

**THE
SECRET
PLACE OF
DEVOTION**

30 DAY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

**NICK
&
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The Secret Place of Devotion

30 Day Devotional Guide

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The Secret Place of Devotion

Dedication

This book is dedicated to the ones who have passed on from this earth. Their prayers, words of encouragement and memories live on.

Virginia Ericson is one of those saints. Her love for Yeshua was always evident in everything she did. We are eternally grateful for her life, legacy, memories, and spiritual inheritance. We pray that as you read this book, you will let the secret place of devotion sink deep into your spirit, soul, and body.

Epic

Virginia Ericson

The past sits on a rocker on the porch like an old woman convinced she knows everything, the future is playing around the corner like a child awaiting with some great excitement, the present sits in the house barking like a dog with its feet on the windowsill, what do any of them know, except to be what they are.

The Secret Place of Devotion

INTRODUCTION

What is devotion? Devotion can be defined in many ways. One description could be God's loyalty, love or even enthusiasm toward us and our loyalty, love, and enthusiasm toward God. It can also be a time set apart for spending time with God in prayer, scripture reading, and worship. While all of these are true, many believers still find it challenging to begin their day in private devotion. Many things can stand in the way of our time of devotion, whether it is school, schedules, work, family, or many other of life's distractions. In this book, we are going to give a blueprint for private/personal devotion or what we call the "secret place of devotion." All this begins with seeing God's devotion toward us and from that we will begin to see our devotion toward God. The secret place of devotion is where we build our life in God the Father.

"That we should feed and nourish our souls the high notions of God, which yield us great joy in being devoted to Him."¹ - Brother Lawrence, The Practice of the Presence of God

Brother Lawrence, who lived during the 16th century, and served in a Carmelite Monastery in

France. He served in the kitchen and washed dishes. Despite his position in the Monastery being lowly, he served with the highest of character. It was in these simple tasks, like washing dishes, that gave him great peace. The wisdom that he shares in this simple sentence eloquently describes devotion. This feeding and nourishing ourselves in God brings forth joy and from that joy comes the discovery of how deep this area of our lives can become. Here, in *The Secret Place of Devotion*, we are seeking to enrich and expand our lives with God.

There is not necessarily a right or wrong way to go about cultivating a secret place of devotion. However, there are ways to make it more effective. For instance, starting your morning by spending time with our Heavenly Father is a great way to begin your day. However, you may not be a morning person and would find that you are more focused during the evening. Discovering what works best is part of the beauty of your own walk with the Lord. Jesus had a tendency to spend time alone with the Father after midnight as referenced in Luke 6:12.

Enjoy these moments of discovering that the Father is always ready to commune with you, anytime and anywhere.

¹..Laurent, R., & Beaufort, J. (1980). *Brother Lawrence: The practice of the presence of God the best rule of a holy life : being conversations and letters of Nicholas Herman of Lorraine* (Brother Lawrence). New York: F.H. Revell.

SECTION I

THE BLUEPRINT

Most young men and women who have been around the church have experienced the highs and lows of attending a youth retreat or conference. You have an amazing time of worship and prayer. You listen to great teaching, (OK, sometimes boring if we are being honest!) You leave fired up and full of what you came for. Or maybe not. Others may not have the same experience, or they don't have a grid to understand it. That isn't to say that one is better or more important than the other. No matter the background you come from or the encounters with God you may or may not have experienced in a group setting, there is no substitute for private devotion. It is one of the most important aspects of everyone's Christian walk.

Personal and private devotion is different from a Bible study. This time of devotion is set apart from Bible study. That is why we typically start our day with devotion. Bible study is especially important, but in this guide, we are going to focus on the secret place of devotion.

While there are many different Bible translations, some are great for devotional reading like the *Passion Translation (TPT)*. Other like the *New American Standard Bible (NASB)*, are great for word studies and more in-depth Bible study, as well as simply reading. In this book we will use both *The Passion Translation* and *New American Standard Bible*. Most scriptures in this book are from the NASB unless otherwise noted. You are free to use which translation you prefer.

No matter where you are in your journey with God, setting a foundational stone of personal and private devotion is vitally important. In this section, we will focus on the “why” of personal/private devotion. Establishing our “why” in anything we do helps us understand and develop a greater sense of purpose and focus.

