

Pursuing the Knowledge of God

Session Five Class Outline

“I don’t pray in order to make life work; I make life work so that I can pray.”

A. The most foundational Scripture when it comes to the secret place:

Matt. 6:5, “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 6 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.”

1. “Shut your door” i.e. have a specific place.
2. Reasons to shut your door:
 - a. To shut out _____.
 - b. To not be seen by men.
 - c. To have liberty to be _____ with God.
 - d. To preserve the _____ of your intimacy with God.
 - e. To be instantaneously with your Father.
 - 1) Access to the Father is the ultimate privilege of the universe.
 - 2) Jesus said you can petition Abba directly, Jn. 16:23.
 - f. To be rewarded _____ by the Father.
3. Some Christians dread judgment day.
 - a. Luke 8:17, “For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light.”
 - b. Believers with a secret life in God don’t see that verse as a threat, but
 - a _____ .

B. The primary pursuit of the secret place is the knowledge of God.

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1. The knowledge of God is one of our primary pursuits in prayer.
 - a. “[I] do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened” (Eph. 1:16-18).
 - b. “to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” (Eph. 3:19).
 - c. “that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead” (Phil. 3:10-11).
 2. David yearned for this, Ps. 63:2. “So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory.”
 - a. Glory: the beauty of who You are (face).
 - b. Power: to experience the power of Your right hand.
 3. The Bible makes a promise to those who pursue the knowledge of God: “Let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord...He will come to us” (Hosea 6:3).
- C. Prov. 2:1-5 illumines the path to finding the knowledge of God.
- “My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.”
1. Prov. 2 is going to get us connected to the word of God.
 - a. What Jesus said about the Scriptures: “these are they which testify of Me” (John 5:39).
 - b. Jesus said to the religious leaders of His day, “Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God?” (Mark 12:24).
 - c. They didn’t know the Scriptures because they were unwilling to see Jesus in them.
 2. “My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you” (Prov. 2:1)
 - a. To treasure means to not _____.
 - b. Practical application: journaling.

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- c. “Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him” (Luke 8:18).
 - d. A journal is not the same thing as a _____.
 - e. I have two sections to my Journal.
 - 1) Entries by _____.
 - 2) Entries by _____.
 - f. The absolutely best way to get truth lodged deeply within you:
_____.
3. Prov. 2:2, “So that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding.”
- a. “Apply your heart” speaks of discipline and time management.
 - b. A secret place relationship with Jesus requires _____. Over time, desire will turn into discipline, and discipline will turn into _____.
 - c. A universal principle that applies to everyone: The secret place requires time.
 - d. Your discipline in the secret place actually starts the _____.
 - e. Jesus modelled praying in the secret place for several hours.
“Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed” (Mark 1:35).
 - f. Be on guard regarding distractions.
 - 1) Decide that the computer will not distract.
 - 2) Keep a to-do notepad handy.
4. Prov. 2:3, “Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding”
- a. This points to the role of verbal praying.
 - b. Express your desperate yearning for understanding.
5. Prov. 2:4, “If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures”
- a. To search for treasure means to _____ God’s word.
 - b. Use a Bible with cross references.

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- c. Learn to use study tools: concordance, Bible dictionary/encyclopedia, commentaries.
 - d. Google: "online Bible study tools"
 6. To summarize Prov. 2:1-4, keys to the knowledge of God include journaling, discipline, crying out, and study.
- D. This week's assignment:
1. Read chapters 19-21 in *Secrets Of The Secret Place* (unless your leader gives you a different assignment).
 2. In the *Companion Study Guide*, complete the section entitled "For Personal Reflection" in chapters 19-21.
 3. Come next week prepared to discuss your assigned chapters.
 4. Make a note of any statements in your reading that you would like your group to discuss.