

THE SECRET OF THE SECRET PLACE By Todd Bentley

This article was taken from the Destiny Prophetic Journal: Secret Place/Intimacy Edition.

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Signs, wonders, and miracles are a normal part of kingdom life. The life and ministry of Christ modeled this kingdom power, and it seemed a day didn't go by without the manifestations of the kingdom made visible to the masses. Jesus healed the sick, raised the dead, cleansed the lepers, and delivered the demonized as He preached the gospel of the kingdom.

We see the same example in the book of Acts, as the early church moved in the fullness of the anointing and did the same works that Christ did. "Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness." (Acts 4:29-31).

Nothing has changed. Jesus said that the same works He did, believers would do also and even greater works: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father" (John 14:12). These activities should be part of a normal day for all Christians as we are all called to represent the ministry of Jesus in the earth.

Release of Kingdom Power and Authority

What is the key to this kind of release of kingdom power and authority, to the constant flow of anointing? We find it in John 5:19: "Then Jesus answered and said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner'" (emphasis mine).

We see this so clearly in Jesus' ministry. Jesus could see what the Father was doing because He spent much time in the presence of His Father to release kingdom signs and wonders in the earth. He positioned Himself before the Father, cultivating and nurturing their relationship, while yielding and submitting to God's will, plans and purposes.

This was a key for Jesus two thousand years ago, and it is ours for today. It is vital that we posture ourselves before the Lord to hear His voice and to perceive His will. He will lead us into realms of the miraculous if we are willing to wait upon Him.

Wait Upon the Lord

The early church waited on the Lord. Ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven, He told His apostles not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised (Acts 1:4). Obediently, the eleven went from the Mount of Olives back into the city of Jerusalem. They stayed in the Upper Room and joined in continuous prayer together with Mary (the mother of Jesus) and His brothers (Acts 1:14). They waited on the Lord in complete dependency and anticipation. Then the power came. Signs and wonders came. Close communion with the Holy Spirit came. Everything flowed from that place of consecrated fellowship.

We are called to do the same. If we are willing to wait on the Lord and the move of His Spirit, we will see signs and wonders just like the early church saw, just as in the days of Christ's ministry on earth. In His presence, we will hear His voice and see what the Father is doing.

Signs, Wonders, and Miracles Follow

I've come to know the importance of hearing God's voice in this secret place. Oftentimes as I wait on the Lord in morning devotions, He reveals to my heart things I need for the day. He'll give me vision and wisdom and speak to me about things He would have me do. As I follow His nudges by acting upon the inspiration He gives, I experience fruitfulness, and I see the outward signs of His grace, favor, and power in our ministry.

Prior to ministering in meetings, I tarry in the secret place and He shows me things He desires to do in the lives of His people. Later during the ministry sessions, I follow this counsel, and signs, wonders and miracles follow. He will always reveal His counsel to us if we are willing to wait. Along with His plan or purpose, He releases the power to make it happen.

Nurture a Position in the Secret Place

Here's how you can learn to draw on the resources of God's presence, His Word, and His Spirit, by cultivating time with Him and nurturing a position in the secret place:

1. Set time aside to fellowship with Him, worship, and meditate on His Word.

Often our days are busy with many attention-grabbers. I find that if I don't schedule in the time, distractions flood in from everywhere. For some people, morning is the best time to be alone with God, and for others it is evening before bed. Whatever time is best for you, schedule it in and make it the most important part of your day. Where your treasure is that is where your heart is too. Don't compromise this time or you will find that there will always be things to take it from you. Moses set time apart every day, and as a result, every time he stepped into the tent of meeting, the pillar of cloud descended, and he fellowshiped with the Lord in intimacy. Discover your tent of meeting.

2. Learn to tarry.

I don't know about you, but I often do not stay in the secret place long enough. Sometimes I will pray, meditate on the Word, wait on God, and journal, but not sense a real breakthrough. At those times, I find that if I just continue to press in with a commitment not to leave this place with the Lord until I feel a strong faith connection to His presence, that most times I will have a breakthrough.

I remember once we were in a fellowship time with Todd Bentley and some other leaders where the Lord had moved powerfully. We had experienced the lightings of God and other supernatural phenomena. We were ready to wind down and finish the time when Todd said, "Let's just press in for another wave." We continued to focus and worship the Lord, waiting on Him with expectation, and sure enough, another wave of His presence came. Don't leave the secret place too quickly.

3. Fight distractions in the mind.

When you are in the secret place, your mind will sometimes want to stray. It is important to take these thoughts captive and refocus. I praise Jesus with all of my heart every time a distraction comes, then my focus returns and my thoughts settle. If we keep Jesus Himself as our focus, then the distractions will yield to His glory.

Praise and worship are key elements to our time in the secret place. Sometimes listening to a good soaking CD will help keep your focus and aid in fighting distractions in your mind.

4. Wait for Him to speak.

God promises to speak to His children: "My sheep hear My voice" (John 10:27). Often He speaks through a still, small voice, sometimes very still and very small. Do not underestimate the validity of the faint impressions you receive. Wait for Him to speak.

5. Journal what you believe the Lord is saying.

Journaling is beneficial as it gives you time to deliberately take note of what you are receiving. You can then go back to it throughout your day and meditate on what the Lord showed you. It is also a great reference for the months that follow.

6. Act on the Word you receive.

Look for ways throughout your day to follow the nudges of the Holy Spirit. Be brave and courageous. We are not only to be hearers of the Word but doers too (James 1:22); (John 3:18). Faith without works is dead. (James 2:20). Fruitfulness manifests when you act on the revelation, on what you hear the Lord saying or telling you to do.

7. Anticipate the appearance of the manifest presence of God: His power, His miracles, and His wonders.

Look for Him. Expect the miracles. Sometimes God is actually moving in our lives in supernatural ways but we don't notice because we aren't looking. See Him and you will find Him! (Matt. 7:7; Deut. 4:29; Jer. 29:13; Luke 11:9, 10; Prov. 8:17).

Remember that there is a difference between the spectacular and the supernatural. Sometimes the Lord appears in seemingly small and insignificant ways. Jesus, for example, didn't come with a grandiose entrance into the world. He came as a little baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laying in a manger. Many missed the event and never did acknowledge Him as the Messiah because they were looking for a different package. After all, wasn't He just the carpenter's son? Look for Jesus in the small things throughout the day.

Praise Him for every way He moves in your life. Don't forget to thank Him when you see Him act or move on your behalf. Get excited about His presence.

8. Be committed to growth.

Trust the Holy Spirit to increase your understanding and revelation. He will constantly reveal new things regarding Jesus and His kingdom. You don't have to live in the revelation you received ten years ago, or even yesterday. He has fresh manna for you every day. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead you and guide you into further revelation of Christ's glory, and be faithful to steward that which He reveals. Allow Him to change your life into the very image and nature of Christ. After all, that is what time in the secret place is all about.

The Lord is calling His people into the secret place, the place reserved for His own. He is calling you, Will you come?

P.S. If you have enjoyed the above article, please join us for our Secret Place Conference. The very theme of the conference is based on Being in the Presence of God.

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