

That's The Power of Love (Bible Study) – The Secret Place

This new study is on Love, God's Love, and Its power to change you and protect you; hence, That's The Power of Love. We're going to follow the leading of The Holy Spirit, but for now it seems we'll be doing four studies. The first on **The Secret Place**, the second on **love changing you**, the third study is on **humility**, and the final study is on **eradicating pride**. You don't want to miss the last two studies! The Holy Spirit has given us some great revelational information and deep insight into scripture. Please **bring a notebook to honor God** by writing the study information He has prepared for us and also the direction He will be leading you personally as you're listening.

Let's jump right into the study!

Psalm 91:1^{NKJV}

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

This is a favorite Psalm for many people, but... Haven't you always wondered where is The Secret Place, how do we get there, and how do we know if we're still abiding there or not. Well, the Lord has answered that question. But before I clearly tell you where It's located, let's do some important back peddling. I won't hold you in suspense any longer than I need to.

When Christians speak about the Lord, they talk about "*Getting closer to God, seeking God, moving forward in Christ, going deeper in the Lord, and going higher in the Lord.*" You may have said these things, I know I've said *all* of these things at one point or another myself. Guess what? They're all a wrong depiction. Yes, we are supposed to "*run the race,*" like Paul said in **Hebrews 12:1**. But we're not running the race to reduce the distance between us and the Lord. You run the race for your own spiritual growth; the Plan God has given you for your life. Everyone understand? ... Through the years, The Holy Spirit would try to point scripture out to me when I said these things or heard these things, but I never understood what He was saying. Let's look at what The Holy Spirit was trying to reveal....

2 Corinthians 5:21^{NKJV}

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Paul is telling us that we are made righteous through Christ. We have several scriptures on this topic, but we aren't going to side journey through them. There are **two types of righteousness in the Bible**; spiritual position and righteous living. If you're in Christ, spiritually speaking you cannot be made any more righteous than you are now. Righteous living is another issue, and that's what we're going to be studying next week, how to live a righteous life using The Power of Love. In short, without opening up another study, living a non-righteous life affects your position in Christ when you're no long sorry or interested in a spiritually clean life. There is so much confusion about this in the body of Christ, so please write it down! I'll say it again, "*living a non-righteous life affects your position in Christ when you're no long sorry or interested in a spiritually clean life.*" That means when a person wants to sin whatever sins and just doesn't care. The difference is being sorry and sorry you're caught. We're not going to split hairs today over righteous and non-righteous living. We're just looking at the point **you have been made spiritually righteous through Christ**. There is no extra work to do! You cannot earn a better or more righteousness. The scriptures often say *might or may*, as we read above, because you *might* be saved, and then again you *might or may* not be. Moving on....

If you've been made righteous (right standing with God), why would we need to work on getting closer to Him? Let's look at what the Bible says concerning our spiritual position.

Ephesians 2:6^{NKJV}

and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Our spiritual position is raised with Jesus and seated WITH Jesus in Heavenly places. How can we get a higher seat than that? No need to have forward progress to meet the Lord. One more scripture on our spiritual position before we move on to where The Secret Place is located....

Hebrews 4:16 NKJV

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

We are told to boldly come to The Throne Room, boldly approach God when WE want to. We don't have to be summoned, schedule an appointment, wait in line, or submit a request. **We are permitted to approach God on our terms.** We don't have a king, but what if any common person barged into the palace to have a meeting with king Charles? Do you think they'd make it out alive? Probably not if they got close enough to the king. What would people say, *"Why would they do something so stupid like that?"* Common people have no right! We can approach a much higher King, our Father, on our terms. This isn't figurative speech. We can spiritually approach God and pray when WE want to pray. How could we possibly get closer to The Father than being told to boldly enter The Throne Room of Grace?

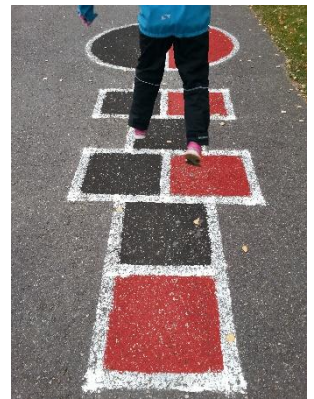
We're made righteous with Christ's righteousness, we're seated with Jesus in heavenly places (can't get any higher than Heaven), and we're permitted to boldly enter the Throne Room to approach the Almighty God. We have no distance! **So, where is The Secret Place?** You *should* already be in it. You *might* already be there. You *might* not be. We should have no need to look for it or seek it. **Wait, a min!** Before you think you've been let down, you haven't been! There's a reason you may not *feel* like you're in that Secret Place. We're getting there. I promise after today you will be able to locate it! Just keep listening...

