The Secret Garden of Prayer

The Garden of Eden was watered by a river that split into four rivers (Genesis 2:10; 13:10). A well-watered garden became a symbol for a place or condition of restful and delightful fellowship with God (Isaiah 58:11; Jeremiah 31:12). The door into this secret garden of prayer is sometimes hard to open. As we push against it, trying to enter, we may meet different kinds of resistance. My message this morning is this: **It is worthwhile to push, in the power of the Spirit, past every resistance, and to enter the secret garden of prayer.**

**1. The resistance of our *sinful flesh***

Romans 3:10-11; 7:15-18; 8:6-8, 12-13

**2. The resistance of our *human will***

Mark 14:32-36; Hebrews 5:7

**3. The resistance to bearing *heavy burdens***

2 Corinthians 11:28

**4. The resistance of the *hidden God***

Job 23:1-10; Psalm 10:1; Psalm 28:1

**Conclusion—The reward of *persistence***

Luke 11:5-13; Song of Solomon 4:12-5:1

**For Personal Reflection or Family Discussion**

1. What was the most important or helpful thing you heard in the sermon?

2. What questions did the sermon raise in your mind?

 What was the most convicting part of the message?

3. What is the hardest form of resistance you encounter when you try to enter the secret garden of prayer? (It may not be one I mentioned.) How do you press through it or what do you need in order to overcome it?

4. What does the Lord promise to people whose lives feel like a barren desert, but who are pursuing righteousness and seeking Him (Isaiah 51:1-3).