# Jason Smith – The Praying Church Part 4

# "The Power of the Secret Place"

## Matthew 6:6

**6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.**

## I. Introduction: The Hidden Power of Private Prayer

Many people treat prayer as a public performance, something to show others how spiritual they are.

But in Matthew 6:6, Jesus shifts the focus from public display to **private devotion**.

Some think prayer should always be private; however, prayer is a biblical practice that is relevant to both the public and private aspects of life.

He reminds us that prayer is not about impressing people — it's about **intimacy with God**.

Jesus Himself often withdrew to solitary places to pray (Luke 5:16). If the Son of God needed the quiet place, how much more do we?

Private prayer builds intimacy with God, purifies our motives, increases spiritual power, brings peace and clarity, and leads to public transformation.

## II. The Call to the Secret Place

**"When you pray, go into your room, close the door…"**

- We must not always take this passage literally, though it can mean that, but:
- The "room" or "closet" isn't just a physical space — it's a **spiritual posture**.
  It's where distractions fade, and your soul meets its Maker.
- **"Close the door" means shutting out everything that competes for your heart — noise, opinions, and pride.**
- In the secret place, **you bring your heart, not your performance.**

*Psalm 91:1* — **"He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."**

## III. The Focus of Prayer: The Father Who Sees in Secret

**"Pray to your Father, who is unseen…"**

- The focus of prayer is **not the place**, but **the Person** — your Father.
- God doesn't need to be impressed; He already knows your needs before you ask (Matthew 6:8).
- The unseen God is more real than the visible world around you. When you enter the secret place, you step into His presence — unseen but powerful.

**Key Insight:**
**When you pray in secret, you are acknowledging that your relationship with God is personal, not performative**.

## IV. The Reward of the Secret Place

**"Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."**

- God's rewards are not always public recognition — they are often **peace, power, and purpose.**
- The reward may be answered prayer, but more often it's **transformed character**.
- When you consistently seek God in secret, His presence begins to overflow into your public life.

Daniel prayed three times a day in private (Daniel 6:10), and his public courage came from private communion.

**When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.**

## V. Practical Steps to Building a Secret Prayer Life

1. **Set a time and place** – Make an appointment with God. Treat it as sacred.
2. **Silence distractions** – Turn off notifications, music, and mental noise.
3. **Speak honestly** – God desires authenticity over eloquence.
4. **Listen** – Prayer is not only talking; it's also hearing.
5. **Be consistent** – The power of prayer grows in the soil of consistency.

## VI. Conclusion: The Secret Place Changes Everything

When you learn to meet God in the secret place:

- You find peace when the world gives chaos.
- You find identity when the world gives confusion.
- You find strength when the world gives weariness.

**"In the secret place, you don't just pray — you are transformed."**

So, step away from the noise.
Close the door.
Talk to your Father.
He’s waiting in the quiet — and He rewards those who meet Him there.