THE SECRET PLACES OF THE STAIRS

"The SECRET of the Lord is with them that fear Him; and he will show them his covenant"; Ps. 25:14 "Hast thou heard the SECRET of God?"; Job 15:8.

The SECRET of how to approach and ascend the "stairs" unfolds as I maintain a right attitude and response by being WILLING and OBEDIENT; Isaiah 1:19.

1. To be "willing" means that my self-life no longer controls my desires and actions. It means that I unconditionally yield to the Lord Jesus Christ in every aspect of my life.

2. To be "obedient" speaks of cooperating with Him, and responding to His requests and leading as I understand it.

A. Jesus Christ STEPPED DOWN From Heaven So That We Could STEP UP Into His Life

a. Jesus descended from heaven; Eph. 4:9-10. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us; John 1:14.

b. He "lowered Himself", laid aside His heavenly "garment" and washed the feet of His disciples;

John 13:3-5. He "humbled Himself" and became obedient unto death; Philippians 2:8.

c. Jesus "knelt down" to minister to a woman taken in adultery; John 8:6.

1. The LADDER that Jacob saw was a revelation of the ministry of Jesus Christ; Genesis 28:12-13.

a. This was a revelation of the grace of God to a man (Jacob) in a helpless state; Isaiah 43:1.

b. Messengers "ascend and descend" upon Him; John 1:51.

c. He is the "Entrance" between Heaven and Earth which allows communication between these realms.

2. The FOOTSTEPS of the flock lead to His Stairs; Song of Sol. 1:8.

a. God orders our steps forward, onward and upward; Ezekiel 41:7.

b. This is the pattern of the way that His sheep walk; Psalm 23.

c. I must go through God's process, His steps; 1 Peter 2:21.

3. The STAIRS point to a progressive lifestyle of worship; Song of Sol. 2:14.

a. The veil has been "rent"; Mark 15:38. The stairs speak of our ascent toward the throne, step by step. b. Every stair has a "riser" and a "step". When I receive revelation: divine understanding and truth (the riser), when I act upon it in faith and obedience (the step), it will become an eternal, established reality.

c. It is faith and obedience that creates a platform, causing me to stand upon it and occupy it.

4. The CLEFTS of the Rock are the hidden places within His Chambers; Song of Sol. 2:14.

a. Jesus is the Rock Who was "cleft" at Calvary; this is our foundation; 1 Peter 2:6-8.

b. Clefts are "cuts, hollows" in the Rock (Cross). He wants us to be "tucked away" in these places.

c. The hiding place signifies a union; secret places indicate a compete enclosure; Song of Sol. 4:12.

5. The CHAMBERS contain the treasures of His grace and truth; Isaiah 45:3.

a. The Bride goes into the king's chambers; Song of Sol. 1:4; 1 Kings 1:15.

b. There are many chambers in the Lord's storehouse; Nehemiah 12:44; Ezekiel 46:19.

c. We hide ourselves in His chambers; 1 Kings 22:25; Isaiah 26:20; Ps. 27:5.

6. The HIGH CALLING is the ASCENDED LIFE; Ephesians 2:6; Song of Sol. 6:9.

a. There is a "gift" (eternal life) to be received, but also a "prize" to be won; Philippians 3:10-14.

b. There are various "orders", different "degrees" of glory; 1 Cor. 15:23; 40-44.

c. To know the full depth of intimacy with the Lord, we have to go "outside the camp"; Heb. 13:13.

7. The ASCENDED LIFE begins with living His life in the Secret Place; Psalm 91

a. This life starts at the new birth when we are born from above; John 3:7.

b. This is resting in His love, in union and communion with the Lord. This is a union of nature, authority and character prior to translation; Song of Sol. 5:1; 7:10.

c. The reason that God allows us to STEP UP into the ascended life is so that we can STEP DOWN from that place and minister to others; Matthew 17:1-8.

B. Jesus Call Us To "Come Up Hither" – To See From His Point Of View, His Perspective

"And he (Jesus) said unto them, Ye are from BENEATH; I am from ABOVE: ye are of this world; I am not of this world"; John 8:23.

1. He calls us to RISE UP, to LOOK from the place of His Headship; Song of Solomon 2:10.

2. Our enemies are from beneath; our blessings are from above, in heavenly places; Ephesians 1:3.

3. We are not citizens of Earth; we are citizens of HEAVEN in the Earth. We are spirit beings having a human experience; Hebrews 11:13; 1 Peter 2:11.

4. Once we "come up here" (into Christ and His life), then we "come here" (into a progressive lifestyle of worship); see Rev. 4:1; 17:1; 21:9.

5. The Bride is called to LOOK FROM THE TOP of the mountain; this is an invitation to the heights.

a. This is a call to "look from the top", the summit; Song of Sol. 4:8. This word "look" means:

"to walk around, inspect, spy out, survey, behold, observe, watch"

b. "And be ready in the morning, and COME UP in the morning unto Mount Sinai, and present thyself there to Me in the top of the mount"; Exodus 34:2.

6. There is a COMING UP from the Wilderness described two times in the Song of Solomon:

a. The first "coming up" from the Wilderness refers to the Bride forsaking her wandering life, and being SPIRITUALLY DELIVERED from the world itself. This is a walking away from the worldly life, step by step; Song of Sol. 3:6.

b. The second "coming up" from the Wilderness refers to being PHYSICALLY DELIVERED from the Earth. The coming of Jesus Christ will physically deliver us from the worldly environment, the earthly wilderness. This is the result of a step by step walk with the Lord; Song of Sol. 8:5.

7. Those who heed the call to COME UP will see the glorious inheritance offered to them. Those who hunger for intimacy with Him, have set their minds on "things above", not earthly things. They will arise and ascend to sit with the Lord in His throne; Col. 3:1-2. In the book of Revelation, two classes of believers are described:

a. The overcomers who pursue the high calling, shall sit with the Lord IN His throne; Rev. 3:21; 21:7.

b. There will also be a vast multitude BEFORE the throne, who will weep when they realize they had been unwilling to pay the price for the high calling, but had settled for the lesser realms; Revelation 7:9,15,17.

Terri Hill