The **Secret Place** that you're supposed to dwell in is **The Place of Love**, His Love. Let's look at some scripture. This is the most powerful one concerning His Love...

1 John 4:8 NKJV

He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God is Love. If you don't love, you can't be in The Secret Place. You can walk yourself right out of it. **Write this down: If you're not in love, you're in hate.** There is no in-between in this matter; kind of love, mostly loving people, trying my hardest, or doing my best is all on the hate side. You're either in love or in hate. Some people don't realize it, but they're playing the love and hate hopscotch game, *"I love my mom, I'm trying to love my boss, I love my neighbor to the right, but the neighbor on the left is challenging my walk. My pet peeve is people who can't drive!"* They hop back and forth between love and hate without even realizing it.



This is the **example of The Secret Place that The Holy Spirit revealed for me** to share:

Dogs, cats, and other animals are meant to roam around in the wild. We bring them into our home and show them our secret place of rest. They stay in our home with us. We love them and protect them. For dogs and other animals that run away, we keep them on a leash when they go outside. Leash, as in a comparison for humans? Yes, dogs are very curious and the closer they stay to us the safer they can be. We feed them and nurture them in our home. We know where they are at all times. We watch over them, and only let certain people and things get close to our pets that we love.

What does this mean to us?

We, in our flesh nature, are meant to roam around in the world. God renewed our spirit, brought us into His Secret Place, and showed us where He rests. He gave us His Holy Spirit so we can stay at home with Him. He loves us and protects us. He doesn't want us to run away out of His Secret Place into danger, so He constrains us (the leash) with His love. This way He always knows where we are, and can watch over us.

That is very beautiful. Now you know exactly where **The Secret Place** is located.

2 Corinthians 5:14 KJV

For the love of Christ constraineth us...

The word in Greek for **constraineth** is **sunechó** and Strong's also gives the meaning of **hold** and **keep in**. The love of Christ holds you in The Secret Place. The Love of Christ keeps you in The Secret Place.

This is very exciting! Do you see that you don't have to find The Secret Place? It's not this unattainable place out there for the people who are "*super spiritual*" gazing up into Heaven with their mouth hanging open! No! Just like Adam and Eve were placed in the Garden of Eden which was prepared for them, likewise your spirit was renewed to be God's Secret Place with you. **The Secret Place of The Most High is in your spirit.** Your spirit is now God's Garden, remember Jesus talked about the types of ground (see the fruit series for more information)? Your ground grows the garden. God will walk with you in the cool of the day in that garden. If it's a long walk or a short walk, it's up to you. The size of the garden you choose to grow will determine the amount of leading and guiding you receive. Acting on love, God's love, will produce and mature fruit. That fruit coming out of us is His Love in action, it hides you in **The Secret Place** and wraps **His Hedge of Protection around you** also makes you abide under **The Shadow of The Almighty**. Everything is dependent on how we love. Adam and Eve were there physically and spiritually in The Garden of Eden. Just like Adam and Eve jerked on that leash and went off their own way, so can we. God still loved them, but they were put out of the garden. We can't be put out, because of Jesus and God's grace and the fact that it comes from inside of us. But we can certainly refuse to grow our garden, grow something God doesn't want to walk in, and not develop ourselves in The Secret Place. Let's look at what the Word says in **1 Corinthians 3:16** NKJV

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

The temple was the permanent tabernacle. In **Exodus 33:7**, Moses set up another tent called **Ohel Moed** (o'-hel mo-ade), The **Tent of Meeting**, where he went to speak with the Lord. We are now the temple of God and told to boldly enter the Throne Room of Grace, which means, according to the Bible, the meeting place for us to find God is in us! Why? Because the Holy Spirit is there. He takes us to The Throne Room, obviously we can't get there ourselves or they would have done things that way in the Old Testament.

(Read these and pause for some reflection time)

I'll do a quick recap of what I said above:

- Your spirit is **God's Garden**, what are you growing that God can walk in the cool of the day?
- Your spirit is **The Temple**, how often are you worshiping in spirit and truth (John 4:24)?
- The **Tent of Meeting** is in you; do you regularly enter the tent to meet God or complain and ask for things?
- The **Secret Place of The Most High** is in you, are you dwelling in It or dwelling in the flesh and soul?
- God is love and light (1 John 1:5), do you have a strong **hedge of light** set around you?

That's The Power of Love!

Why don't some people *feel* like they're in that Secret Place? Glad you asked! **Every time you walk out of love or sin, you're jerking on that love leash, the constraining love.** If you keep jerking on the leash over and over, just like a dog does to a human, you can break free and take off running away. If you feel like you want to "*be closer to God, go higher, deeper, farther, walking forward,*" or whatever else people say, you only need to do one thing, fall back on love, retreat.

