



JUNE CHALLENGE

***The Secret Place - Learning to Live
Where God Lives***

DAY 1: *The Secret Place - Learn to Live Where God Lives*

Message

Many of us deeply desire to live a victorious life.

Have you found yourself recently looking around this lost, broken world and thinking, "This cannot be it!"

It's because we have a longing in our heart to BE with God... to experience the peace of His presence, the joy of His fullness, and the confidence of knowing we belong in His wholeness.

We dream of living in a place of absolute love.

But did you know, that was God's desire long before it was yours?

Notes

His dream...before creation ... was for a people He could live with in fullness and abundance.

A people on whom He could lavish His love... and who would remain with Him of their own free will.

When the Father, Jesus and the Spirit imagined us... Their passion was to make us like Them (Genesis 1:26). The original 3+me in their thinking.

You can almost hear Them planning...

“We’ll love them the way We love Each Other. We’ll make them joyful the way that We are joyful.

“We’ll give them Our creativity and imagination. And We’ll walk with them and talk with them so they can learn what We’re like... and they can become part of OUR community!”

You see this plan unfold in the Garden... the place of meeting created just for Adam and Eve to learn and grow in.

You see God’s passion for partnership as He entrusts the naming of the animals to Adam...and then watches with delight to see what His man will do.

The consequences for man when they partnered with the enemy in the garden of Eden was that they came into relational death.

Over time, fellowship with God was gradually lost.

Intimacy was replaced by performance.
They were removed from the garden...the Secret Place.

But throughout all of human history, God's desire to live with us...to abide with us... to create a place of meeting... has never wavered.

Before creation, God knew the choices man would make... and He had already made provision for them.

Jesus had already agreed to die in our place and the Holy Spirit had agreed to become the Helper, Teacher and Comforter we would need for a new life in God.

In the old covenant, after man left the garden, God's presence became an event. Moses, Joshua, David and others responded to God's presence...but the vast majority of people did not.

Israel ultimately desired rules to govern them... and eventually, a King to rule over them.

So, God gave them The Law in commandment form... so people could think towards God and meditate on His precepts.

The Law became a measuring stick of good behaviors to assess their righteousness.

And self-achievement was preferred over relational transformation.

Over time, the 10 Commandments became 613 pharisaical rules that dominated every area of people's lives.

When the self-achievement of performance overrides God's actual preference for relationship... we have something coming between us and God's desire for relational transformation through Jesus.

That's the nature of a visitational relationship... and it still happens today. We come to a conference or a meeting.

We're inspired and motivated towards change... but somewhere between the altar and the street...

the circumstances of life contest our revelations and we default to

our previous ways of trying to earn our relationship with God through our good deeds or acts of service.

But Jesus changed all that.

He came as Immanuel, which literally means, "God with us." Jesus didn't come to give us an experience of God's presence... He came to give us Himself... to be with us... for us... and IN us.

Instead of a building to go to in order to come into God's presence (like the old covenant temple)... WE became the building!

Ephesians 2:19-22 says, "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit."

The dwelling place of God is no longer in brick and mortar. It's in flesh and blood! It's in the relationship that God initiates with us... and that we respond to.

We're invited into the same relationship that the Father and the Son shared... empowered by the Holy Spirit. It's Jesus' prayer for all believers in John 17:20.

"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:

I IN THEM AND YOU IN ME....that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me."

Beloved, you are not the initiator of being with God.

There's no place to "get to" in Him. That's an old mindset that robs us of the relationship with Him that HE promised us.

It's an old covenant lens for how God is with us... that He will visit us in a tabernacle or in particular moments of time when we've proven ourselves worthy.

But in Christ... everything becomes new. HE is the one who makes us

worthy. HE is the one who opened the door 2,000 years ago to the same relationship that He and the Father shared.

Key #1: In Christ, the “Who” always precedes the “How.”

(Same 3 letters... but 2 completely different propositions.)

Jesus said, in John 15:4-5:

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches.

Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

Because Christ is in us, we are being empowered to see through the lens of who He is in us, and the promises that He has spoken over our lives.

The “Who” is always our priority.
“God, Who are You in me in this situation?”

In Brilliant TV, we have a fantastic series called. “Life Questions” that we can ask the Lord and get answers.

Also, questions that He asks us to increase our wisdom and revelation.

We abide in the “Who” of His presence so that we are fully engaged... and focused on how His revealed Presence will ensure that we grow and change by remaining in Him.

Beloved, when the spirit of Truth in our heart rises up into our conscious mind, we are fully aware of His presence.

Hebrews 13:5 tells us that He never leaves. He never forsakes us. Period. And never means never.

We’re in Him. and the Helper, the Holy Spirit empowers us to STAY in Him... He does that by increasing our awareness of “Who He is for us” in the Abiding Process.

In this way, we give God preeminence.

3+me is the reality that God is our Fortress, Rock and HighTower. We live from the inside out!

There is no stress, striving and self-effort. We come to Him to learn rest - Matthew 11:28-30.

And how do we stay in this place with Him? Through a lifestyle of total delight, wonder and astonishment in Him.

Key #2 - Delight is the place where we have the best fellowship with God.

The delight of God, in Christ, in us, empowers us to live delighted and empowers our worship.

We receive delight because we are aware of Father's passion for Jesus in us.

Know Who He is for you... and let your delight bubble up inside and your sense of wonder to overflow into your life situation... so that any negative is overcome by astonishment!

When you are overwhelmed by who God is, you cannot be overwhelmed by anything else.

Jeremiah demonstrates this astonishment (Jeremiah 32:17):

"Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you."

Delight, and the worship it provokes, is absolutely essential for a victorious life.

In delight, we are at rest in the goodness of God. We are living a lifestyle of being given over to rejoicing and thanksgiving.

Worship is a victory stance. The inner you in Christ, is always living life from above.

God lives in victory. And we live in God. We worship who He is for us when the outer world exerts external pressure.

Delight and worship reminds us that we are never without power and we are never without victory.

This is GOOD NEWS. Think about what this means for your life. Think about what this means for the world you live in today.

The inner life cannot be defeated by the external world.

Key #3 -Intimacy is the source of power!

Intimacy is a necessity, not an option.

Please don't miss this --you have a source of power. You are not powerless.

Not in any circumstance.
Not in any global crisis.
Not in any national unrest. You're never without power.

Intimacy with God is the key to this power.

In the beginning of Scripture, we see the enemy separating people from First Love.

First love is the love of the Father to His beloved Son. In Christ, we have a sacred intimacy of sharing in that First Love experience.

This is what it means to be alive in God.

He is our all in all. His loving kindness empowers our rest.

His delight in Jesus in us allows us to have the best fellowship possible in this life of God in us.

Not a visitational relationship, a habitational one, built on the Oneness and unity of God in us. The intimacy that arises out of 3+me.

In intimate fellowship we are vulnerable to God's majesty and inaccessible to the world, the flesh and the devil.

In Revelation 2, we see that the church in Ephesus was doing really well in the external effect of their ministry.

But it came at the expense of their First Love relationship, which was a source of grief to the Lord.

But above all else, you are first a worshipper. And a true worshipper

knows that intimacy is non-negotiable.

Our prime ministry is to the Lord. When He is our first love our capacity to move in power is hugely increased.

First Love ensures that God has the pre-eminence in our lives.

All other acts of service flow out of intimacy and delight in the Lord.

Being the Beloved of God creates a life of intimacy that produces power to work with Him in the cause of the Kingdom.

From our place of intimacy with God overflows genuine, lasting love and service to other people.

But it is never the other way around.

Are you expecting ministries... organizations... governments... to do things that you don't ask the Lord to do?

Are you engaging more with human beings than the Holy Spirit?

Are you leaning more on worldly wisdom than the Spirit of Wisdom?

We need the presence of God.

He is the Answer to every question we have,
He is the solution to every problem we face.

