

The background features a dark field filled with numerous out-of-focus red and white circular lights, creating a bokeh effect. A horizontal trail of fine red particles or dust stretches across the lower half of the image, adding a sense of movement and depth.

THE SECRET PLACE

*Wanda Walborn*

Read Matthew 6:1-21

VS 1 Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

Vs 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Vs 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Vs 17-18 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

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A secret life with God is not in isolation. Withdraw,  
disconnect, disengage, dishonest.

A secret life with God is still involved with community.

**God is calling us back to: Am I enough for you?**

Story: don't buy clothes for one year

Every one of us must learn to go to God  
*by ourselves*  
*for ourselves*

The stillness is where our inner noise comes to the surface and slaps us in the face.

Waiting reveals what's really there.

We want our own way.

He wants us to want Him more than we want an answer.

Story of rebellion

Cultivating a place of intimacy  
through listening

What kind of leader is able to call people to wait on God in the face of real threat, when all of their survival instincts are raging? What inner strength does a leader need to be able to access in order to stay calm, to quiet the primal instincts of others, and to create space for turning to God in the midst of such fierce human reactivity?

Only a leader who has waited for God in the darkest moments of his own deep need. Only a leader who has stood still and waited for God's deliverance in the places where she feared for her very life. Only the leader with inner spiritual authority that comes from his own waiting can ask others to do the same.

Barton, Ruth Haley (2012-01-17). *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership: Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry* (The Transforming Center Set) (p. 97). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

The secret place is where

love is received

security is developed

revelation is given

authority grows

anointing is imparted

breakthrough is revealed

surrender occurs

obedience is promised

I do not mean to give the impression that hearing God's voice is my daily experience in the secret place. Far from it! Most days, I come away with unfulfilled longings, unrequited initiatives, unanswered prayers, unrealized aspirations, deferred hopes and incomplete understandings. But then along comes one of those days—you know what I mean—when heaven leans over and God speaks a word directly to the heart. He breathes upon a portion of Scripture and personalizes its meaning precisely to my felt needs. Oh what glory! That moment is worth all of the knowing and seeking of the preceding days. I will endure months of silence if He will but speak one creative word from His mouth to my spirit. I can't tell God what to speak, or when to speak it. But I can position myself in the secret place so that, when He chooses to speak, I am found listening.

Bob Sorge, *Secrets of the Secret Place: Keys to Ignite Your Personal Time with God* (Lee's Summit: Oasis House, 2005), 11-12.

What is blocking you?

Fear

Anxiety

Doing it wrong

Not getting anything

Seems irresponsible to do nothing

Reframe your goal