

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying
Message Two : Living the Kingdom Life by Living a Hidden Life

I. Overview:

We need to learn from the pattern of the Lord living a hidden life in His going up to the mountain privately to pray. The principle of the kingdom people is that they live a hidden life, not performing their righteous deeds before men. The effect of doing our righteous deeds in secret is that the flesh and the self are killed. Isaiah 45:15 says, "Surely You are a God who hides Himself...". We need to realize the hidden nature of God's working; God's surest work is done in the secret of our beings. Psalm 42:7 says, "Deep calls unto deep". Others can respond deep within to only what issues from deep within us; the kingdom life is a life in the depths. We need deep experiences of Christ like that of the apostle Paul. In order to live a life in the depths, it is necessary to have direct and intimate fellowship with the Lord; Song of Songs 4:12 says, "A garden enclosed is my sister, my bride, / A spring shut up, a fountain sealed."

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Why did the Lord go up to the mountain in prayer with the Father privately after He performed a great miracle?

The Lord did not remain in the issue of the miracle with the crowds but went away from them to be with the Father privately on the mountain in prayer. The word privately means He did not let the people know that He was going to pray. Otherwise, they would have followed Him. He went away from them to be with the Father privately in prayer.

B. Expound the significance of being on the mountain in prayer.

When we pray with others, we cannot enjoy the Lord as deeply as when we pray to the Lord privately. We have to learn to leave the crowds, our family, our friends, and the saints in the church to go to a higher level on a "high mountain." We have to go higher, far away from the earthly things, to separate from the crowd being with the Father privately and secretly to have intimate fellowship with Him.

Day 2 —

A. What do the righteous deeds of the kingdom people expose and reveal to us?

In Matthew 6, the righteous deeds of the kingdom people include giving alms, praying, and fasting. Actually they expose the self and the flesh and reveal how we are filled with them. But the kingdom people, who live in an emptied and humbled spirit and walk in a pure and single heart under the heavenly ruling of the kingdom, must do all things in the spirit for the pleasing of their Heavenly Father.

B. What do we need to watch out for as encourage saints functioning in the meetings?

We encourage the saints to function in the church meetings. However, there is the danger of functioning in order to make a show of ourselves, doing things in the presence of man. By the Lord's mercy and grace, we must do as much as possible in a hidden way. Always try to do those things that are pleasing to God and righteous with man in a secret way. Try not to let others know of them. Simply do your righteous deeds in the presence of God.

Day 3 —

A. How can we have proper growth in life?

Those who grow openly do not grow in a healthy way. We all need some secret growth in life, some secret experiences of Christ. We need to pray to the Lord, worship the Lord, contact the Lord, and fellowship with the Lord in a secret way. We need these secret experiences of the Lord because such experiences kill our self and our flesh.

B. How to learn living by Father's hidden life if we want to be the kingdom people?

If we are serious about being the kingdom people, we must learn to live by the hidden life of our Father. We must not live by our natural life, which is always making a display of itself. The kingdom people must have some experience of prayer in their private room, contacting their heavenly Father in secret, experiencing some secret enjoyment of the Father, and receiving some secret answer from Him.

Day 4 —

A. How did Isaiah express that God is a God who hides Himself?

It was because God did countless things in the midst of the children of Israel and countless things in their personal lives, yet He concealed Himself. He was ceaselessly working, yet He was always hidden. Very much was being done by Him, yet the Israelites were utterly ignorant as to who the doer was. Then one day Isaiah exclaimed, “Surely You are a God who hides Himself.”

B. What can we learn from Elijah?

Elijah had reckoned only with what he could see, but God is a God who hides Himself. He was not in the wind or in the earthquake or in the fire; He was in the gentle, quiet voice. He had preserved for Himself seven thousand persons who had not bowed the knee to Baal, but so hidden was His activity that not even the prophet Elijah knew anything about it.

Day 5 —

A. How do we, God’s children, realize the hidden nature of His working?

Do not think that only mighty influences, great visions, and tremendous revelations are of Him. God’s surest work is done in the secret of our beings. God is a very quiet God, so quiet that His presence is often undetected. His most intimate way of guiding us is so natural that we scarcely perceive He is guiding us at all, yet somehow we have been led. It is often by this quiet, inward activity of God that we receive our greatest guidances.

B. How should we do when we are most conscious of impotence?

When we are most conscious of impotence. God is often most powerfully present. Do not set your expectation on some great vision or on some great experience, for the God who hides Himself is at work within your life. Your responsibility is to cooperate with Him by responding to His voice within. To that voice, registered in the deepest depths of your being, you must say Amen.

Day 6 —

A. Expound Psalm 42:7, “Deep calls unto deep.”

Only a call from the depths can provoke a response from the depths. Nothing shallow can ever touch the depths, nor can anything superficial touch the inward parts. Others can respond deep within to only what issues from deep within us. Anything that is not from the depths will never reach the depths of others. If we have never received help or benefit in our depths, we will never have anything issuing from our depths.

B. Explain the difference of a root and leaves and how to take root downward.

What is a root? It is growth that occurs beneath the soil. What are the leaves? They are growth that occurs above the soil. In other words, roots are the hidden life, whereas leaves are the manifest life. If you lack of a hidden life, then all your growth is upward; there is no downward growth. If this is the case, you are a person who has only leaves without root.

III. Conclusion:

The God who we believe into is not only almighty, righteous, and full of grace with loving kindness but also a God who hides Himself. We need to realize the hidden nature of His working; God’s surest work is done in the secret of our beings. The righteous deeds of the kingdom people for God, such as the giving of alms, praying, and fasting, are secret and hidden. We should learn from the Lord’s pattern of being with the Father privately on the mountain in prayer, and Paul’s deep experience that he did not divulge until fourteen years. The kingdom life is a life in the depths, demanding us to take root downward and bear fruit upward. If we are a person who has only leaves without root, then we are on shallow ground. The leaves which grow outward are the manifest life, whereas a root is growth that occurs beneath the soil. Roots are the hidden life, needing the cross to work in us deeply so that we may strike deep roots and live a hidden life in the depths to fulfill God's requirements and satisfy His heart.