

HIDDENNESS & **MANIFESTATION**

WHAT IS REALLY HAPPENING WHEN
GOD DOESN'T SEEM TO BE PRESENT?

GRAHAM COOKE

AN INTERACTIVE JOURNAL

BOOK 1
BEING WITH GOD SERIES



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DEDICATION

There is only one Person I can dedicate this book to—the Holy Spirit. I am constantly amazed at His wisdom, revelation, and power in my life. I love His dedication to, and His passion for, the Lord Jesus Christ. The way He reveals the Son to me has changed my life. His physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual representation of the Father to me has continuously made me more excited and in awe of the great love of God for me.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Families are the bedrock of life. They supply the love, belief, laughter, determination and focus to enable each member to grow in confidence and take on seemingly impossible things. Wives, sons, daughters and grandchildren become the world that we look through along with our friends.

We work, persevere, build, persist and develop with them in mind. Their love, acceptance and support acts as a catalyst for all that we attempt. They lift us beyond measure into a place in Christ that contains more than we imagine.

Heather, Ben, Seth, Sophie and partners. Theresa, Alexis and Alyssa. Our wonderful grandchildren. All have contributed to the fullness of my ongoing life experience.

The brilliant friends that I have walked with for several decades. The amazing leaders and ministries that have graced my life. The Radiance Community in Santa Barbara, a grand company with whom to explore life and fullness in Jesus!

Finally, to the one in the coffee house who started this journey and the God who sustains it.

INTRODUCTION

It was just a normal Tuesday in the UK. Rain fell from grey skies; a mirror image of my own soul—dark, depressing, melancholic.

I was sitting in a coffee shop with no answers to pressing needs of faith and spirituality. So many questions, so little revelation and an experience of God sadly lacking in favor or power. Where was He when I needed Him most? Only my perverse stubbornness kept me clinging to hope. For the thousand and first time my only prayer for my life left my heart and fluttered heavenward like a timid butterfly on wings of gossamer.

The coffee shop door opened and in walked a guy. The place was full. He looked around and caught my eye. Wearily, I gestured to the only seat available, at my table. Ordering coffee, we fell into a desultory conversation: name...what do you do? etc., He was a Catholic Priest, Father whatever...I still can't remember. I asked him about my current agonizing question that had been exercising my soul for months: "What do you do when God is far away and you can't feel His presence?"

I remember his smile, but not his face. We spoke for over two hours. At least he spoke—I sat mesmerized. The coffee shop closed around us, so we moved into his car in the rain. His words changed my whole perspective in the spiritual realm. Later, after he had left, I had perfect recall and wrote steadily for three hours.

I'm a changed man through that conversation. I have learnt to have a conversation with God in a new way. I have developed a whole new perception of spiritual reality and a language to go with it. The man, Father whatsisname, taught me about hiddenness and manifestation.

He left no forwarding address, but I'll be seeing him again ...one day.

Graham Cooke

HIDDENNESS &
MANIFESTATION

At certain times in life we feel the presence of God very tangibly. Our whole life seems touched by His presence and we freely enjoy being with Him. At other times, God seems to be distant or even absent. We don't feel His presence in the same way as we did—maybe not at all. We don't experience the sense of peace and well-being that we enjoyed before. Why is this? Is it normal? Is it because we have done something wrong?

I believe the answer lies in understanding the ways of God more fully and deeply, and learning to live accordingly. This book focuses on the area of *hiddenness and manifestation* and seeks to help you in discerning these seasons of the ways of God. Living within the flow of these seasons is a critical spiritual discipline to learn. Once you understand them and learn to flow with them, you will enjoy a real sense of freedom and will not be buffeted by emotions or circumstances as you once were.

Manifestation describes the times when you feel God's presence and His touch upon your life in a very immediate way. He is just *there!* Those times are wonderful and effortless. But God also brings seasons of *hiddenness* into your life, and although He is still very much with you, you don't feel His pres-

ence in the same way. It seems at times that God strips away all the external paraphernalia of your life and denies it to you. At those times, you have to *believe* that you have peace with God, because you don't feel it in your emotions.

“MANIFESTATION” IS ABOUT EXPERIENCING ALL THAT GOD IS DOING. “HIDDENNESS” IS ABOUT POSSESSING THE THINGS OF GOD THROUGH HIS WORD BY FAITH.

Manifestation is about experiencing all that God is doing. Hiddenness is about possessing the things of God through His Word by faith. During times of hiddenness, you must learn to rely on the promises that God has made to you through the Bible.

MANIFESTATION IS A TIME OF BLESSING AND HIDDENNESS IS A TIME OF BUILDING

Perhaps the simplest way to explain it is to say that manifestation is a time of *blessing*; hiddenness is a time of *building*. God desires to bring you through seasons of hiddenness because He wants you to learn the discipline of walking by the Spirit.

Developing an ongoing walk with God by the power of the Holy Spirit is a discipline. Practicing faith is a discipline. Hiddenness is God's way of establishing these disciplines in your life. Once established, they prevent the enemy from invading your life and touching you, because regardless of your emotions, you know how to find the presence of God; you have a constant assurance of His presence and His commitment to you.

Understanding the fact that sometimes God is hidden and sometimes manifesting His Presence will ground you in your faith and help you to have a more consistent walk with Him. Whether it's a good day or a bad day, you will know how to live

in the grace of God. Some days you will feel very close to God, and other days you won't—but it won't matter, because you will know that you can live, enjoying God's presence when you feel it, and enjoying living in your faith when you don't.

HIDDENNESS CONNECTS US WITH GOD'S WISDOM



Hiddenness connects us with God's wisdom, and wisdom is the revelation of who God is and the internal recognition of how He likes to work in our lives. Faith depends upon one thing—your understanding of the nature of God. Faith which is earthed in a sure understanding of the nature of God and what He is like will never be short of things to believe for. You know what God is like, you know that He is faithful, that He'll never leave you or forsake you, that He's made provision for you, you know God never changes... and so on.

Faith in the nature of God is what keeps you moving even when situations are against you. Because you know that God is faithful, when a situation seems bleak or even impossible, you

WISDOM IS THE REVELATION OF WHO GOD IS AND THE INTERNAL RECOGNITION OF HOW HE LIKES TO WORK IN OUR LIVES.

know just enough to wait for Him to come to your aid. “I know You, Lord, You’re here somewhere. I’m just going to wait until You come or wait until You speak. I know You’re doing something. I haven’t figured out what it is yet, but I’m just going to wait because I *know* You.”