But when you pray go into your inner room and when you have shut the door, pray to your Father who is in secret and your Father who sees you in secret will repay you. (Matthew 6:6)

This is our key verse for this book. In this passage of scripture, Jesus is teaching His disciples the importance of prayer. Jesus is specifically speaking about private prayer. This is not to disregard praying for others in public or even praying in groups, whether at our homes, places of worship, or even work. What Jesus is doing here is warning the disciples about doing things openly that draw attention to something that is meant to be private.

This is not to say that all times of prayer are only to be done in private. Not at all. Personal/private prayer is specifically between you and God the Father. When Jesus makes the statement, "when your door is shut," He is telling them that prayer in private is between you and God. And not only that, God sees it and will repay you.

"Shut the door" really means to set yourself alone before God, although at times you will physically shut your door and other times you may not have a door to shut. But the meaning remains the same- private set apart time between you and God. Matthew 14:23, Luke 5:16, Luke 6:12, Mark 1:35 & Mark 6:46 are a few great examples of Jesus going away to pray. The mountain that He went to didn't have doors for Him to shut, but I think you get the picture. If being alone with God the Father was something Jesus needed to do, how much more important is it for us to do the same.

So, what was Jesus doing when He went to pray on the mountain? We don't have a record of what specifically happened; however, we do have

a prayer in John 17 when Jesus prayed before He was given up to the authorities and crucified. In this chapter, John recorded Jesus' words and in them He is speaking to God as if He is right there with Him.

The context of those prayers are extremely important, but for this we are merely focusing on how Jesus spoke during His prayer time. I want us to use this as an example, not necessarily a guide. Jesus prays for a variety of things but starts it out with the word "Father." His focus is always on God the Father, not on himself. It's also worth noting what Jesus was about to do after this prayer. He was about to be hung on a cross in front of all who were there that day. And even in the midst of this extreme pressure, Jesus makes sure that above all else He starts with recognizing that God is His Father.

This acknowledgement will become more important as we go deeper into the secret place of devotion, seeing the oneness Jesus has with the Father that we also get to participate in. Throughout the rest of that chapter in John, we see Jesus conversing with His heavenly Father, praying for His disciples, sharing with God that the work He was given to do was nearing completion and asking God the Father to be with these disciples.

This is a great example of how to pray. Jesus is simply speaking to His Heavenly Father while giving Him reverence and honor.

For the moment, let's go back to Matthew 6:6 and the shut door. When we shut the door, we are

making way for more open and honest prayers. We don't have to worry that someone is listening or maybe even sharing something we have said because it's between us and God. We shouldn't allow such thoughts to keep us from our alone time with God or distract us from what we set out to do. Now there are moments when sharing with others is important, for example in James 5:16 where we are encouraged to confess our sins to one another and pray for one another. This is not one of those times.

During this private and personal time with God the Father, it is important for us to be open and honest. It helps us grow in our communication with Him as well as further develop a culture within ourselves of openness with the Father just as Jesus did.

Here are some keys for our Blueprint in the secret place of devotion.

KEY 1: SCRIPTURE

There will be a one or more scripture verses at the top of each page. Each day you can either read the verses here or look them up in your Bible.

KEY 2: PRAYER GUIDE

The prayer guide will be a question or comment that is meant to encourage dialogue between you and God. It is also important to speak out loud sometimes. Not necessarily every time but speaking out loud and hearing your own words adds a deeper level of understanding.

KEY 3: JOURNALING

The journal entry section is there for you to write down your thoughts, questions, or anything you feel led to. This is the beginning of the Blueprint for devotion. We will add things as we go along and increase our time with God. Sometimes people overcomplicate things, which can distract from the devotional time. Just say or write down anything you are feeling or thinking. And one more thing- write down dates and times so that you can review later and see what time of day ends up being the best time for you. Mine is the morning; let's see when yours is.

"Relying on God has to begin all over again every day as if nothing had yet been done."

– C.S. Lewis

CHAPTER 1

THE BLUEPRINT BEGINS

DAY 1

Psalm 108:12-13 TPT

Give us a Father's help when we face our enemies. For to trust in any man is an empty hope. With God's help we will prevail with might and power. And with God's help we'll trample down our every foe!

