

Secret Life (Part 1)

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

BEING A WHOLE PERSON

- What is integrity?
 - From the word "integer" meaning a whole number.
 - Integrity describes a whole person, that is a person that reflects healthy attitudes and relationships.
- How does one become a whole person (a person of integrity)?
 - A whole person is the outward expression of inward life.
 - The roots of wholeness grow from your secret place.
- Secret places can be places of good soil or bad soil.
 - Our secret places can be compared to flower pots containing the four soils.
 - Sometimes weeds blow in from our corrupted pots.
 - Rocky or thorny soil will choke the growth wholeness.
 - The good soil will produce good fruit if we cultivate them (cultivated life).
 - Good soil will provide nourishment for a whole person.

INTRODUCTION TO OUR SECRET PLACES

- One who lives in the secret place of the Most High will lodge in the shadow of Shaddai. (Psa 91:1).
- There's a difference between secrets and a secret place.
 - A secret often speaks of information. Information that needn't or shouldn't be shared publicly.
 - Innocent secrets like gifts (we concealed a trip to Disneyland).
 - Shared information that we protect perhaps a prayer focus that needn't be common knowledge, particularly if it's intercessory in nature.
 - Secret places
 - Can apply to a literal nook or cranny as in a house.
 - Illus: My Heart Christ's Home (Munger).
 - Takes the image and applies it to our inner life; places in our heart that we keep hidden.
 - Today, we're referring to our inner life. They're not all bad!
 - There are some secret places that we guard and protect. Such as prayer and meditation.
 - There are some secret places that are hidden because of shame and guilt.
 - Shame and guilt are sentries; they preserve a condition of darkness.

STRATEGIES OF THE ENEMY

- The tempters are different from the Holy Angels because for them, the clock is ticking.
 - Remember when demons responded to Jesus asking if he was there to torment them before the time?
 - There is a limit on their freedom to tempt.
 - The demonic wants to exchange waterless, desert places for a spring from which to drink. Those secret places are those springs.
- The enemy invades our secret life, not by reading our thoughts.
 - The tempters have been around for a very long time.
 - Long enough to make careful observation of human nature.
- Careful observations by the demonic gives them the sensitivity to notice our weaknesses.
 - When we are preoccupied internally with anger, greed, fear, sadness, despair, lust...
 - Those observations make those secret places easy to exploit.

SPIRIT ACCESS TO SECRET PLACES

- As believers we all know that we are never truly alone. We abide in Christ; He in us.
 - If Christ abides in US, then our secret places are available to him.
 - God abides in the one who acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, and he abides in God. 1 Jn 4:15
 - This is comforting in our times of fear and sadness.
- The presence of the Lord in our inner life, helps us identify our unwholesome places.
 - This can (preferably) lead us to conviction and repentance.
 - This can also drive us to guilt and shame.

AVOIDING CORRUPTION

- Guilt and shame often leads to hiding strategies.
 - Adam and Eve dove into the underbrush as though they could hide from their omniscient God.
 - Guilt and shame leads us to regard ourselves as unworthy servants, which shackles and otherwise omnipotent God.
 - When we have been exploited--our secret life used against us.
- The opposite of hiding. Presenting ourselves naked before God must be our response.
- Begins with conviction.
 - We feel uncovered when we think of God's presence in and around us.
 - We experience guilt and shame.
- Conviction leads to repentance when it is brought before the Lord.
 - Repentance is a gift of God.
 - That is to come forward before God and be truthful (naked and unashamed).