

# The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES  
with Pastor Greg Formey



## Trusting The God You Cannot See

**Isaiah 45:15**

Sunday, December 28, 2025

As we stand at the edge of a new year, many of us can say that God has not always seemed clear. We have prayed at times and did not feel much. We faced hard choices and did not hear a loud answer. Isaiah speaks into that struggle.

**Isaiah 45:15** says, **"Truly, you are a God who hides himself, O God of Israel, the Savior."** ESV

God is not a weak God, but He seems to make himself so small that He cannot be perceived. He is real and active, but is not always obvious. The words of God shows us how to walk with such a God.

We will not try to pull God out of hiding. What we will do is learn how to trust Him when He seems hidden, and how to walk by faith into a year we cannot yet see.

### **HIDDEN FOR OUR BENEFIT**

While empires rise on the earth, God is quietly turning history and human hearts toward Him.

In Isaiah's day, nations judged a god by what they could see. Temples gleamed with gold. Statues rode were displayed in royal processions. Armies marched with carved images. And ironically, when Israel went into exile, it looked as if their invisible God had failed.

But their God was still saving. He was working through kings and empires to bring His people back. The Hebrew word for "hides" in verse 15 pictures God as the One who keeps on hiding Himself. He chooses hiddenness on purpose, not because He is weak, but because He is wise.

Think about this past year. Where did God seem silent to you? At those times did you wonder if He cared? As you closely look back, can you now see small signs that He was actually working His plan for you? In a sentence from a sermon, a needed word from a friend, a bill that was covered, or strength you did not know you had?

Will you trust that the God who hid Himself in some moments this year was still with you in every moment?

## WALKING WITH A HIDDEN GOD

The Book of Hebrews defines faith as confidence about God's promises and firm conviction about unseen realities.

### Hebrews 11:1–3

**Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.**" ESV

If He created everything from nothing, He can write meaning into our unknown year.

Faith is not pretending. Faith treats God's promises as more solid than our changing emotions. In verse 3, the verb "we understand" means we keep on grasping the truth that God's word shaped everything. The unseen word of God produced the seen world.

**2 Corinthians 5:7** says, **"For we walk by faith, not by sight."** ESV

In the ancient world, travelers often walked with small oil lamps. The lamp did not light the whole road, only the next few steps. That is how God often deals with us. He rarely shows us the whole year. He gives light for the next obedient step.

Walking by faith into a new year means this: "I will trust God's character when I do not see His plan. I will take the next step He has shown, even if later steps are hidden, believing that the unseen hand that made the world still holds my life."

As you enter this new year, in what specific area will you choose to walk by faith and not by sight?

## Conclusion

Our God is a God who hides Himself, the God of Israel, the Savior. He may be hidden from our eyes, but He is never absent from our lives.

The words of Jesus to Thomas in **John 20:29**, **"You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."** (NLT)

Let us look back and thank Him for hidden mercies this year, and look ahead into next year and trust Him with His hidden plans. Let us choose to step into the coming year with open hearts, honest prayers, and steady faith in the God we cannot see.