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask God to help with anything you are dealing with, whether in your thoughts or actions.

Thank God for always being there.

JOURNAL ENTRY

DAY 2

Psalm 109:30-31 TPT

But I will give thanks to you over and over and everyone will hear my lavish praises. For you stand right next to the broken ones as their saving hero to rescue them from all their accusers!

PRAYER GUIDE

Speak words of praise. It is okay to repeat them over and over. Saying the words out loud matters even if it's just you.

Ask God to show you what He has rescued you from and then thank Him for what he has done.

JOURNAL ENTRY

DAY 3

Psalm 65:4

*Blessed is the one You choose and allow to approach You; He will dwell in Your courtyards!
We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your Holy Temple.*

PRAYER GUIDE

Name some things God has done for you and thank Him for them.

Use phrases like, "I praise Your name God." You can also call Him Yahweh, Jehovah, or Jesus. Saying His name makes it more personal and honors Him.

JOURNAL ENTRY

DAY 4

Isaiah 54:17

“No weapon that is formed against you will succeed; And you will condemn every tongue that accuses you in judgement. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their vindication is from Me,” declares the Lord.

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask God to remind you of this verse when you feel like something strong is coming against you, whether in your thoughts or words from someone else.

Write this verse a few times so you can remember it when the time comes.

JOURNAL ENTRY

DAY 5

John 14:16-17

And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Helper, so that He may be with you forever; the Helper is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him; but you know Him because He remains with you and will be in you.

PRAYER GUIDE

Thank God that He sent another Helper to be with you.

The Father gladly gives you his Holy Spirit. Do not hesitate to ask Him for it.

JOURNAL ENTRY

DAY 6

1 Samuel 15:22

Samuel said, "Does the Lord have as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to pay attention is better than the fat of rams."

PRAYER GUIDE

Pray that God, through the Holy Spirit, will help you obey His word.

Ask the Lord to show you anything that you may have done in disobedience to His word and take the time to repent and ask for forgiveness.

JOURNAL ENTRY

DAY 7

Matthew 6:6

But as for you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask God to show you how to pray in secret.

Use this time to reflect on the inner room and write down your thoughts.

JOURNAL ENTRY

FIRST WEEK REFLECTIONS

You made it through the first week! How did it go? Spend time reflecting on each day of the past week.

- What were some successes you had?
- What were some challenges you had?
- Did you find yourself getting bored?
- Was this the right amount of content for you?

Answer these questions honestly; it will help as we go forward. When you are learning something new, you need to start small and then grow from there.

As we continue to add building blocks to our foundations in the secret place of devotion, some of them will become memory stones. Memory stones are built on what we've done in the past. Whether work, school, or in this case personal devotion, we will look back at those memories and see where we've come from. That will be an encouragement as we go forward.

CHAPTER 2

THE BLUEPRINT GROWS

I hope during the first week that you were able to write down times of day that worked best for you. If not, I strongly encourage you to begin doing that today, not only to gather data for later review, but also to look back and see what you've learned like the memory stones I mentioned. I want you to begin to use the time that worked best for you every day for the next 7 days. Even when it gets challenging, stick to it. You are building something, and it won't be easy at first. Remember that distractions can come from all aspects of our life.

We will continue to feature scripture each day along with the prayer guide and journal entry, only this week we will add two more elements to our

Blueprint. One will be making a list of 2 or 3 people to pray for and the second is spending 2-5 minutes just being quiet. Praying for others is a great way to build your prayer time. We should be praying for others such as our friends, parents, leaders, teachers, siblings, co-workers, and list goes on. It can even be the stranger you saw at the store. Write the list down throughout your day so you can remember them when the time comes. Remembering as you go forward will help you build on what you have done in the past. If the Lord shows you something to add during this time, write it down. It could be spending longer time in prayer, reading more scripture, or even sitting quietly for a little longer. Whatever it may be, just go with it. Create a Blueprint for yourself.

DAY 8

Romans 8:7-10 TPT

In fact, the mind-set focused on the flesh fights God's plan and refuses to submit to His direction, because it cannot! For no matter how hard they try, God finds no pleasure with those who are controlled by the flesh. But when the Spirit of Christ empowers your life, you are not dominated by the flesh but by the Spirit. And if you are not joined to the Spirit of the Anointed One, you are not of Him. Now Christ lives His life in you! And even though your body may be dead because of the effects of sin, His life-giving Spirit imparts life to you because you are fully accepted by God.

