard after God.”

Mother Teresa made an outstanding statement, “*The more I want Him, the less I am wanted.”*She was not demeaning herself. Mary was ridiculed for her extravagant worship and love for Jesus. “Why is she wasting this expense perfume?” As I have chosen to commit my daily devotion to the Lord there have been times where I have questioned, “Lord, I feel like I am wasting my life.” But this will be rewarded. Wisdom will be justified on that day. Jesus spoke this to His disciple; of the eternal reward they will have in the age to come.

**VI. Increases the Gifts of the Spirit**

If you want to prophecy more, have more discernment, more wisdom and etc, get to know God more. Intimacy with God propels those gifts.