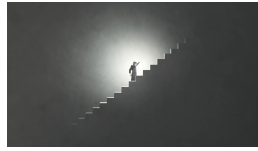


The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



Living With A Hidden God

Isaiah 45:15

Sunday, January 11, 2026

God may stay hidden from our eyes, but He invites us to seek Him daily by faith.

Many people say they would believe in God if He would only make Himself more obvious. They imagine that faith would be easy if God spoke loudly every morning or wrote His will across the sky. Yet Scripture tells us something surprising. The problem is not that God is absent. The problem is that God is present in ways we often overlook.

The Bible introduces us to a God who saves, sustains, and speaks, yet often remains hidden from plain sight. This hiddenness is not cruelty or indifference. It is purposeful. God hides not to push us away, but to draw us in. He invites us into a daily relationship shaped by trust, not control, and by faith, not sight.

God's hiddenness is an invitation to seek, not a reason to quit.

Isaiah 45:15

"Truly, you are a God who hides himself, O God of Israel, the Savior. ESV

Isaiah speaks to Israel in exile, calling God both hidden and Savior. The tension is intentional. God is concealed in circumstance, yet active in redemption. His hiddenness does not cancel His care. It reshapes how His people learn to trust Him.

In the ancient Near East, gods were expected to be visible through idols and predictable rituals. Israel's God was different. He forbade images and withdrew from manipulation. Even in the Torah, God met Moses in cloud and fire, revealing enough to guide, but never enough to control. In Second Temple Judaism, faithful Jews kept seeking God through prayer and obedience, even when prophecy was silent.

The Hebrew verb behind "hides" carries the sense of being concealed, not absent. God is veiled, not gone. This means seasons of silence are not signs of abandonment. They are invitations to deeper pursuit.

Think of Job. He cried out, searched, and questioned God. Yet Job never stopped seeking. In the end, God did not give Job explanations, but He gave Job Himself. Seeking preceded seeing.

When God feels hidden, do you withdraw in disappointment, or do you lean in with deeper pursuit?

Daily faith grows through ordinary practices with an unseen God.

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. ESV

Lamentations 3:22–24

22 The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 24 “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him. ESV

Hebrews defines faith as active seeking, not passive belief. Lamentations declares hope in grief, grounding trust in God's daily mercies. Together they show faith as a practiced confidence. God rewards seekers, not because of feeling, but because of faithful dependence.

The verb “seek” in Hebrews is present tense, active voice, indicating ongoing action. Faith is not a moment but a rhythm. In ancient Israel, worship was built around daily sacrifices, set prayers, and communal gatherings. These habits shaped trust when emotions failed.

God's mercies being “new every morning” does not mean life feels new. It means grace is renewed even when circumstances stay hard. Faith grows through simple obedience: prayer when distracted, Scripture when dry, fellowship when tired, and faithfulness in small choices.

Daniel prayed three times a day, even when it became dangerous. His habits did not change his circumstances immediately, but they anchored his soul to the unseen God who ruled over kings and lions alike.

What small, daily habit could God use to train your heart to trust Him more deeply this year?

Conclusion

The God who hides Himself is not distant. He is personal, faithful, and saving. He hides in order to be sought, and He reveals Himself to those who pursue Him daily. As a new year begins, God is not asking for grand promises or perfect faith. He is inviting you into steady, daily seeking.

Start the year not by waiting to feel close to God, but by drawing near in faith. Pray. Open Scripture. Walk in obedience. Gather with God's people. Trust that the hidden God is already at work. And as you seek Him, you will find that He has been with you all along.