

Powerful Secrets

Psalm 119:1-11

We seek through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, praying only for knowledge of his will for us and the power to carry that out.

The secrets we hide have enormous power in our lives. How many of our addictive/ compulsive behaviors have been hidden or covered up? When we took the step and admitted the exact nature of our sins to another person, we were probably amazed at the way the sin lost its power as it was exposed. The power of hidden behaviors and secrets can work for us as well as against us.



The psalmist wrote this prayer to God: "I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11). If we "hide" God's Word in our hearts by memorizing and meditating on it, we will find new power to keep our minds and hearts clean.

The power of secrets will also work to our advantage in our prayer lives. Jesus taught us that "when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you" (Matthew 6:6). When we begin to spend time shut away with God in prayer and meditation, we'll find that power working for us.


Obedience

Psalms 119:9-16

Obedience to God's Word produces wholeness; it seems only logical that we should do all we can to follow it. This is a significant part of seeking God's will for us. In the Bible, God has left clear guidelines for how he expects us to live. He has also promised that he will help us to carry out his will if we only ask him. Studying and applying God's Word should become a joyful experience that will implant God's truth firmly in our minds and hearts.

God Hears

Psalm 116:1-9

 How wonderful that God hears and answers the prayers of those who turn to him in distress! When we were in the grip of our dependencies or addictions, we were probably blind to the fact that we were in danger of losing everything - reputation, friends, even life itself. But then we called out to the Lord, and he saved us. The natural response to this realization should be praise to God.

Fulfill Our Promises

Psalm 116:10-19

We will never be able to repay God for what he has done for us. But we can at least show our gratitude by fulfilling the promises we made to him when we called out to him for help. God thinks of us as his precious children, so we should thank him by keeping our promises to him. This may include making sure everyone knows it is God who deserves the credit for our deliverance.

Truth Brings Healing

Psalms

Above everything else, the psalmists were honest about their experiences and feelings. Again and again, they testified to God's faithfulness in hearing and responding to their words of honest confession or praise. It is so easy to try and hedge on the truth, even when we pray to God. This, however, is always a dead end. Only the truth can bring us into the kind of relationship with God that will result in true healing. When we face the truth about our sins and failures and recognize that we are powerless over them, God will meet us where we are and guide us in the path of recovery and healing.

Legitimate Doubts and Complaints

Psalms

Most of us act as if doubt is an unforgivable sin. We do everything we can to hide it from God. But God knows all about our doubts. The psalmists were honest about their doubts and brought them straight to God. They were also honest in their complaints. There is a place for complaining before God-it helps us to bring our raw feelings and doubts out into the open. But just as the psalmists did, we will find that our complaining is followed by an affirmation of faith. If we hide our doubts about God, we will be sure to drift away from him. But if we honestly express them to him, even complaining about his apparent failures in our lives, we will discover that our faith is renewed. As happened with the psalmists, our complaints will be followed by words of praise.



The Necessity of Forgiveness

Psalms

Many of the psalms are intense prayers asking God for forgiveness. What the psalmists discovered was that they could be open and honest before God about their failures, emotions, and weaknesses, because God had promised to forgive them. As we experience God's forgiveness, we move away from our dependencies and feelings of alienation and guilt and into an intimate and loving relationship with God. God's antidote to our past failures-no matter how terrible our sins-is always forgiveness!

GOD'S WILL

Some of us are afraid God is going to lead us where we do not want to go. We are hesitant to surrender our destiny to an unseen Someone or Something. We fear we might lose all that we value if we give up control. We find, however, that God's will does not necessarily dictate a radical change in our lives. God's will usually involves taking care of the ordinary responsibilities that are a part of everyday life so we can experience well-being. We still have free will and can choose our course of action. Experience shows us that we have more serenity if we do our best to align our will with the will of our Higher Power.

As we ask our Higher Power for guidance, we begin making better choices. If we suspect we are rationalizing or interpreting our wishful thinking as divine guidance, we consult someone with more experience and understanding in these matters. We gain confidence in our decisions as we receive added support them.

CALENDAR

Sunday	10:00 am	Bible Study	At the building and live stream
Sunday	11:00 am	Worship	At the building and live stream
Sunday	4:00 pm	Walking the 12 Steps with Jesus	TBD
Wednesday	10:30 am	Breakfast with the Seniors	At Perkins Restaurant
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Bible Study	At the building
Saturday	7:00 pm	Teen Group	At the building
May 18-20th	<b>Montana Men's Retreat:</b> "Creating Communities of Conviction" at the C-N Camp near Augusta, MT. Cost is \$150 for adults, \$90 for under 19, with a late fee of \$15 after May 10th. Make checks out to Great Falls Church of Christ and mail them to Great Falls Church of Christ, 1300 6th Street NW, Great Falls, MT 59404. See Bob Queenan with questions.		
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Senior Breakfast <u>CANCELLED</u></b> (3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month.)		
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Family Days in the Park</b> – 11:00 am – 7:00 pm. Bring games, sports equipment, and food in picnic style. Sunnyside Park (next to EIRMC)		
June 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Family Days in the Park</b> – 10:30 am – 5:30 pm. Worship starts at 10:30, then a potluck, then games and fun –Sunnyside Park (next to EIRMC)		
Aug 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Area Singing</b> with the Pocatello Church of Christ. Details to follow.		

PRAYERS

- For Jade's brother, whose house burned down Friday while he was away.
- For Gary Brush, being treated for cancer.
- For Briley, coping with Marfans syndrome.
- For Bobbie Knight. Bobbie Knight, IDOC # 113912, PWCC - 2 C, 1451 Fore Rd, Pocatello 83204.
- For Gary, Rob, Kyle & Andy as they lead our congregation.
- For Ryan Burns, Jordan Allbritten, and Thomas Mullinaux, serving in the armed forces.
- For our widows: Myrna, Ella, Miriam, Louise, Sallye, & Carolyn.

LEADERSHIP

Web Page: [Idahofallschurchofchrist.org](http://Idahofallschurchofchrist.org)

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The Church of Christ in Idaho Falls

April 23, 2023

Welcome!

We're a bible-based congregation of Christians meeting in Idaho Falls to praise and worship the one God and to support and encourage each other. All are welcome! Please join us in our worship services and classes.



Meditation for Today

Try saying: "God bless her (or him)" of anyone who is in disharmony with you. Also say it of those who are in trouble through their own fault. Say it, willing that showers of blessings may fall upon them. Let God do the blessing. Leave to God the necessary correcting or disciplining. You should only desire blessing for them. Leave God's work to God. Occupy yourself with the task that He gives you to do. God's blessing will also break down all your own difficulties and build up all your successes.

I pray that I may use God's goodness so that it will be a blessing to others. I pray that I may accept God's blessing so that I will have harmony, beauty, joy, and happiness.

Online Bulletin is available at our website <https://ifcocminister.wixsite.com/mysite>