Lack of intimacy is why we are often weary and heavy laden.
Matthew 11:28-30

If we set aside our adoration of God, if we stop being overwhelmed by who He is, we only position ourselves to be overcome by anything the enemy throws at us.

Lack of intimacy keeps us stuck in a place where we have no power in our lives, and instead of engaging, we just want everything to be given to us.

We think rescue is breakthrough but Jesus didn't die to just rescue us over and over again, He died to give us a life of His lasting victory.

This is real breakthrough.

Part of this process is counting everything as joy. God is the most joyful person ever.

We need to know the joy of the Lord. If we did know it, we would never be weak again because it is an ongoing supply and source of strength and power.

The joy of the Lord is your strength (Nehemiah 8:10).

Key #4 - Rejoice always.

James 1:2-4 "Count it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

There have been times in my own life when I have read these scriptures and not let it have any effect on me.

I have defaulted to complaining, offense, bitterness, worry, anxiety, and panic. Because I thought those were normal responses and joy was not a normal response.

But Joy is the most normal thing in the Kingdom.

If you want to be a person of consequence in the Kingdom, you need to replace every negative with something amazing. Jesus died to give you that right.

He died to empower you to live like Him.

Rejoicing is expressed in every part of your being -- it is spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical.

Give thanks until you become thanks.

Joy is in your Kingdom DNA.

Don't let your natural personality dictate your worship...your rejoicing. (i.e. "Oh, I'm an introvert" or "I'm just a very practical person." or "I'm not an overly joyful person.")

Worship is designed to take you out of this natural world and into your Kingdom reality.

Do you ever come to God guarded? Like, "I love you Lord, but I'm not a naturally joyful person...this is not how you made me."

The Lord says "In worship, I'm making you like Me." In worship, you are engaging with who He is -- His thoughts, His perspective, His fruit (love, joy, peace, etc...)...His essential self.

I am an introvert practicing this very thing in my life. Trust me..the door is shut, on one but God can see me but I'm dancing. I'm shouting for joy. I am making a joyful noise in the car by myself.

In every circumstance make your starting point joy and expectation.

Everytime Jesus speaks to you it is to put a smile on your face!

John 15:11 "These words I have spoken to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

Because every situation always holds an upgrade in our experience of God. Seeing our circumstances from His perspective. Thinking the way He thinks....connecting with God in a new way

If joyful expectation is not your starting point, then you'll get tossed about by your circumstances.

You'll be double-minded.

The mind of Christ and your old man way of thinking don't mix.

If the Holy Spirit is talking to you about possibilities and you can only see your problems, you'll be in two minds.

That creates confusion.

God is not the author of confusion.

We are. When we don't align with Him, it creates a disconnect from our Kingdom reality.

Worship aligns us with God. It ushers us into the Secret Place of true intimacy with Him.

The Secret Place is not a place of escape from your problems, it's a place where you engage with the empowering presence of God and discover earth-shaking, life-changing possibilities.

There is only one way to think about any situation. That's the way Jesus is thinking about it.

Where you see problems, He sees possibilities.

Where you perceive failure, Jesus sees you practicing.

Where you see lack, He sees what's missing from your experience of Him... and has every intention to provide.

When God looks at your circumstances He already knows who He wants to be for you so the first thing He will do is make available to you an aspect of His nature.

Worship makes us aware of what He is making available to us.

What you focus on, you give power to.

For every negative, God has an opposite.

Opposite of fear? Perfect love

Opposite of frustration? Patience

When you focus on what God has for you, you displace the negatives.

1 Cor. 15:57 says, "He always gives us the victory in Christ."

There is a breakthrough... a victory assigned to you today.

Many of us deeply desire to live a victorious life.

We want to be the answer to Jesus's prayer "...on earth as it is in heaven."

God wants this too. He wanted it before we did.

God wants worshippers because He knows what a blessing real worship is in your life.

Worship can take you into a place that no teaching or mentoring can do. Become a worshipper and experience world-changing victory from the inside out.