

UNVEILING THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

The Treasure Hunt Within

A Teaching Guide from the Kingdom Identity Series

The Question So Many of Us Carry

Have you ever sat with your Bible open, read a verse three times, and thought, “Everyone else seems to understand this, and I just don’t”? Or listened to someone share something God showed them, while a quiet voice inside said, “That’s for other people. Maybe one day, when I am more spiritual, when I have prayed more, when I have it all together, God will show me those things too.”

If that is you, you are in good company. Most women have felt that at some point. We picture the deep things of God locked in a room far above us, and imagine that every so often, if we are good enough, God might slide something under the door.

Let us look at when Jesus first used the word “mystery.”

What Jesus Said on the Shore

Jesus was sitting in a boat just off the shore of the Sea of Galilee, with a huge crowd standing on the beach. He told them a story about a farmer scattering seed. Some fell on the path, some on rocky ground, some among thorns, and some on good soil. And then He simply stopped. No explanation. No application. Just, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Later the disciples came to Him, a little puzzled, and asked why He spoke to the crowds in parables. Listen to His answer.

Matthew 13:11 NKJV *He answered and said to them, “Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.”*

He didn’t say, “One day you might understand.” He didn’t say, “If you work hard enough, I will let you in.” He said it has been given. Past tense. Already done.

The word Jesus used for mystery is the Greek *mystērion*, and it means something quite different from what we picture. When we hear “mystery” we think of a detective novel, a missing clue, something nobody has solved. But in Jesus’ world a *mystērion* was a secret that made no sense to someone standing outside, and yet was opened up and explained to the one who came inside. It

was not a puzzle without an answer. It was an answer reserved for those who stepped in.

That is exactly what happened on that beach. The crowd heard a story about seeds and went home. The disciples came close, asked their questions, and Jesus explained everything. Same story. Different distance. Those who drew near were given the meaning.

There is another word in that verse worth treasuring. When Jesus says it has been given to you “to know,” the Greek word is *ginōskō*. It isn’t the knowing that comes from memorising facts for a test. It is the knowing of relationship, the way you know your closest friend, the way a mother recognises her child’s cry across a crowded room. Jesus is not handing His followers a textbook. He is inviting them into a friendship where He shows them things.

This is not only available to the disciples. Years later Paul wrote about the same mystery:

| **Colossians 1:26 NKJV** *the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.*

If you belong to Jesus, you are not standing on the beach anymore. You are one of the ones who came close.

A God Who Loves to Reveal

Sometimes we imagine God keeping secrets to keep us out. But that has never been who He is. Think of Daniel. The most powerful king in the world, Nebuchadnezzar, had a dream that terrified him, and none of his wise men could tell him what it meant. Daniel went home, gathered his friends, and they prayed through the night. When God showed him the dream, the first thing Daniel did was worship.

| **Daniel 2:22 NKJV** *He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him.*

And standing before the king the next morning, he declared:

| **Daniel 2:28 NKJV** *But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days.*

The Aramaic word Daniel uses for secret is *raz*, the hidden purpose of God that only He can unveil. Daniel doesn’t describe God as a keeper of secrets. He describes Him as a revealer of them. If you have been waiting for God to reluctantly let you in on something, perhaps He has been waiting for you to come and ask.

A Secret Older Than Time

So where did these mysteries come from? Did God think of them last week when He saw what we were going through? Paul answers that in his letter to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 2:7 NKJV *But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory,*

Before the ages. Before time began. The word Paul uses for “ordained” is *proorizō*. *Pro* means before, and *horizō* means to mark out a boundary. It is where our English word “horizon” comes from. Picture God, before there was a sun or a moon or a single day on a calendar, looking out across the horizon of your life and marking out wisdom and grace with your name on it. And notice why He did it: for our glory. It was designed with you in mind.

Think of a grandfather who opens a trust fund the day his granddaughter is born. She can’t walk yet. She can’t even hold up her head. But the inheritance is already sitting in an account with her name on it. She doesn’t have to invent it when she grows up, and she doesn’t have to beg the bank to create it. It was placed there before she knew it existed.

So when a crisis arrives at forty, or fifty, or seventy, God is not in heaven scrambling for a plan. The wisdom for that moment was prepared long before the moment came. Paul goes on:

1 Corinthians 2:12 NKJV *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.*

Freely given. Not earned. Not rationed. Not waiting for one day. Given.

Where the Treasure Lives

If the mystery has already been given, and it was prepared before time began, the next question is obvious. Where is it now? Where has God put it? Paul answers that too, and it changes the way we pray.

Colossians 1:26-27 NKJV *the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

Christ in you. In the Greek it is *en hymin*, literally “in you.” The riches Paul speaks of, *ploutos*, describe wealth so overflowing that it could never be spent in a lifetime. And where is all that wealth kept? Not in a temple. Not on a mountain. Not in a heavenly vault that needs a special key. In you.