I want you to see this....

2 Chronicles 6:37 NKJV

yet when they come to themselves in the land where they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of their captivity, saying, 'We have sinned, we have done wrong, and have committed wickedness'

One of the definitions in **Hebrew** for **repent** is **shub** (shoob). It means to **turn back, be returned, be restored, be brought back**. Turn back to what? God, God is love. Yes, there are other words meaning to be sorry, think different, and be comforted. But in the scripture we read, we see both turning back AND being sorry in action. If a person wants to return from captivity (no joy, no peace, no patience), repent (turn back to love to be restored), and make supplication (a simple request) to God by admitting they have sinned, done wrong, and

committed wickedness (if wickedness applies). **Do you see this?** That's the repentance process to return to **The Secret Place**.

When it comes to love, you're either **one of two kinds of people**; you **check in** with the Holy Spirit **regularly** on your love walk, or you **need to start checking in** with the Holy Spirit regularly about your love walk. I want you to see these two scriptures in the light of what we just studied.

Galatians 5:6 NKJV

... but faith working through love.

Faith works through love, or as the King James says it, "*Faith works by love.*" Love has power. It's the electrical current in the spiritual realm that switches your faith on! *Do you have a current and if you do how strong is it?*

1 Corinthians 13:1 NKJV

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

When people refuse to love, which includes true forgiveness, they're not in The Secret Place. The hedge of protection over their life is down. Not only that their faith won't work. Even worse, yes it gets worse, Paul in this last scripture is telling us their voice won't even sound right. What he means by that is your words will lose God's power. "*Whhaaat?*" You might be thinking. Give me a min... **The Lord blesses our words to help people heal emotionally, encourage others, bring joy, create peace, and create an atmosphere that God can do whatever work He needs to accomplish.** When Christians aren't walking in love, or should we say walk out of The Secret Place, they lose the blessing on their words. He's saying your words are unpleasant sounds. Let me give you an example. Love considers others before its self, walking out of love considers yourself above all. Walking out of love can take powerful testimonies and turn them into clanging noise no one wants to hear.

(Use an example of a love testimony and a selfish one that no one is happy to hear. If you need a real testimony, my real example is below.)

This is a REAL testimony; one told by the mother and other the daughter. The mother's vehicle broke down and she needed a new vehicle.

Mother: God gave ME a car. He gave ME a car because HE LOVES ME! He did this FOR ME! He got ME that car because I PRAYED. He gave ME a nice car that I love. God takes care of ME! He gives ME things when I need them. He helps ME. He LOVES ME! God did it for ME.

Daughter: My mother's vehicle broke down. I had to drive her a half an hour to work, which put me on the road for 2 hours 5 days a week. On her days off, she had to handle business or shop. I either had to give her my car or take her wherever she needed to go. It was taxing on me every day, not to mention the extra gas! I asked the Lord to please bless my mother with a nice vehicle she could afford to help us both. After I prayed, I would just keep thanking Him that He was working it out. It wasn't too long before He answered my prayer. The mechanic found her a nice car she could afford that was well taken care of and barely driven. It was a huge relief! God has tremendously blessed us and removed a stressful burden. God is so good! He's faithful to answer our prayers! If you need something from God, ask Him and keep thanking Him because He's working things out and making a way no matter what it seems like. Keep your faith active. God loves you and wants to help you too! Dig your feet in the ground and don't give up believing!

(The point: The mother's testimony is all about her promoting herself, so you know how important she is to God. The daughter focuses in on how the listener will receive it. She seems to want us to understand it was a big problem that God solved for them. She's also interested in encouraging the listeners' faith. The questions below will help draw out that point.)

What did you notice about the telling of the two testimonies? ... Do you see how walking out of love can ruin your words and God's work? Do you think maybe God answered the mother's prayer, like she said, as opposed to the daughter's prayer?

Let me read that scripture again...

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

No one wants me to read any more testimonies from that mother! Unless it's curiosity to see how much worse they can get.

Now that you heard the testimonies, I'm going to repeat what I said, **The Lord blesses our words to help people, heal people emotionally, encourage others, bring joy, create peace, and create an atmosphere that God can do whatever work He needs to accomplish.** That's the power of love!

Love is everything. It's not just your protection, faith, and works; it's Who God really is! Everything about God is rooted in love and rooting yourself in love is the answer to everything! Love is where we'll see our prayers answered and God working through us. We're almost out of time, so we're not going to spend too much time today digging down deep into what Biblical love really is.

Get ready to write this down. A Bible college professor gave this Biblical definition of love many years ago. It's worth memorizing, meditating on, and repeating.

