The Hidden Life of a Grain of Wheat

Today God is teaching believers in the Lord Jesus many Kingdom Principles. Here are some examples:

"For you died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God." (Col. 3:3)

"Where I am there will My servant be." (Jn. 12:26)

"Father I want those You have given Me to be with Me where I and to see My glory." (Jn. 17:24)

The Kingdom of God is pictured as a grain of seed put into the ground and buried out of sight yet still living by the power of the Lord Jesus – the power of an indissoluble life. To the extent that we learn to "hate" our own lives and to want to fully share in the life of the Lord Jesus, it is possible for us to experience ***"the power of the age to come"*** and begin to have a taste of our inheritance in all its fullness when mortality will be ***"swallowed up"*** and we will be united with the Lord Jesus and hidden in the wonder of God as we dwell at the source of everything precious together with the Lord Jesus on the throne. This is what enables us to exercise "authority over the nations" and "over all the powers of the enemy".

As believers we produce much fruit by abiding in a hidden union with our ascended Lord Jesus. As we hide in Him, according to His promise He abides in us. In this way we will produce fruit that will remain.

In Matthew chapter 6 there are several characteristics of the "hidden" life in the prayer given to the disciples by the Lord Jesus. He was the very embodiment of all that He taught.

- It is a prayer with no thought of what others think. ***"And when you pray don't be like the hypocrites for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth; they have received their reward in full."*** (Mt. 6:5)
- It is a prayer 'shut in' with God whether in private or in public, for God's 'hidden ones' are in the inner chamber of His presence the moment they approach Him anywhere and see and hear nothing but God. ***"But when you pray, go to your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen. Then your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you."*** (Mt. 6:6)
- It is a prayer not so much of words/language but of the heart. You don't need to use ***"vain repetitions"*** if you know that God hears your requests. ***"And when you pray don't keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Don't be like them for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him."*** (Mt. 6:7)
- It is a prayer that is definite and to the point. The Son of God, the Lord Jesus, knew His Father's heart and taught His children how few words were required to bring a response. ***"This then is how you pray … "*** (Mt. 6:9)
- It is the prayer of a child to his father and in union with other children. ***"<u>Our</u> Father …"*** (Mt. 6:9)
- It is a prayer that puts God's glory and God's Kingdom first before any personal interests. ***"Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."*** (Mt. 6:9-10)
- It is a prayer with a surrendered will for the will of God to be done fully and quickly as it is done in heaven. (Mt. 6:10)
- It is a prayer not for luxuries but for necessities. The implication is a life of simplicity and contentment with the things that we have. ***"Give us this day our daily bread."*** (Mt. 6:11)
- It is a prayer in the spirit of forgiving love. ***"Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors."*** (Mt. 6:12)
- It is a prayer in conscious dependence on God's faithful keeping and in the knowledge of the terrible forces of evil arrayed against us as children of Our Heavenly Father in a world plagued by the rulers of darkness. ***"Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one."*** (Mt. 6:13)

In short, the hidden life of a believer in the Lord Jesus is just the life of little children living in their father's presence desiring their father's will and depending on their father's protection from all their enemies as well as showing their father's spirit to all around.

As believers abiding in the Lord Jesus we are given:

- **Hidden manna** to feed our inner spiritual life

  "To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna." (Rev. 2:17)

  "The one who feeds on Me will live because of Me." (Jn. 6:57)

- **Hidden wisdom** that is kept from 'the wise'. ***"We speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began."*** (1 Cor. 2:7)

- **Hidden riches** that are only gained in times of testing.

  "I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name." (Is. 45:3-4)

  "I know your afflictions and your poverty, yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are synagogue of Satan." (Rev. 2:9)

Fed with hidden manna at the Father's table, taught the hidden wisdom that the rulers of the world don't know, given the hidden wisdom that can only be gained in times of trial and darkness, surely it is true, ***"That in all things God works for the good of those who love Him who have been called according to His purpose."*** (Rom. 8:28)

We can only enter into the deep and full life of God through testing. We can only know God and His abundant grace as He brings us into circumstances that are beyond anything we thought we could endure. As we arrive at each impossible point, we need to simply cast ourselves on God in complete trust.

Ezekiel said, ***"Deep, dwell deep"***. (See Ezekiel 26:19; 31:4; 31:15.) How can we "dwell deep" unless we have no resource but God – no refuge but Him? Dwelling deep in the heart of God means we are:

- **Hidden from the strife of tongues**

  "In the shelter of Your presence You hide them from the intrigues of men; in Your dwelling You keep them safe from accusing tongues."(Ps. 31:20)

- **Hidden from times of trouble**

  "For in the day of trouble He will keep me safe in His dwelling. He will hide me in the shelter of His tabernacle and set me high upon a rock." (Ps. 27:5)

- **Hidden from the storms of life**

  "It (the glory of the Lord) ***will be a shelter and a shade from the heat of the day and the refuge and hiding place from the storm and rain."*** (Is. 4:6)

- **Hidden in the secret presence of God**

  "In the shelter of Your presence You hide them from the intrigues of man; in Your dwelling You keep them safe from accusing tongues." (Ps. 31:20)

- **Hidden under His wings**

  "Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings …" (Ps. 17:8)

- **Hidden behind the Lord God Himself**

  "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty." (91:1)

These passages tell of a life lived out in God's environment. ***"In Him we live and move and have our being."***(Acts 17:28)

What about the outward service of these 'hidden ones'? They no longer 'run' without being 'sent'. Their service is changed as well as their life. They are in the hands of God.

"He made my mouth like a sharpened sword. In the shadow of His hand He hid me. He made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in His quiver." (Is. 49:2)

Believers in the Lord Jesus who are hidden with Christ in God are under His full control. He keeps them close until the right moment arrives for sending them out as ***"polished arrows"*** silent and sure. His aim always hits the mark for He knows the spot to aim at.

When not in active use, they are kept hidden in His quiver always ready at His hand. Polished arrows? How they need to be polished to get rid of the roughness, but the Master Workman knows how to prepare His instruments for His use. Until needed the polished arrows are kept in His quiver always ready to do His will.

"Truly you are God who hides Himself, O God and Saviour of Israel." (Is. 45:15)

"His splendour was like the sunrise; raise flashed from His hand where His power was hidden." (Hab. 3:4)

God's deepest work is hidden work. He is preparing a hidden kingdom but allowing the current kingdoms (governments) of this world to stand until they are ready.

"In the time of those kings, the God of Heaven will set up a Kingdom that will never be destroyed nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure for ever." (Dan. 2:44)

God is building a temple that is hidden from the world – a temple to live in through the Spirit and He is preparing a hidden bride – the Church of Jesus Christ to share the throne with His Son. This is true now in this dispensation. He is still a God who largely hides Himself as He silently works out His purposes until the day, ***"When Christ who is your life appears, then you will also appear with Him in glory."*** (Col. 3:4)

"O the depths of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgements and His paths beyond tracing out!" (Rom. 11:33)

"Jesus said, 'I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was Your good pleasure. " (Mt. 11:25-26)