

## The Art of Childlike Naïve Listening

*"I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3*

*"Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it,'"*  
*Isaiah 30:21*

Journal any words or reflections you sense the Spirit prompting:

# Learning to Live Life and Lead from the Secret Place

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

*"...when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door,  
pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret  
will reward you openly." Matthew 6:6*

To my dear friends,

There is "something" of great magnitude, "something" indescribable and unfathomable in the heart of our Abba Father that He longs to impart into us. His great love is irrational, unconditional and extravagant beyond measure! This impartation can only be received through extended times downshifting to deeper intimacy with Jesus in the secret place of quiet wonder. John 21:9 is a stunning picture of Jesus on the seashore preparing fresh baked bread and fish over a charcoal fire for His friends. In v. 13 *"He served them the bread and the fish"* (NLT) and then sent them to feed His sheep. What a wonderful picture of our Master finding such joy in loving, serving and nurturing us and then sending us to serve His body! My prayer is that you would encounter the Good Shepherd's presence in green pastures, beside still waters and find the restoration of your soul. The great King David humbled himself and modeled this in Psalm 131:2 *"Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with his mother..."* May the Lord Jesus refresh and encourage you as you experience His heart.  
With the Affections of Christ, Pastor Gary

*"You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy;  
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore." Psalm 16:11*

*"David...prepared a place for the ark of God..." 1 Chronicles 15:1*

*"Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him..." Psalm 37:7*

*"O taste and see that the Lord is good." Psalm 34:8*

# Finding the “Thin Places”

*In the ancient Celtic tradition a “thin place” is when the veil between the elements of heaven and the elements of earth becomes so thin that we sense or encounter the very real presence of God.*

Our heavenly Father and Creator God longs to be with us in the secret place! When we come before Him He promises to always give us access to His presence.

*“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” James 4:8*

Take time for personal worship of our Awesome God

*“Exalt the LORD our God, And worship at His holy hill;  
For the LORD our God is holy.” Psalm 99:9*

Ask Jesus to cleanse your heart:

*“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9-10*

- Do I have any unconfessed sin?
- Have I ignored the promptings of the Spirit?
- Have I been relying on human effort, human wisdom, programs, education, etc. more than dependence on God?
- Any areas that I am pleasing people vs. pleasing God?
- Am I spending adequate time seeking God in prayer?

*“Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.”  
Psalm 51:10*

## In Quiet Wonder Meditate and Receive from The Heart of the Shepherd

*Psalm 23*

*The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.*

*He makes me to lie down in green pastures;*

*He leads me beside the still waters.*

*He restores my soul;*

*He leads me in the paths of righteousness  
For His name's sake.*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil;*

*For You are with me;*

*Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;*

*You anoint my head with oil;*

*My cup runs over.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
All the days of my life;*

*And I will dwell in the house of the LORD  
Forever.*