Love is joyfully choosing to take the best action to promote the welfare of others.

When we're truly loving others, we're letting God's love bubble up out of our spirit. It's not about doing and saying the right thing on the outside, but *"telling someone off on the inside."* People make remarks, *"You don't know how many times I already imagined smacking you in the face while you were talking."* People laugh at that, I'm glad you didn't. But the Holy Spirit is listening to you. He hears and sees your imagination, and it's not love playing on the screen. He wants us to be willing to love on the inside, not just the outside.

1 John 3:15 NKJV

Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

Bottom line: walking outside of love is hate and hate is murder. It's either love or hate.

On the flip side: It's not being weak, a doormat, constantly turning a blind eye, accepting sin, or being abused. I'm going to explain that really quick.

It's not weak. Love is forgiving the person that damaged your car, but still ok to let them pay money to fix the mess they created.

Doesn't make you a doormat. It's not ok to become sinfully angry by mouthing off to someone that is constantly using you for free items and help, but instead politely declines their request.

It's not a blind eye. Love isn't pretending like someone isn't stealing money from the church or church members, and just prays about it. You can promote the welfare of the person stealing from the church, by confronting them in love or having the pastor confront them. Gossiping and tell everyone isn't love.

Love doesn't accept sin. Love doesn't pretend as if people living an alternative lifestyle is ok, because you don't want to offend them. Love doesn't attack, but it doesn't accept sin as normal and preaches Jesus.

Love isn't abuse. If a woman is being abused by her husband, love forgives the husband, but doesn't have to go back to be hurt again, again, and again.

Another important scripture about love that we must remember....

1 Peter 4:8 NKJV

And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

Love will cover a multitude of sins. This is very popular online lately, but there is **no ministry of corrections**. There is **no ministry of exposing**. Love **COVERS** sin. That's the power of love!

Every now and again, it's very unfortunate and sad to hear, but... a minister will fall into some type of "scandal." Ministers and influencers will go into expose mode; comment on the sin, shame them, inform you, and many of them are bold about playing accuser and judge. Playing accuser, judge, and sentencing is taking on God's role, and it's the definition of divination, playing God. Ouch! **There is no ministry of exposing. There is no Godly ministry of divination, only job opportunity is in Satan's ministry.**

Other ministers and influencers have made entire channels on correcting ministers as soon as they post. **Public correction ministry is not one of love**, love COVERS error. If they believe in salvation only through Jesus, and they aren't telling people to rub crystals, or meet in the woods and drink a deadly juice... let the Holy Spirit do His perfect work in them.

The real truth is... the more you study the Word, the more you realize you don't know anything. The more scandals you look at in love, the more you realize it hurts the body of Christ as a whole and not that particular denomination or church. We all need God to correct our doctrine and belief at some point. We're all just one sin away from a scandal. Ask yourself how you would want to be treated if you were on the other end.

Let's read the love passage in closing for this week.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NKJV

⁴ Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love is joyfully choosing to take the best action to promote the welfare of others.

Next week we're going to continue talking about the power of love. We'll focus on living a righteous life in Christ, and ***you'll be very surprised how easy it is*** when we view righteous living in the light of scripture and act on it. Finally next week, we'll talk about how to get your love constrictor in working order to keep you in The Secret Place.

Homework!

- Read: Psalm 91 about the Secret Place and Galatians 5:22-23 about the fruit of the spirit
- Meditate on The Secret Place, and speak to the Holy Spirit if you have roamed out of The Secret Place
- Talk to The Holy Spirit about the garden that you're growing. What does it look like? What needs dug up and burned, pruned, and what are you fertilizing?
- Check in with the Holy Spirit on your love walk. Do you have people to forgive? Do you need His help to forget somethings?
- Meditate (just means deeply thinking) on love and say this to yourself and out loud to other this week, *"Love is joyfully choosing to take the best action to promote the welfare of others."*
(Why out loud to others? Faith comes by hearing.)

Prayer Points

- Holy Spirit don't let us forget this message that we heard today. Plant it deep in our heart and remind us of it often
- Speak to us about The Secret Place of The Most High, and give us revelational understanding of how important it is to dwell in Its safety
- Holy Spirit, we give you permission to work in our garden, and help us make it pleasing to The Father so He can walk with us in the cool of the day

- Holy Spirit show us where we need to make some corrections concerning love so that we can grow and mature to see the greater things we're promised to see in the Bible
 - Father, thank You, for giving us this teaching. We ask that you give us Your eyes to see and Your ears to hear what's being taught to us by the Holy Spirit and also what You're saying to us personally
 - We love You, and thank You because we already know that as we make changes, You're preparing blessing for our lives.
- In Jesus' Name, Amen