PRAYER GUIDE

Did you know you are fully accepted by God?
Just a reminder - you are!!

Pray for revelation and understanding as to whether you are in the flesh or the spirit.

PRAYER LIST

JOURNAL ENTRY

SILENT TIME

(Be silent for 2-5 mins. Set a timer if needed.)

DAY 9

Colossians 3:1-2 TPT

Christ's resurrection is your resurrection too. This is why we are to yearn for all that is above, for that's where Christ sits enthroned at the place of all power, honor and authority! Yes, feast on all the treasures of the heavenly realm and fill your thoughts with heavenly realities, and not with the distractions of the natural realm.

PRAYER GUIDE

Take time to reflect on this scripture and ask God to reveal more.

PRAYER LIST

JOURNAL ENTRY

SILENT TIME

DAY 10

Luke 11:2-4 TPT

Jesus taught them this prayer: "Our heavenly Father, may the glory of Your name be the center on which our life turns. May Your Holy Spirit come upon us and cleanse us. Manifest your kingdom on earth. And give us our needed bread for the coming day. Forgive our sins as we ourselves release forgiveness to those who have wronged us. And rescue us every time we face tribulations."

PRAYER GUIDE

Use the scripture above as a prayer.

As you make the prayer list, reflect on someone you have not forgiven, write their name down, and ask God to help you forgive them.

PRAYER LIST

JOURNAL ENTRY

SILENT TIME

DAY 11

Psalm 119: 1-2

Blessed are those whose way is blameless, Who walk in the Law of the Lord. Blessed are those who comply with His testimonies, who seek Him with all their heart.

PRAYER GUIDE

Thank God that Jesus gave us the way to walk blameless before the Lord.

Spend time reflecting on being blameless, even write some questions you may have. Ask God in prayer or even ask a leader in your life what this means.

Ask God to show you His testimonies and some of your own. Write them in the journal entry section.

PRAYER LIST

JOURNAL ENTRY

SILENT TIME

DAY 12

Psalm 24: 1-6

The earth is the Lord's and all it contains. The world, and those who dwell in it. For He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. Who may ascend onto the hill of the Lord? And who may stand in His holy place? One who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to deceit, and has not sworn deceitfully. He will receive a blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is a generation of those who seek Him, who will seek Your face—even Jacob.

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask God, "How do I seek Your face?"

Ask God what it means to have a clean hands and a pure heart.

PRAYER LIST

JOURNAL ENTRY

SILENT TIME

DAY 13

Psalm 18: 1-2

"I love You Lord, my strength." The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my savior, My God, my Rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the Horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

PRAYER GUIDE

Use this for silent time. Reflect on this scripture quietly.

PRAYER LIST

JOURNAL ENTRY

SILENT TIME

DAY 14

Ephesians 4:1-4 TPT

As a prisoner of the Lord, I plead with you to walk holy, in a way that is suitable to your high rank, given to you in your divine calling.

With tender humility and quiet patience, always demonstrate gentleness and generous love toward one another, especially toward those who may try your patience. Be faithful to guard the sweet harmony of the Holy Spirit among you in the bonds of peace, being one body and one spirit, as you were all called into the same glorious hope of divine destiny.

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask God to reveal how to “guard the sweet harmony with Holy Spirit.”

If anything else comes to mind, pray that also.

PRAYER LIST

JOURNAL ENTRY

SILENT TIME

SECOND WEEK REFLECTIONS

We are now two weeks in. Reflect briefly on the past 14 days and ask yourself a few questions:

- Were you able to be consistent?
- How much time did you spend each day?
- Have you added your own element to the Blueprint?

SECTION II

DEVOTED LIFE

The New Testament often refers to believers in Christ as sheep.

Jesus saw the huge crowd as He stepped from the boat and He had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a Shepherd (Mark 6:34).

I am the good Shepherd: I know my sheep and they know me (John 10:14).

My sheep hear My voice and I know them, and they follow me (John 10:27).

