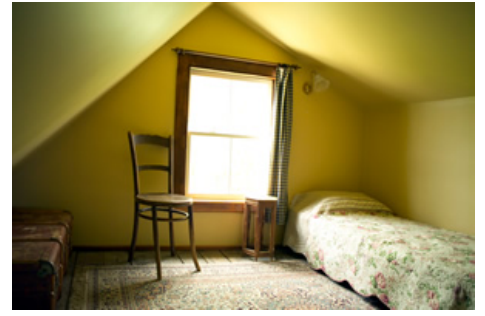


"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Matthew 6:6 KJV



Thoughts are secret until verbalized. God is “a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Emotions and thoughts we feel uncomfortable sharing with others can be poured out “in secret” with our heavenly Father. I can tell Him everything no matter who I’m with or where I am! There is no place God is not and any place can be a “prayer closet.” Not only does God know my thoughts, He knows why I’m thinking them! Satan cannot read your mind, only your body language, but remember he’s an expert. He can fool you into thinking that he can. All he can do is interject thoughts and whispers of doubt. These are his “fiery darts.” We are invited, “Pray without ceasing.” Prayer is the place you can truly let go and cling to Father. A place you need not be ashamed to display your innermost soul, because there is nothing hidden from God. He knows your heart when the crowd cares little for the pain in your soul. You can express unbounded joy and speechless silence as you bask in the glow of celestial warmth! We may come to God with an ache in our soul that cannot be verbally expressed or understood. “The Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” Jesus knows the ache of rejection, the sorrow of loss, and the misery of poverty. He literally knows our pain! “We have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” For 33 years the Sovereign of eternity bound Himself in the stocks and bonds of humanity for “His great love wherewith he loved us. To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.” There is no grief He has not known or joy He with which cannot rejoice. There is no sorrow so deep His loving caress cannot soothe. He is ever present and ready to succor and save all that call on Him “for whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Your “secret place” can be a pillow or a workplace. It matters little where or when your rendezvous happens, just that it does. The old hymn says it best:

I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses,
And the voice I hear falling on my ear the Son of God discloses.
He speaks, and the sound of His voice is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
And the melody that He gave to me within my heart is ringing.
And He walks with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known. ~Charles A. Miles, 1913

If you do not know God’s Word through constant study and meditation, you will not know His Voice for He is the “Spirit of Truth. He will guide you into ALL Truth.” Jesus is the Word and the Truth. He said, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” It is the Holy Spirit of Christ that speaks the Truth in your thoughts! “In the beginning was the Word...and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh (Jesus) and dwelt among us.” You need never come away from that “secret place [of] joy unspeakable and full of glory.” Your strength all day will be unbounded, because “the joy of the Lord is your strength.” As you read His Word, He whispers understanding to you. Moments spent there will supersede all earthly claims as you talk with Father, contemplating the “Joy that is set before you.” The vaporous mists of time will vanish in the majesty of His presence! Moment by moment your heart will “be still and know that [He] is God.” His Peace will calm every tempest!

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:6-7 KJV