That is the great surprise of the New Covenant. The day we give our lives to Jesus, the treasure of heaven moves in. A few verses later Paul tells us just how much treasure we are talking about.

Colossians 2:3 NKJV *in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

All of them. Every treasure of wisdom and knowledge is hidden in Christ, and Christ is in you. We have spent so much energy reaching up, trying to pull answers down from heaven, while God has been saying, “Look inside. Dig down. I put it there.”

And yet many of us wonder, “If all that is in me, why do I feel so ordinary? Why am I so tired, so stuck, so empty some days?” Paul knew that feeling.

2 Corinthians 4:7 NKJV *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.*

Earthen vessels. Clay jars. The kind of pot you would keep in the kitchen without a second thought, sometimes chipped, sometimes cracked. The container is ordinary on purpose, so that when the treasure shines out, everyone knows it came from God. Don’t mistake the jar for the treasure. You may feel very ordinary today. What you carry is anything but.

There is a true story from Texas that captures this beautifully. In the 1920s a rancher named Ira Yates bought a piece of land in the dry, rugged country west of the Pecos River. It was hard land. He struggled to make enough from it to pay the mortgage and the taxes, and his friends were sure he had made a terrible mistake. They thought the property was worthless and were certain he was going broke.

But Ira had a hunch. For years he kept asking oil companies to come and drill on his land, and most of them weren’t interested. The experts used to say, “You won’t find any oil west of the Pecos.” One of the most famous oilmen of the day turned him down flat.

Then in October 1926 a small oil company finally agreed to drill. They didn’t even have to go very deep, just over a thousand feet. On the 29th of October, Ira Yates’s sixty-seventh birthday, the well came in with a rush. Oil burst out of the ground mixed with rocks and gas and covered the hillside in black for hundreds of yards. Ira said later, “We didn’t know very much about oil, but we knew we had something.”

Underneath that dusty, “worthless” ranch lay one of the largest oil reserves in the world, and Ira Yates became one of the richest men in Texas. Yet he had been wealthy the whole time he was struggling. The oil didn’t arrive on his birthday. It had been under his feet all along. He didn’t need a different field. He needed someone to dig into the one he already owned.

How many of us have been living like that, struggling and wondering why life is so hard, while the Father is saying, “My daughter, you are standing on it”?

Why God Hides It for Us

Which brings a fair question. If the treasure is already in us, why does it feel hidden? Why do we have to search at all? Jesus answers that in a tiny parable, right there in the same chapter of Matthew.

Matthew 13:44 NKJV *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*

The treasure was already in the field. He didn’t bury it. He found it. And the first thing finding it produced was joy. Not relief, not duty. Joy. There is a joy in discovery that God does not want to rob us of. Think back to childhood treasure hunts. Someone who loved you hid the prize, not to frustrate you, but because they wanted to watch your face light up when you found it.

Solomon understood this.

Proverbs 25:2 NKJV *It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.*

The Hebrew word for “search out” is chaqar. It was used for exploring new land and for digging into the ground for silver and precious metals. God gets glory by hiding things, and kings get glory by digging them up. God doesn’t hide things from you. He hides things for you. And searching them out is not a chore. It is what royalty does. As a daughter of the King, searching out His secrets is part of your inheritance.

Solomon says it again a few chapters earlier, and this time he attaches a promise.

Proverbs 2:3-5 NKJV *Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God.*

“Hidden treasures” there is matmon, treasure buried in the ground. It is the same picture as Jesus’ field. And look at the promise: if you search, then you will find. Not might. Will.

David tells us who God shares His deepest secrets with.

Psalms 25:14 NKJV *The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.*

The word for secret is sod, the kind of intimate conversation you only share with someone sitting close to you. Not shouted across a crowd, but whispered

between friends. God is not looking for perfection. He is looking for those who will come close enough to hear Him.

And whatever He shows you doesn't stop with you.

Deuteronomy 29:29 NKJV *The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

What God reveals becomes an inheritance. The treasure you dig up today belongs to your children and grandchildren tomorrow.

How We Begin to Dig

So how do we go about this treasure hunt? Not as a list of things to get right, but as an invitation.

It begins with asking for help, because you are not digging alone.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 NKJV *But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.*

The Holy Spirit searches the deep things of God, and He lives in you. He knows exactly where the treasure is buried. So begin by simply asking Him. Paul prayed a prayer for the Ephesians that is wonderful to pray over yourself, with your own name in it.

Ephesians 1:17-18 NKJV *that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,*

"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened." That is what we need. Not new information, but new sight. David prayed something very similar, a lovely prayer to whisper before opening your Bible.

