



THE SECRET PLACE

William J. Dupley



The Secret Place

*The place to encounter
revelations about your identity and your role
in the kingdom of God and society*

William J. Dupley

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Dedication

To my wonderful wife, Susan; to my family, who have encouraged me to share my secret place with the Lord; and to Mark Virkler, who taught me how to hear the voice of God.

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Foreword

This book is a forerunner. It shows people how they can have their own secret place with the Lord, enter it daily, and receive wonderful revelation from God. Your stories inspire faith in our hearts, encouraging us to reach out and try the things you have done to discover how they will work in our own lives.

You have torn down the wall between the sacred and the secular and shown how revelation does flow for all of life: healing our hearts, healing our families, personal direction, and assistance at work. And you give us many journaling exercises, which get us started down the right path. Thank you for this contribution to the kingdom of God. Many lives will be touched by it.

Blessings,
Mark Virkler
President of Christian Leadership University
Communion with God Ministries
3792 Broadway St., Buffalo, NY 14227

Acknowledgements

To the people who helped me know my Heavenly Father and without whose help this book would have never been created.

I am grateful for Rev. Fred Fulford, who invested his time and love to teach me the word of God. His pastoral care has always been a model to me.

I am thankful for the care and inspiration of Rev. John Arnott, who has taught me my Heavenly Father's heart for me and shown me what grace under fire looks like.

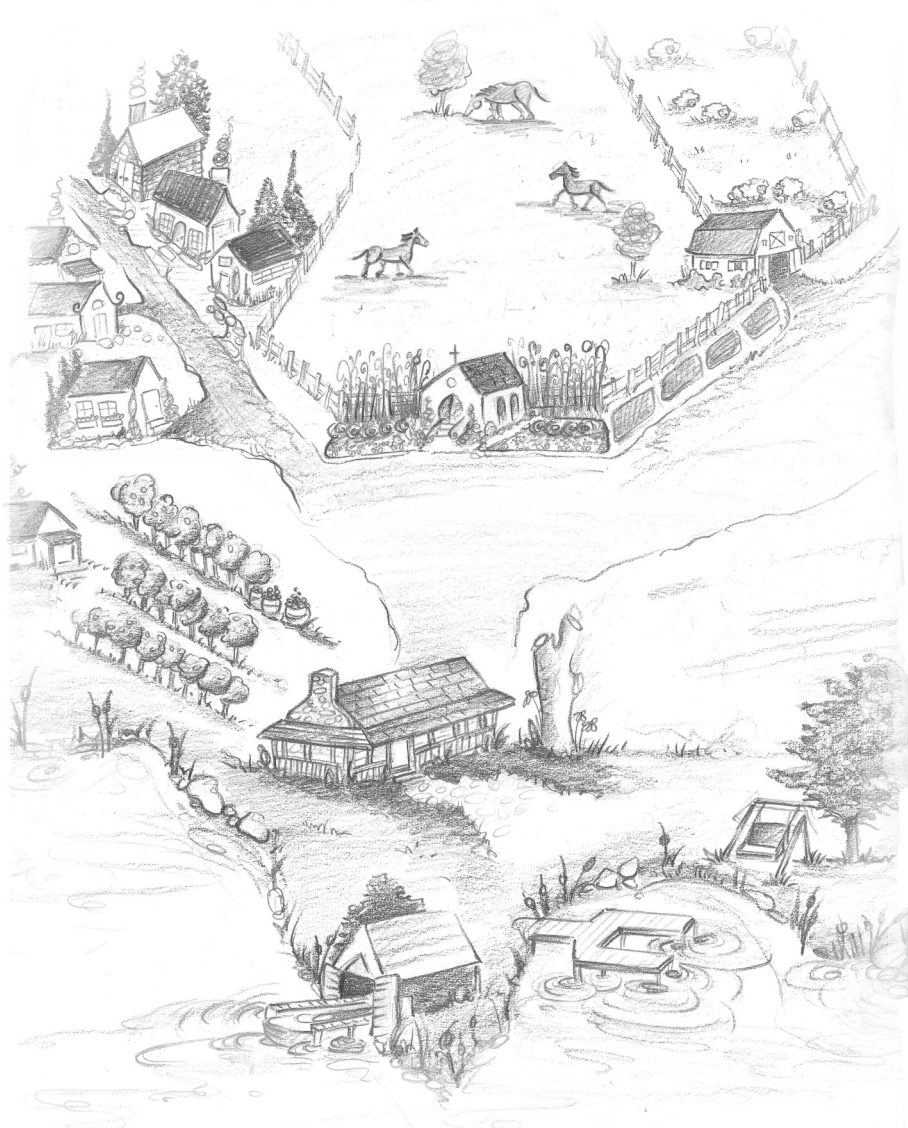
I am thankful for Rev. Steve Long, who has invested a great deal of time to read my journals and help me to stay on track.

