

CHURCH IN REGINA

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Hiddenness Being the Principle of God's Work

This **characteristic of God** establishes the principle of God's work within us: **His work is always hidden without any display. The more real** His work is, **the more hidden** it is; **the more definite** His work is, **the less obvious**, or manifest, it is. This is an important principle. Due to this principle we often experience trials, and due to this principle we are often tested. Even Satan uses this principle to tempt us. Our character is diametrically opposed to God's character. **God likes to hide; we like to display.** God is satisfied when everything is unseen; we are not satisfied until everything is seen.

Those Not Knowing the Principle of God's Hiddenness Being Short-lived in the Things of God

Throughout the two thousand years of church history, those who knew God's character of hiddenness and who followed the principle of the hidden work of God were long-lived in spiritual matters. By the same token, **those who sought outward proofs or visible things were short-lived in the things of God**, and their works could not last.

Needing to Know the Real, Hidden Work of God

God is a God who hides Himself, and His work is always hidden. **Do not keep hoping for a great touch, a great vision, or a great seeing.** These are not necessarily of God. I would like to tell all of God's children that the truest work of God is His hidden work in us—**just a little voice, a little feeling, or a little thought**, which seems to be both God's moving as well as our own impression. Moreover, it is often **so faint** that it seems as if it is not there. **This is God's most precious and truest work.** Sometimes in the deepest part of our being there is a small thought, feeling, voice, or word, telling us, "This is your flesh. This has not passed through the cross. This is not of the Lord." This is the mightiest, greatest work of God in us. There is not one day or one moment in which God is not working in us. Although God dwells in eternity, He also dwells together with us humble ones. His dwelling with us is often imperceptible to us, yet it is a reality in us. This reality is unchangeable. We may become cold or backslidden, even to the point of not coming to the meetings or of doing what is most displeasing to Him, but at this point, this reality is still present within us. This is the irrefutable proof of our salvation.

The Gentiles do not have God working within them. They do everything without any concept, feeling, or inward speaking of God. But **we who are saved by grace still have something very real within us, even when we are in our weakest moment, even when we are committing sins, and even though it is faint and inconspicuous.** When we are committing sins, it seems that He is saying, "This is enough. Do not do this anymore. Stop at this point and repent." When we have not gone to the meetings for two months, it seems as if a tiny voice within us is saying, "Go to the meetings. For how much longer will you wait? Do you still want to wait? Go to the meetings." We may doubt such a voice and say, "Is this God's speaking? Isn't this coming from myself?" But I would like to tell God's children that this is God's truest speaking, and this is His most precious work.

The more we follow the Lord and the more we serve Him, **the more we will learn to live in Him, and the more we will realize that God is a quiet God.** He is so quiet that He keeps Himself hidden. The most precious guidance that He gives us never comes as a sudden force. Rather, it is always very natural, slight, and faint; it seems to be there and also not there. Although it may seem like it is not there, there is an undeniable reality. Much of God's great guidance comes in this way. **Do not pay attention to the outward conditions, for God is not in the outward condition.** The meetings may be very exciting, but God may not be there; your condition may be very exciting, but God also may not be there. On the contrary, when the meetings are low and your condition is poor, within you there is a reality, which is God's speaking in you and God's working in you. His work is faint—it seems to be there and also not there; it seems to exist and also not exist. Please remember, this situation is the truest and most precious. This work in you is being done by the God who hides Himself. As long as you are **willing to submit, willing to answer, willing to follow, and willing to cooperate** with His working, **you will see God's mightiest work.** This is the principle by which God works in us little by little and leads us step by step. Please do not expect outward excitement, outward revival, or outward fervor." May the Lord have mercy on us so that we may know Him as the God who hides Himself and know that His work within us is hidden. May we remember forever that hiddenness is a great principle in God's work (Excerpts from A God Who Hides Himself, CWWL, 1956, vol. 3).

*Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
~ Matt.28:19*

Church Announcements:

1. Prayer Mtg by Area – Apr 21
2. Children's Fun Day – Apr 18
3. Church in Edmonton Conference – Apr 24-26
4. Church in Winnipeg Conference – May 2-3
Registration due – Apr 19
5. Brothers' Meeting – Apr 26
6. Summer Training –
Registration due – May 1

Conferences & Trainings

1. Chinese-Speaking Conference – Feb. 13-15
Anaheim CA USA
2. Spring ITERO – Mar. 20-22
Anaheim CA USA
3. Memorial Day Conference –
May 22-25, Dallas TX USA
4. Summer Training – Jun. 29-
Jul.4 Anaheim CA USA
5. Fall ITERO – Sept. 24-26
Amsterdam Netherlands
6. Thanksgiving Conference –
Nov. 26-29 Denver CO USA
7. Winter Training – Dec. 21-26
Anaheim CA USA

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PRAYER BURDENS:

1. Lord, cause us to live in an emptied and humbled spirit and to walk in a pure and single heart under Your heavenly ruling. May we live under the basic principle of never making a show for ourselves but keeping ourselves covered.
2. We pray and come to You in secret, not allowing the flesh and self to be gazed upon. Teach us to live in the divine life where we can live a hidden life praying much, frustrating the self and growing in life.
3. Lord, we take You as our pattern who went up to the mountain privately to pray. Strengthen us to leave everything behind to meet our Father in secret and pray. May this be our habit of enjoying You deeply and privately.
4. Lord, work in us that we would take root downward and bear fruit upward. Save us from an apparent life outwardly, with very little secret life inwardly. May we have deep, hidden experiences of You at the depths of our being.
5. Cause us to safeguard the hidden part we have before You that no root would be exposed. Grant us a heart like that of a good earth that grows with the growth of God and is not boastful except in our weaknesses.
6. Lord, we are exclusively for Your pleasure – a garden enclosed to please You. Grant us grace and do a deeper work in us that we may have a life in the depths to fulfill Your desire satisfy Your heart.

North America/Europe/Other Burdens

1. Pray for the conferences in Poland and the Netherlands on May 1 to 3. Please pray that these blending conferences will encourage the saints to enter more deeply into the reality of the Body of Christ through their fellowship in the Lord's present speaking.
2. Pray for the first Lord's Table Meeting in Prato, Italy on May 17, preceded by a mini-conference on May 16. Please pray that the Lord will raise up a strong testimony in Prato and in other key cities in Italy.

Local Burdens:

1. Pray for the purchase of the meeting hall.
2. Pray for the two college brothers (Bro. Eric and Bro. Matthew) joining the FTTA for a short-term training on April 28 to May 3. Grant them much grace to see the purpose and goal of the training and stir in them a consecration to be trained.
3. Pray for the College students - that we would maintain our contact with them throughout the summer, and they would be consistent in coming to the home meetings.
4. Pray for positive and immediate approval of the immigration papers of Liu/Qu, Aguador, Alforte and Gonzales families.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

- ✓ Lord's Table & Prophesying—Lord's Day 10:00-12:00PM
- ✓ Prayer Meeting—Tuesdays 7:00-8:00PM
- ✓ Chinese-Speaking Bible Reading—Mondays 7:15-8:15PM
- ✓ College Meetings—Fridays 6:30-8:30PM
- ✓ YP Meetings—Sundays 4:00-5:30 PM
- ✓ Children's Meeting—Saturdays 10:00-11:00AM
- ✓ Small Group Meetings—Fridays/Saturdays 7:00-8:30PM