Psalms 119:18 NKJV *Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law.*

Then, when you open the Word, slow down. Treasure is rarely found by skimming. Instead of rushing through a chapter, sit with one verse. Read it slowly, three or four times. Notice the words. Ask the Holy Spirit, "What is here that I have never seen before?" You will be amazed at how much is waiting in a single verse when you stop long enough to dig.

Paul also speaks of praying in the Spirit, and he connects it directly to mysteries.

1 Corinthians 14:2 NKJV *For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.*

When we pray in the Spirit, we are speaking mysteries to God. Two verses later Paul says the one who prays this way “edifies himself.” The Greek word is *oikodomeō*, which literally means to build a house. It is a construction word. As we pray in the Spirit, God is building us up, enlarging the house, making room for what He has hidden within to rise into our understanding. And Paul brings balance:

1 Corinthians 14:15 NKJV *What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.*

So after praying in the Spirit, stay a little while and ask, “Lord, what was I praying? What do You want me to understand?” So often the treasure surfaces right there, as a thought, a verse, a picture or a quiet knowing. And if praying in tongues is new to you, please don’t feel shut out of this treasure hunt. The Holy Spirit lives in every believer, and every other way of digging described here is wide open to you.

Sometimes the treasure isn’t buried so much as it has gone a little cold. Paul wrote to Timothy, a young leader who may have been discouraged:

2 Timothy 1:6 NKJV *Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.*

“Stir up” is a beautiful word in the Greek: *anazōpyreō*. It is made of three smaller words meaning again, alive and fire. Picture a woman kneeling at the fireplace in the morning, taking grey embers that look dead and blowing on them until they flame back to life. Notice that Paul says the gift is in you. Timothy didn’t need a new gift. He needed to stir the one he already had. Worship does that. Gratitude does that. Simply using what God has given you does that.

There is something about obedience, too. Jesus said:

John 14:21 NKJV *He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.*

Here is a secret about secrets: God shows more to those who do something with what He has already shown them. When you obey the small thing, He shows you the next thing. Obedience is how the map keeps unfolding.

And when He does show you something, write it down. God said to Habakkuk:

Habakkuk 2:2 NKJV *Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it."*

Keep a treasure journal. What isn't recorded is easily forgotten. One day you will read back over those pages and see the whole map God has been drawing all along.

Imagine a beautiful painting that deserves to be seen, hidden away somewhere in a dark room. It is full of dust and hardly recognisable. And then we find it, dust it off and bring it into the light to be seen again. This is what all of this does. It doesn't require a new picture to be painted. Prayer, the Word, worship and obedience clear away what is in the way: the fear, the disappointment and the busyness, until the masterpiece of Christ in you shines through.

Living From the Treasure

So what does this look like for us in everyday life? When you face a decision and don't know which way to turn, instead of panicking you can pray, "Lord, the wisdom for this was prepared before time. Show me what You have already placed in me." When bad news comes, remember the trust fund. The answer isn't being invented in a rush. It was set aside with your name on it long ago. And when that old voice whispers that you are empty, or ordinary, or not spiritual enough, you can answer it: "I am a clay jar carrying the treasure of heaven."

Slowly something changes. We stop expecting other people to fill what only God can fill, and we become women who bring treasure to others. Jesus closed that chapter of Matthew with this picture:

Matthew 13:52 NKJV *Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old."*

That is who God is making each of us: women who have searched out His secrets and can open the storehouse of their lives to bring out treasure, old and new, for their children, their friends and everyone God places in their path.

Questions for Reflection

Take a few quiet moments with these. Have I been praying like a beggar at the gate, or like a daughter inside the house? Where have I been waiting for "one day," when God has been saying "today"? And what has He already shown me that I have never written down or acted on?

A Prayer for the Treasure Hunt

Lord Jesus, thank You that it has been given to me to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. Thank You that I am not standing on the beach anymore. I have come close, and You have welcomed me in. Thank You that the treasure was prepared for me before time began, and that You have placed it in me. Christ in me, the hope of glory.

Holy Spirit, You know exactly where the treasure is buried. Show me what has been covering it. Lord, I am sorry for the times I have lived like a beggar when You made me an heir, and for looking everywhere else for answers instead of coming close to You. I lay down the fear, the striving, the busyness and the disappointment. Gently wash away every layer that has hidden the masterpiece of Christ in me.

Father of glory, give me the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of You. Open the eyes of my understanding. I stir up the gift of God that is in me, and I ask You to fan it back into flame. Let me see wondrous things in Your Word. Let me hear the secret of the Lord. And whatever You show me, let it become an inheritance for my children and for every generation after me. I am a clay jar carrying the treasure of heaven, and I will bring out of my treasure things new and old. In the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.

Carry this promise with you. God spoke it through Isaiah, and He finishes it by reminding us that He knows us by name.

Isaiah 45:3 NKJV *I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden riches of secret places, That you may know that I, the LORD, Who call you by your name, Am the God of Israel.*

The treasure is not someday. It is already in you.