I am thankful for my wife, Sue, and my daughter, Heather, who painstakingly read the first versions of the book and had the courage to tell me it needed work.

I am thankful for my dad who showed me what a father does for the family he loves.

I am very grateful to my sister, Catherine Bowes, who edited every page to ensure it made sense.

I am thankful to Heather Sinnott and Nancy Young for sharing their wonderful artistic gifts to bring to life the images of my secret place.



Introduction

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the almighty.¹

All men long to know their purpose on earth. They have an inherent desire to know God and His plans for them. The key to unlocking this knowledge is learning how to hear God's voice. This book was written to explain how to hear God's voice, and how to develop an intimate relationship with God. The place where we develop this relationship is called, the Secret Place.

This book is an account and description of my secret place with the Lord. It is a true story; it is not fiction. All the details described in this book have happened to me, and I continue to meet with my Heavenly Dad in this place almost every day. I have described the physical attributes of the secret place, the events that have occurred there, and how God has taught me about His character and loving compassion.

Our Heavenly Father talks about a place called the secret place. It is a promise of protection, safety, and communion with God. It is the place where Abraham met God and spoke to him as one man speaks to another. It is the place where every believer can meet God face to face.

Through a series of visions, my Heavenly Father has shown me that this is a very real place. It is a place where we can meet, talk about any topic from business to raising children, and receive specific practical words of wisdom directly from God. We can share our true feelings and fears and develop our relationship with Him. It is a place where our

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Heavenly Father can father us. The secret place is personal; my secret place will not likely look like someone else's. The secret place is a place where you are comfortable and at ease with your Father.

For many of you, the idea that someone can hear from God every day may be a completely new concept. I was raised in a Christian home and became a Christian when I was 22 years old. For the next 14 years, I faithfully attended church and even went to Bible school, but still I did not know how to hear God.

In 1992, I was invited to a small Vineyard church in Toronto. Here I met Mark Virkler, who promised that I could learn how to hear from God. Mark said God speaks to all His sheep and His sheep know His voice, so if you are not hearing Him consistently, either you are not a sheep or you just don't know how.² That was challenging. I knew I was a sheep, so I figured I must just not know how to hear God's voice.

That day Mark introduced us to the ancient biblical method of hearing from God and I did hear God's voice. Over the past 20 years, many people have used this ancient method to hear God's voice. This was the first step on my journey. I could not believe it could be that easy, yet it was, and I will never be the same again.

May this book encourage you to develop your relationship with the Lord and find your own secret place with Him.

Yours,
William Dupley

Personal Action Preparation

This book is designed to help you develop your relationship with the Lord. At the end of each chapter there is a personal action section. These exercises will require you to write down what God says to you. Since these words are often very personal, I recommend that you record what the Lord says to you in a separate notebook that you can review with a trusted friend. This will help you to begin your personal journey in developing a deeper place of intimacy and communication with the Lord.

If you have never heard God's voice or do not always hear from God, I encourage you to first read Appendix A to learn how to consistently hear God's voice.



CHAPTER ONE

Rest, Rest, Rest

One day the Lord spoke to me and He said, “Bill, you need to rest.”

I said, “Okay, Lord,” and went out to work. My wife has told me that I never rest, that I am always busy. My kids have said the same thing. To me, the idea of lying on the couch or on a beach was not really inviting—it did not bring me joy. I liked being busy and I liked making things, so rest was not something I understood or, quite frankly, wanted to do.

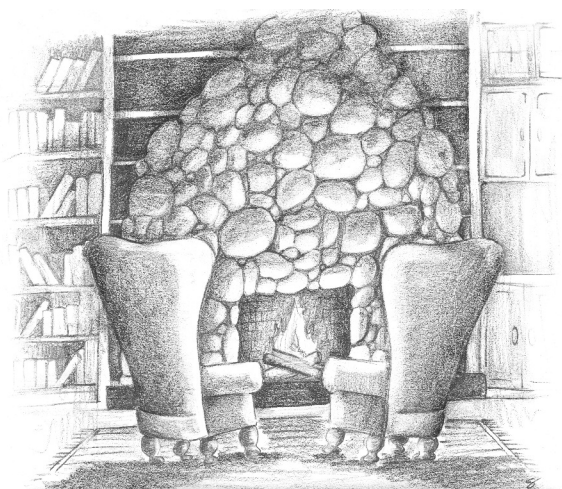
Each time I spoke with the Lord, He said, “Bill, you need to rest.”

I said, “Okay, Lord,” and went off to work.

One day, He said, “Bill, you need to rest, rest, rest.”

I said, “Lord, I don’t know what You mean, rest, rest, rest.”