These are just a few of many examples. Let's reflect on Jesus as the Shepherd and us as the sheep who follow Him. What does a shepherd do for his sheep? He leads the sheep to pastures to feed. The shepherd doesn't feed them but leads them to a pasture that is green and good for eating.

The shepherd will also protect the sheep from any predators. Although this may put the shepherd in harm's way, He will protect the sheep while they eat.

This is the example we need to follow when it comes to the Secret Place of Devotion. We understand that Jesus is our Shepherd. He is leading us to feed all the while protecting us. He is leading us to see that we can feed ourselves and not always have to rely on others to do it for us. This can come across as rather harsh, but the truth is, though others may have our best interest in mind and do their best to care for us, they have their own lives to lead and their own secret place to feed from. When we take ownership over our secret place of devotion, it becomes ours and no one else's.

In this next section, we will take more steps to assist you in finding your Blueprint, taking more ownership over your devotion time, and learning what it means to pray the scripture. Each of these added elements will help you as your blueprint develops.

"Don't pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it."

– Corrie Ten Boom

CHAPTER 3

SAUL VS DAVID

To say these two men are compared often is an understatement. Saul and David are forever etched in the Bible and the minds of believers in Christ as well as the Hebrew people. Their stories are filled with countless examples for us to glean from. In order to do that, we need to see each man's devotion toward God which will be revealed as we read. Then we can see how that translates for us now.

Saul

Imagine you are out looking for a farm animal at the instruction of your father. While you are out, you meet the prophet Samuel who anoints you to become king over Israel. Saul's obedience to his

father led him to Samuel which led him to become king. Saul had every opportunity to lead Israel successfully, but his downfall is revealed by discovering who he was devoted to.

We read about Saul beginning in 1 Samuel chapter 9 where he was sent to look for his father's donkey. After searching long enough to run out of food, Saul and his father's servant decided to go to Samuel, the prophet, for help. After finding Samuel, Saul's life was forever changed. Samuel anointed him with oil and as the Spirit of Lord came upon him, he prophesied with the other prophets (1 Sam 10:6). Later, Samuel confirmed Saul's selection before the people with a burnt offering, thus sealing the deal and making Saul king over Israel. It is extremely important to point out that Saul is appointed king because the people of Israel demanded a king as recorded in 1 Samuel 8. Saul is *appointed* to be king but as we'll read later, David was *anointed* to be king.

In 1 Samuel 13:13-14, we learn that Saul did not wait for Samuel to make the sacrifice but took it upon himself to do what only Samuel was meant to do. Because of his impatience, the kingship was taken from Saul and eventually given to the one who was a man after God's own heart, David. Saul's downfall continues in 1 Samuel 15 as we read that he disobeyed the Lord and kept the best sheep and oxen alive as spoil for his himself and his men. This was in direct disobedience to God as verse

21 described the livestock as “the choicest of the things devoted to destruction.”

When faced with his disobedience, Saul made excuses. He did not take responsibility for his actions and believed his actions were greater than Yahweh’s directions. This situation revealed that Saul’s devotion was found in himself and not Yahweh (God).

David

As Saul’s story collapses, David’s story begins. In 1 Samuel 13:14, the Lord sought for Himself a man after His own heart. David, the youngest of his father’s boys, was doing what his father instructed just like Saul, only David was shepherding his father’s sheep. He was left outside while the prophet Samuel was in the house looking at his brothers to determine who the Lord would anoint to be king, only to find out that it was indeed himself.

David’s journey to become king was long and filled with peril and uncertainty. He would not become king over all of Israel for quite some time. Throughout the rest of 1 Samuel into 2 Samuel, we read that David was constantly running and fleeing Saul’s persecution. All the while he lived in the posture of devotion towards Yahweh. He never took revenge against Saul when he had the chance.

After David finally became king, he made a great mistake. In 2 Samuel 11, we read the story of David and his treatment of Bathsheba and her husband Uriah. David committed adultery with Bathsheba

and had her husband Uriah sent to the frontline of battle to increase his chances of being killed. David was successful in his scheme only to be rebuked by the prophet Nathan. In repentance, David took responsibility for his actions, revealing that no matter how great our mistakes, if our heart is after God, we will not let them overtake us. Unlike Saul, David acknowledged that the ways of Lord were higher than his ways and that God knew what was best.

