

THE GIFT OF BEING HIDDEN

9 January 2026

SUMMARY:

This message explores the spiritual significance of hiddenness in the Christian life, challenging the cultural emphasis on visibility and recognition. Drawing from biblical examples and personal testimony, it presents hiddenness not as abandonment or delay, but as God's intentional place of formation and preparation. The message emphasizes that God's most profound work often occurs in the quiet, unseen seasons of life where He shapes our character, deepens our roots, and prepares us for future calling. The message encourages believers to embrace obscurity as a gift, understanding that what we do in private determines who we become in public, and that true spiritual maturity is formed in the hidden place of intimacy with God rather than in visible achievement.

KEY POINTS

- Hiddenness is not punishment but formation; it is God's altar where He performs deep spiritual surgery
- Your life being "hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3) means you are protected and held, not overlooked or discarded
- Biblical figures like Moses, David, and Jesus all experienced extended periods of hiddenness before their public ministry
- God plants people privately before releasing them publicly; He anchors them in intimacy before giving them influence
- Hiddenness is not inactivity but preparation - the deep subterranean work of forming roots before revealing fruit
- What you do when no one is watching determines who you are when everyone is watching
- Gifts without formation and visibility without surrender will not sustain you
- The mature Christian must be able to say "look at my life" because it is our lives, not just our words, that convert others
- Hiddenness is not about being buried but being planted - something destined to grow when God is the one who planted it
- True spiritual impact comes from being impacted by God in the hidden place first

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

- Colossians 3:3 - *"Your life is hidden with Christ in God"*
- Psalm 32:8 - *"I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go. I will counsel you with my eye upon you"*
- John 12:24 - *"Unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit"*

QUOTES

- Your life is hidden with Christ in God. That there's something about being tucked away with him.
- When something is hidden in God, it's not lost. When you are hidden in God, when you're in that secret place with Him, you're not lost, but you are protected.
- Hiddenness is not inactivity. It's preparation. It's preparation for the person that God is calling you to be.
- He does not plant you publicly until He knows you are nourished privately. He doesn't release you into your influence until He knows you are anchored in intimacy with Him.
- It's what you do when no one's watching that's the place of strength. The mature Christian knows that it isn't our words that converts, it's our lives that convert.
- When God is ready to move, He doesn't look for the most visible. He looks for the most available.
- Hiddenness is not about being buried. Something buried is forgotten. But something planted is destined to grow.
- We are not simply called to build something visible. We're called to become something holy.

BLESS 2026
SMALL GROUP GUIDE

This guide is designed to help your small group dive deeper into the message.

OPENING PRAYER

Pray the IMPACTERS Community Prayer.

ICE BREAKER

Question: Share a time when you felt "unseen" or overlooked. How did that experience shape you?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. **Hiddenness is not absence, it is formation**
 - God does His deepest work when we're hidden from public view
 - Silence and obscurity are not punishments but preparation
2. **God forms our roots before He reveals our fruit**
 - Moses: 40 years as a shepherd before leading Israel
 - David: Forgotten in the fields before becoming king
 - Jesus: 30 years of hiddenness before public ministry
3. **What we do in the dark determines who we are in the light**
 - Private faithfulness precedes public influence
 - God doesn't plant us publicly until we're nourished privately
4. **Hiddenness is not being buried—it's being planted**
 - Something buried is forgotten
 - Something planted is destined to grow

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Understanding Hiddenness

1. The message states, "Hiddenness is not inactivity. It's preparation." How does this perspective change the way you view seasons of waiting in your life?
2. Bruce shared that he spent 12 years practicing talks in the shower before anyone asked him to speak. What "hidden" preparation might God be calling you to right now?
3. Read Psalm 32:8. How does God's promise to "counsel you with my eye upon you" comfort you during seasons when you feel unseen?

Personal Reflection

4. The message asks: "Who has control of your mind? Do you tell your mind what it can think in God, or do you just let your mind think anything?" How would you honestly answer this question?
5. Bruce mentions that "the saints are in the seats, not on the stage." Why do you think the world celebrates visibility while God often does His greatest work in hiddenness?
6. Think about the image of baby chickens hidden under their mother. How does staying "hidden in Christ" protect and warm your spiritual life?

Application to Life

7. The message states, "It's what you do when no one's watching that determines your strength." What specific practices could you develop in your "hidden" life with God?
8. Bruce shares that 29 million emails were sent last year, but his focus was on "the one we missed." How does this "every ONE life counts" perspective challenge your view of impact and influence?
9. The message emphasizes that "it's the way you live" that converts others, not just what you say. How does this shift your understanding of evangelization?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Create a Hidden Place

- Establish a specific time and place for daily prayer where you can be "hidden with Christ"
- Commit to 15-20 minutes of quiet time with God each day
- Journal what God reveals to you in the silence

Option 2: Practice Hidden Faithfulness

- Do something kind for someone without them knowing it was you
- Serve in a way that goes completely unnoticed
- Reflect on how it feels to serve without recognition

Option 3: Examine Your Heart

- Spend time in the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week
- Or find a trusted Christian friend to confess struggles to
- Ask God to do "internal surgery" on areas of pride or need for recognition

Option 4: Surrender Control

- Make a list of areas where you're trying to control outcomes
- Pray the prayer: "You lead, Lord, I will follow"
- Practice releasing one area to God's timing each day

CLOSING PRAYER POINTS

Pray together for:

- **Surrender:** Grace to trust God's timing in hidden seasons
- **Formation:** That God would do deep work in our hearts when no one is watching
- **Patience:** To wait on God's perfect timing rather than forcing doors open
- **Humility:** To value God's approval over human recognition
- **The Ministry:** For the 21 Days of Prayer and Expectation initiative and the global Impactors community

FOR NEXT WEEK

- Continue with the 21 Days of Prayer and Expectation materials

- Share testimonies of how God met you in "hiddenness" this week
- Bring examples of how "hidden faithfulness" impacted your week

MEMORY VERSE

Colossians 3:3 - "Your life is hidden with Christ in God."