Immediately I had a vision in my mind. I saw myself chopping and cording firewood. There was sweat and signs of strain on my face. As I looked at the scene, the Lord drew back the image and I could see that the cord of wood was over 20 miles long. The Lord said, “Bill, you have enough wood.” At once I saw a stone fireplace, and the Lord was placing some of the wood that I



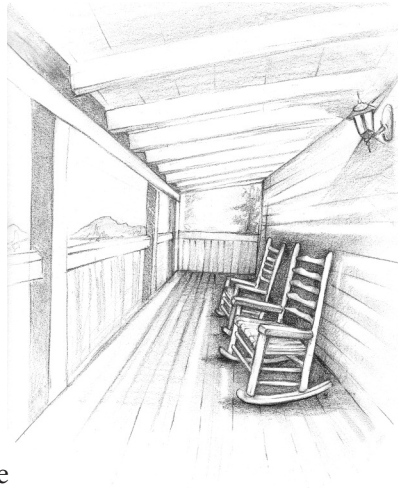
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had cut into the fireplace, and He lit it. I could feel the warmth of the fire.

In front of the fireplace there were two high-backed red leather chairs. The Lord invited me to sit in one of the chairs. He sat in the other chair. As I sat in the chair enjoying the fire and the company of the Lord, I felt a deep sense of rest flow into my soul. I felt at peace, at rest, and I could have sat there all day. I did not feel anxious or feel like I needed to do something. I could see the Lord, but I could not see His face. He said, “Bill, when I say you need to rest, this is what I mean. I want you to come and sit in this chair and spend time with Me. I want to talk with you.”

Each day after this experience, I would start my day remembering the vision and sitting back in the red leather chair. Sometimes the Lord was not there but eventually He would come. I would look at Him, and we would discuss the day ahead, and He would counsel me.

One day the Lord did not show up. I looked around the room and realized that the fireplace was in a log cottage. In the room I saw a round dining table with two chairs and a bed by a window. Then I noticed a front door. I walked out the front door onto a covered porch, and the Lord was sitting there in a rocking chair. There was another rocker, and He invited me to sit with Him. For the first time, I could see His face. I could see His eyes, His smile; He had a kind of knowing grin. I was captivated by His face. I wanted to see Him, talk to Him, and look at Him.



While we talked, I realized that the covered porch went around all four sides of the cottage. There was a railing on the porch. The cottage was on a lake, and a blue dock extended out into the lake. On the right

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side of the cottage, there was a two-storey building with a large double door on the front. On the left side of the cottage was a large horse field, which was enclosed with a white picket fence about five feet high. A road ran along the fence, and farther down the road, I could see a small white barn. Directly in front of the cottage, there was a tree that had all the branches cut off and it looked rather dead. Across the lake I could see a hill covered with trees.

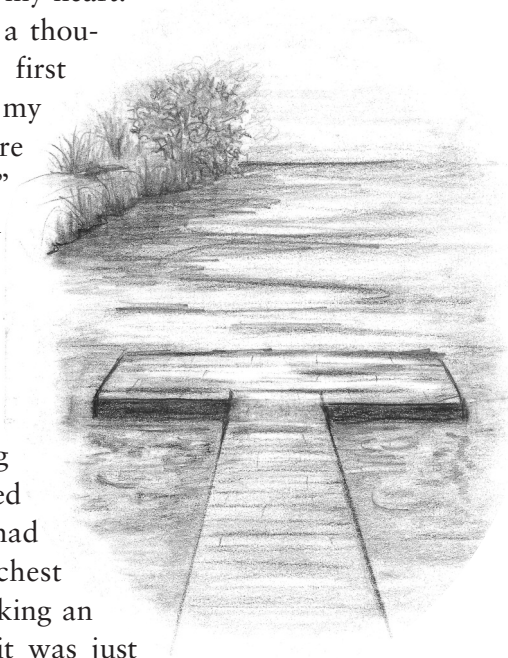
The Lord said, "Do you want to race?"

I said, "Sure." The Lord took off and started to run towards the water, and I chased after Him. He ran onto the dock and then out on the water. I ran after Him on the water. When it became obvious that I would not be able to catch Him, I tackled Him and we went head over heels across the top of the water. We laughed together, and the humour of the situation transformed my heart.

I have visited this place a thousand times since the Lord first introduced me to it. I start my day by saying, "Lord, where would You like to meet me?" and in few moments I can see Him in this special place. It is our secret place, a place where we meet, we talk, and I have learned to rest.

Several months after this experience, I was driving home from work and started feeling a lot of chest pain. I had been experiencing some chest pain for a while and was taking an antacid because I thought it was just gas, but the pain did not go away. At the time I was managing a large network rebuild project for a local steel mill and the project was having a lot of trouble. The pain became severe. I called my doctor, and he told me to go to the hospital.

