



Have you noticed.....how we often hide things that are wrong or about which we do not want others to know? The other week our son brought me a dented tin in the shopping. As he put it down on the kitchen unit, he turned it round so that I would not see the dent. Now, I may be an octogenarian, but, I still have all my marbles. (For those who are not from our English culture – That means I am 80+ but my brain still works!)

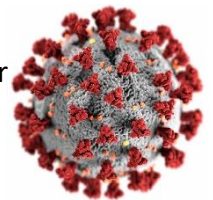
A little child will sometimes hide behind the settee or an armchair when he has done something wrong. One amusing thing, which I love to see, is when a small child has done something wrong and he covers up his eyes thinking that you cannot see him!



Does God hide things from us? My answer to this question is threefold; sometimes He does, sometimes He does not and sometimes He shows us things or allows things to happen that we do not see at the time, but later we recognize that it was something that God had actually previously shown us.

We are not able to see God.....but, He does not hide from us

God sometimes keeps things from us because He knows that we are unable to face the reality of what is going to happen. I wonder what we would have done had we have known this time last year about coronavirus and lockdowns etc.. How would we have prepared for it? Would we have done anything differently from our normal pattern of life? Would we have asked our Pastor not to come to church so that he would not catch anything? It would not be a very good thing if God was to show us everything that is going to happen to us. He is always aware of our futures because He is God, yet, at the same time, He also knows exactly what each one of us is capable of coping with in our individual situations.



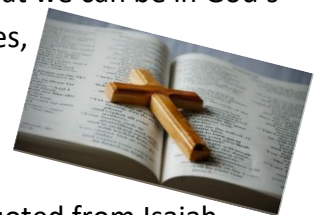
We are not able to see God.....but, He is always there



There are some things that God does not hide from us and which He shows very clearly to every one of us. We can all see or know about His creation. The sun and stars are there in the sky. We have no control over them whatsoever and there **HAS** to be a Creator who put them there. There is a gamut of plants, animals and other things; all having been given life in various ways and all demonstrating the initiative of a Creator. What about people? How intricately we are made! Just thinking about how all the parts of our bodies work is a 'WOW' factor.

We are not able to see God.....but, He can see us

Another thing that God does not hide from us is our ultimate destiny. The Bible quite clearly tells us how Jesus came to earth and died on the cross in order that we might be forgiven for the wrong things that we have done, said or thought. God provided a way for us to receive our salvation in order that we could be with Him for eternity. That is absolutely mind-blowing! What a wonderful thought that we can be in God's presence for years. It is really upsetting to think that we all have relatives, friends, neighbours and other contacts who do not see clearly why Jesus came to earth and what He achieved, even though it is not hidden from them but is written quite plainly in the Bible. They have not accepted Jesus as their Saviour and had the desire to be with God for eternity. How sad. I am reminded of that verse that Paul quoted from Isaiah, 'You shall indeed hear but never understand, and you shall indeed see but never perceive.' (Acts 28: 26)



We are not able to see God.....but, WE WILL!

Sometimes God allows something to happen or takes us along a certain path in our lives which can cause us to say, “Lord, why are you allowing this?” or “I don’t see the purpose in my life for this Lord.” It is only some time later, maybe even a number of years, that we can say, “Ah Yes, that is why God allowed that.” God had hidden the benefit or purpose for a while because it was not the right time to show us His intention for our lives.

What I have personally found happens is that God shows me something, but, I do not pick up on what He is showing me until a while later. It is not hidden from me, yet I do not immediately see the significance of what I have been shown. God is a God of variety and He does not always act in exactly the same way each time; He is predictably unpredictable! What I have found though is that He is continually showing and teaching us how to draw closer to Himself. Sometimes He hides things for a reason or it may be that we did not ‘pick up’ on what He was trying to show us because we were too busy or not quite in the right place spiritually. He is teaching us continually how to listen to what He says to us or shows us. Yes, He sometimes hides the future from us. Yes, He sometimes shows us very clearly the path that He wants us to take. Yes, we sometimes only see after a while what He is trying to show us. The closer we keep to Him, the more we will be able to say the same words that Paul said, “I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content.” (Philippians 4: 11)

Related Bible passages

Romans 1: 19 – 20 Creation not hidden

John 3: 16 – 17 Salvation

Revelation 21: 1 – 4 Eternal life

Luke 16: 19 – 31 Rich man and Lazarus