So then how do we compare these two men according to the secret place of devotion? From what we have read in scripture, I don't believe that Saul had a secret place. David, on the other hand, is always found in the place of devotion. Whether worshiping while tending the sheep, playing the harp for Saul when he was troubled or running from Saul and being tempted to take revenge on him, David's posture was always devotion to Yahweh. I believe Yahweh was devoted to David too because in 2 Samuel 7:8-17, Yahweh makes a covenant with him.

We can now clearly see that these two men had vastly different lives of devotion. It is important not to see ourselves as either David or Saul, but to see if our reactions or motivations look more like Saul's or David's.

Take time throughout your day and reflect on this as you interact with God and others.

CHAPTER 4

THE BLUEPRINT CONTINUES

As the blueprint continues, we are going to make a few adjustments. Each day we will still include scripture, journal entry and silent time but instead of a separate prayer guide and prayer list, I want you to write your own prayer points. After reading the scripture each day, pray and ask God what prayer points you should write down.

It is important to remember to take your time. Do not rush through and force this to happen. Read and even reread the verse of the day. Sit quietly and allow the Holy Spirit to lead you. During this time, you can also pray the scripture. What do I mean by that? Remember scripture is the word of God, so you can use these words as a prayer.

For example: In Day 15, you will read Romans 12:1-2. Here Paul shares some key points that are great for praying scripture. As you read the verses and reread them, make them personal. You can say, "God, I surrender to be a living sacrifice and I desire to live in holiness." Praying scripture is a great part of the Secret Place of Devotion. Try it and see...

DAY 15

Romans 12:1-2 TPT

Beloved friends, what should be our proper response to God's marvelous mercies? I encourage you to surrender yourselves to God to be His sacred, living sacrifices. And live in holiness, experiencing all that delights His heart. For this becomes your genuine expression of worship. Stop imitating the ideals and opinions of the culture around you, but be inwardly transformed by the Holy Spirit through a total reformation of how you think. This will empower you to discern God's will as you live a beautiful life, satisfying and perfect in his eyes.

PRAYER POINTS

JOURNAL ENTRY

SILENT TIME

DAY 16

Psalm 37:4-6

Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it. He will bring out your righteousness as the light, And your judgement as the noonday.

PRAYER POINTS

JOURNAL ENTRY

SILENT TIME

DAY 17

Matt 6:30-34

But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! Do not worry then, saying, "What are we to eat?" or "What are we to drink?" or "What are we to wear for clothing?" For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.

PRAYER POINTS

JOURNAL ENTRY

SILENT TIME

DAY 18

John 14:23

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our dwelling with him."

PRAYER POINTS

JOURNAL ENTRY

SILENT TIME

DAY 19

John 15:7-11

If you remain in Me, and My words remain you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. Just as the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; remain in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love. These things I have spoken to you, so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

PRAYER POINTS

JOURNAL ENTRY

SILENT TIME

DAY 20

Romans 8:26-28

Now in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know what to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

PRAYER POINTS

JOURNAL ENTRY

SILENT TIME

DAY 21

Luke 1: 45-50

And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by Lord. And Mary said: "My soul exalts the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has had regard for the humble state of His bond servant; for behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed. For the Mighty One has done great things for me; and holy is His name. And His MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM."

PRAYER POINTS

JOURNAL ENTRY

SILENT TIME

DAY 22

Proverbs 3:6-10

In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body, and refreshment to your bones. Honor the LORD from your wealth, and from the first of all your produce; Then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.

PRAYER POINTS

JOURNAL ENTRY

SILENT TIME

DAY 23

Proverbs 3:11-15

*My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD
or loathe His reproof, For whom the LORD loves
He disciplines, just as a father disciplines the son
in whom he delights. Blessed is the person who
finds wisdom, and one who obtains understand-
ing. For her profit is better than the profit of silver,
And her produce better than gold.
She is more precious than jewels, And nothing
you desire compares with her.*

PRAYER POINTS

JOURNAL ENTRY

SILENT TIME

DAY 24

Isaiah 61:1-3

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the humble; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim release to captives, and freedom to prisoners; To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the cloak of praise instead of a disheartened spirit. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of Lord, that He may be glorified.

