

THE HIDDEN LIFE

OUR LIFE, OUR CALLING

August 14, 2022

1 Peter 5:6-11

To Be Happy, Hide From The Spotlight
Arthur C. Brooks, *The Atlantic*, 2021

According to one 2012 study, fame is the biggest goal in life for children in the U.S ages 10 to 12. In a 2017 survey of 1,000 British children, the most popular choice for a future career was "YouTuber." Grown-ups are less willing to directly admit that they want to be famous, but according to Gallup, 92 percent of American adults say that *other* people believe "a person is successful if they are rich, have a high-profile career, or are well-known."

Assuming that you aren't a pop star or the president, fame might seem like an abstract problem. The thing is, fame is relative, and its cousin, prestige—fame among a particular group of people—is just as fervently chased in smaller communities and fields of expertise.

- Principle, how does it work practically?
we need patient strong opposition.

GOD OPPOSES THE PROUD BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE

The outer life may bring the prestige of the world,
But the hidden life brings the promises of God.

The hidden life leads us to humility and peace

1 Peter 5:6-7 - *Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.*

We either go out in our own strength or humble ourselves under his strength. *How?*

STORY OF HUMILIATION: BASKETBALL // BUDGET

Humility is a discipline; requires us to see ourselves for who we truly are
The bad = our shortcomings
The good = sons/daughters, we were never meant to be detached.

dependent child identity

MARKS OF HUMILITY

True humility means we see ourselves as dependent

True humility means we don't think less of ourselves, but we think of ourselves less

True humility has placed days and times in His hands.

PROPER TIME

It is not until we are biblically humble that we will truly be able to fully surrender our need to a waiting God.

We need to see our need for ALL of our cares to be placed on a God stronger than us.

Casting = throwing

He has concern for us, but we won't let it go.

When will you let it go?
The approval, the self-sufficiency?

will you let him help you?

If we don't learn to abide in Christ, Living out of the identity God has given We will forever be slaves to anxiety and care. It's killing us.

The hidden life equips us to stand and resist

1 Peter 5:8-9 - *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.*

Sobriety and alertness go hand in hand, esp. in trial. As always, there is a reason attached.

The enemy, the accuser, is restless to take men and women captive and tear them away from God.

Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail.
Luke 22:31-32

The outer life calls us to coddle to get more prestige
The hidden life calls us to watch out for schemes and evil.

Resist, firm in faith
Faith = knowledge and presence
Both are needed to stand firm.

Community with all other faithful brothers and sisters.
You aren't alone, you don't have to concede

The outer life calls us to avoid hardship like everyone else.
The hidden life calls us to fidelity in temptation

The hidden life builds us up in love and grace

1 Peter 5:10-11 - *And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

The outer life seeks relief in the world
The hidden life seeks relief beyond the world

Peter's triumphant conclusion.
All of this suffering is just for a while, compared to what is coming.

The outer life heeds the loud, persistent calls of the world.

The inner life heeds the small, still, strong voice of God.

He has summoned us to himself in Christ.

HUMILITY ALLOWS US TO BE HELPED

He will restore, mend, prepare us.

He will confirm us, make us more able.

He will strengthen us, make us more firm.

He will establish us, making us more grounded and resilient.

We try to fix anxiety in so many ways, almost none of them call us to see ourselves/others rightly.

Humility is the gateway to these promises.

We can't serve the world and Jesus.

Maybe your anxiety, worry, care, is God's way of crying out to you to come back home, to put down the noise and seek the hidden life.