

THE HIDDEN GOD WHO SAVES AND RULES

The Hidden God Who Saves and Rules

Key idea:

Though God often hides His face, He has not hidden His heart. He rules by providence and reveals Himself in Jesus Christ, who showed us the face of God and supplied grace and love enough to save the world.

Key text:

Isaiah 45:15

“Truly, you are a God who hides himself, O God of Israel, the Savior.”

Key points:

1. God's hiddenness is biblical reality, not a flaw to be explained away. Scripture gives us permission to acknowledge when God feels distant.
2. No one is truly "non-resistant" to God. We all have areas where we resist surrender, change, or obedience.
3. Everyone lives by faith in something. The question isn't whether we have faith, but whether what we believe in can carry the weight of suffering, death, and guilt.
4. God hides not because He's absent, but because love cannot be coerced. He reveals Himself humbly so our response can be genuine love, not forced compliance.
5. God's ultimate revelation is Jesus Christ. He didn't write His name in the stars— He wrote Himself into human flesh, suffering, and death.
6. We are meant to be God's visibility to the world. Our lives of faith, love, and hope make the invisible God visible.

Discussion Questions:

1. When have you experienced God's hiddenness most acutely in your own life, and how did you respond to that season of spiritual darkness or silence?
2. The teaching suggests that our resistance to God is often more subtle than outright rebellion—what areas of your life reveal 'practical resistance' where you negotiate with God's clear commands?

3. How does the image of the king who becomes poor to win the maiden's genuine love change your understanding of why God doesn't make His presence undeniably obvious?
4. If 'faith produces work, love prompts labor, and hope inspires endurance,' what visible evidence in your daily life demonstrates God's presence to those around you?
5. The teaching argues that secular beliefs require just as much faith as Christianity —what unproven assumptions underlie the worldview you held before becoming a Christian, or that you see in non-believers around you?
6. David, Job, and even Jesus experienced God's hiddenness—how does knowing that biblical heroes felt forsaken help you process your own doubts and feelings of divine distance?
7. In what ways might you be waiting for 'cinematic' evidence of God's presence while missing the subtle, everyday ways He is already revealing Himself to you?
8. The teaching states that 'God is not distant, He's crucified'—how does the cross address the problem of divine hiddenness more powerfully than any philosophical argument could?
9. If you were to 'put on Christianity like a pair of spectacles' as C.S. Lewis suggests, what aspects of your life and the world suddenly make more sense through this lens?
10. How would you respond to someone like Alex O'Connor who says 'I've searched, I've prayed, I've read scripture, and nothing has ever spoken back'—what would you share from your own experience or understanding?

Question to ponder: "Am I waiting for God to be louder, or do I need my heart to be quieter?"