PRAYER POINTS

JOURNAL ENTRY

SILENT TIME

DAY 25

Matthew 11: 27-30

All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son, except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father, except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son determines to reveal Him. Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is comfortable, and My burden is light.

PRAYER POINTS

JOURNAL ENTRY

SILENT TIME

DAY 26

Hebrews 11:6

*And without faith it is impossible to please Him,
for the one who comes to God must believe that
He exists, and that He is proved to be the One
who rewards those who seek Him.*

PRAYER POINTS

JOURNAL ENTRY

SILENT TIME

DAY 27

Luke 10:25-27

And behold, a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" And he answered and said, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

PRAYER POINTS

JOURNAL ENTRY

SILENT TIME

DAY 28

Ephesians 3:17-19

So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to the fulness of God.

PRAYER POINTS

JOURNAL ENTRY

SILENT TIME

DAY 29

Psalm 1:1-2

Blessed is the person who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the Law of the Lord, and on His Law he meditates day and night.

PRAYER POINTS

JOURNAL ENTRY

SILENT TIME

DAY 30

Luke 10:30-37

On this last day, I want you to read this in your own Bible. It is best not to use your phone or electronic device. As you read this scripture, I want you to make notes of things that stand out. You can make notes in your Bible or on the following Notes page.

PRAYER POINTS

JOURNAL ENTRY

SILENT TIME

NOTES

CHAPTER 5

ONENESS

THOUGHTS FROM EMILY

*And the glory which You have given Me I also
have given to them; that they may be one, just as
We are one; I in them and You in Me,
that they may be perfected in unity, so that the
world may know that You sent Me,
and You loved them, even as You love Me.*

John 17: 22, 23

As you continue to meet with the Father in the secret place of devotion, meditate upon your oneness with Christ and His oneness with the Father. As Christ prepared for death, His prayer was that you would be perfected in unity. He desired for you to know that the Father sent Him because of His great love for you. The Father's love for you is the same love with which He loves His only Son, Jesus Christ.

In oneness with Him, you will come to realize what it means to truly be seen and heard by the Creator.

As previously mentioned, our Father loves to reward openly that which is hidden in secret. Throughout my journey with Jesus, there have been countless times of answered prayers and even unspoken desires that have been openly given by the Father.

One such occasion was several years ago; the opioid crisis had impacted our community and two young men that were once very close to me had passed away from their struggle with addiction. My heart was broken, and I turned to the Lord for understanding and direction.

During worship on a Sunday morning, I simply asked Him, "Lord, what is at the root of this problem?" He answered, "Hopelessness." As I heard this word, I quickly understood that an entire generation without hope had turned to drugs for relief. The consequences would impact the next generation who would lose their parents to this disease, leaving them as hopeless orphans and the cycle would continue. I wept and mourned. I asked God to show me how to help.

Days went by and one day I came across an article about babies born addicted to opiates and what hospitals were doing to care for them. Volunteers would hold babies to soothe them and provide physical touch to promote healing and comfort as they detox and recover. I reached out to a friend who worked in our local hospital in the mother/baby unit to see if we had a program like this. She advised me that it did not. A few more months

went by and out of the blue, I got a call from my friend who excitedly told me they were just about to launch a baby cuddling program and gave me information to get me started. I could hardly contain myself as I became one of the first baby cuddlers in our community.

I will never forget the joy and purpose I experienced when I held those babies. I felt as though the Lord did it all just for me. He saw my heartache and my willingness to follow His lead. It had been a small request. I didn't have to pioneer a new program. Instead, He orchestrated it all as if He planned it just for me. He heard me and saw me, and I heard Him and followed Him.

We both delighted in this. It was a shared joy, a shared purpose, and a shared walk-in oneness with Him.

EPILOGUE

"The time you spend alone with God will transform your character and increase your devotion. Then your integrity and godly behavior in an unbelieving world will make others long to know the Lord."

- Charles Stanley

What secrets will the Father reveal to you as you meet Him in the secret place of devotion? And what seeds that you sow in secret devotion will be rewarded openly as the fruit of your walk with Him?

Our prayer is that as you begin to develop the blueprint for your secret place of devotion, you would know the depths of His love for you and yours for Him. We pray that you would know Him more as you begin your own journey of devotion. Amen.