I was immediately admitted to the hospital and put on an ECG machine. I was having severe angina. I was given some drugs and



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transferred to a private room. I was put on oxygen and nitro-glycerine, but the pain did not leave me. I knew I was in trouble.

As I laid in my bed, I became aware of an angel in my room. My eyes were closed, but I could see him in my mind. When I opened my eyes and looked around the room, I could still see the image of the angel in my mind. I saw the room with my eyes and the angel with the eyes of my heart. Both images were overlaid in my mind, and I could see where the angel was standing and what he looked like. He was a warrior angel dressed in full battle dress. He wore a sword, chain mail, and a helmet. The Lord said, "Bill, you have been promoted. You have a warrior angel assigned to you." That Sunday evening I prayed and asked God to heal me.

On Monday morning, I went for an angiogram. The angel went with me into the operating room. However, in my mind's eye, I was sitting in the red leather chair. The doctor performed the angiogram, and to his amazement there was no blockage and my blood pressure and cholesterol level had dropped. He told me that there was nothing wrong with me except that my arteries were not connected to my heart in the normal way. At some point during this experience, the pain left me and I have not had angina since.

Later I asked the Lord about this event, and this is what He said to me:

Son,

You were not giving Me the burdens of your job. You continued to focus on your own ability. I am your strength, I am your provider, you are not a beast of burden, and My yoke is easy. When you take on a yoke that is not the right one, your soul strains, worry comes, stress manifests, and your body starts to fail. This is what happened at the steel mill. Always bring your work and your workload to Me, and I will give you the right yoke that you are to carry, not the one you think you should carry.

Son,

For your whole life you have struggled to provide for your family and have tried to figure out how to raise your salary. You are a competent worker, and I bless that diligence, but you take

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on too much responsibility. You take on things that are not your responsibility; this is what we must always talk about. You are responsible to walk honestly with man and walk in dependency with Me.

Love, Dad

God is a healing God. He heals both our physical and spiritual hearts. The physical healing of my heart happened rather quickly; however, the spiritual healing of my heart would take much longer. As I have spent time with the Lord, He has healed my spiritual heart as well.

Personal Action

The Lord tells us about a secret place where we can dwell with Him.³ I encourage you to ask the Lord where He would like to meet with you, where His secret place for you is. As described in the Appendix, I have found that it is always best to focus the eyes of your heart on the Lord before you start writing down your thoughts. To do this, I recommend simply imagining a Bible story that Jesus is in. When you can see the scene and see Jesus, your heart is focused on the Lord. When you can see Him and your heart is fixed on Him, ask Him this question:

1. Lord, where would You like to meet with me?
2. Write down what the Lord says or shows you.
3. Call a friend and read to them what the Lord gave to you.
4. Ask them if their heart bears witness that it came from the Lord.

“Bill you have done very well at helping people in the journey of hearing God, validating listening, imagining, etc. The intimacy that you have with Father God is very captivating.”

Steve Long, Senior Pastor, Catch the Fire Toronto

The Secret Place by Bill Dupley calls to mind the rich devotional lives of influential believers through the ages—Thomas Kelly, Theresa of Avila, Catherine of Genoa. Bill’s “secret place” is clearly the secret to his remarkable life and ministry. Descriptions of his personal intimacy with Father God will catch some by surprise; it will foster a fresh hunger in many, as it did in me, for a renewal of my own secret place. Few twenty-first century believers demonstrate the supernatural in such a “natural” humble way in their everyday lives as Bill does. His life is clearly a “trailer” for the kingdom.”

Fred Fulford, Pastoral Theology Director, Summit Pacific College, Abbotsford, BC

“How encouraging to realize that God is totally interested in the everyday details of our life and whenever we choose to be led by Him rather than by our own understanding, the results are phenomenal and never failing. Thank you, Bill, for sharing your journey of intimacy with the Lord. You really are a beloved son and a forerunner for others. I was so blessed by reading the words from the Lord to you—absolutely amazing—and the exercises are so realistic, relevant...I want to do them myself!”

Mary Audrey Raycroft, Founder of Releasers of Life Equipping Ministry

“Through this book Bill opens a door into heaven and says ‘come up here.’ Then we discover we were already seated there and didn’t know it! The book does not call us to replicate his experience but to have our own, and gives us practical ways of opening the doors to our hearts and engaging with our Heavenly Father, whom we discover loves us in a way beyond what most of us have dared believe. I sense that Abba Father is looking forward to encounters with his children which will come as they read this book.”

David Wuyts, The Lifehouse – a Partners in Harvest Church in Colchester, UK

Bill and Sue Dupley have been ministering for over 25 years, preaching and leading worship on five continents. Together they minister renewal and teach adults and children how to hear the voice of God. Bill and Sue believe that the supernatural should be the natural for all believers and that every believer can impact their world for the Kingdom of God as they hear God’s will and follow His leading.



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