

THE INVISIBLE DOCTRINE

A Case for Letting Out What God is Doing

By Mark Golden © 2007 markleegoldenwriter.com

I think that I have a different bent than the “average” Christian. I was raised in a Jewish home, went to synagogue until about 14, then was a watered-down hippie for several years and at 20 became a Christian. I had to have *good reasons!* My parents did not believe that I had such “reasons”.

Not having been raised in church, I needed to know that God was *still* at work in the world and in people’s lives in obvious, supernatural ways. But, wanting to know and find that is controversial.

In contrast, not seeing any such activity from Him is quite *acceptable* in most churches. Many opponents of the Bible (me too, some 30 years ago) point to the ancient records of miracles that unfortunately “somehow” cannot be found today, as proof enough of little need to invest in religion. At this point in a debate with Christians, they have to regroup; emphasizing the need for salvation, God’s love, or whatever else they hope might hook or attract new followers.

Although God is extra pleased with “those who have not seen, yet believe”, there are many doubters who would like a miracle or two just to help them cross the line. There are many Christians for whom a miracle or two would greatly help them be more committed and more evangelical. Too often, I think, the lack of such manifestations is something “we don’t talk about” in the church, as if we are doing God a favor. We don’t want to embarrass Him or His private reasons for this unfortunate, unexplainable *passive* behavior. We don’t want to be embarrassed for believing in a big, powerful, but seemingly unreachable, invisible God. We talk about the “Bible days” like proud fishermen who say to the newcomers, “You should have seen the one that got away! If only you had come earlier!” But isn’t this sort of a bluff, in that we can not produce a miracle working God just as the fisherman cannot produce the really big fish to the interested and enquiring passersby.

There has been an unspoken, “invisible” doctrine in churches, synagogues, etc. It is one that is passed down generation to generation. It is that “we are to pray, for it is our duty, but we are to never obligate God to answer us, yet it pleases Him that we are obedient and have made the requests.”

The common view is that to “expect” anything, let alone, *too much* from Him will lead to trouble – false hopes possibly ending in less faith. The flip side of this is that except for a tiny sum, we don’t know which prayers God answers or why. So, if anything good and unexpected happens we attribute it to Him as sort of a “Way to go, God!” kinda moment, complete with high-fives. We place another sticky gold star on to God’s chart, knowing that though He is so silent, He cares. If God actually didn’t orchestrate the something...well, He gives “us” a gold star (of sorts) for having assumed He did!

Because of the Invisible Doctrine, we will even take as a “sign of God’s goodness,” when we get that “perfect parking spot.” But this can lead us to seeing God as fickle – sometimes He wants me to have “the spot,” other times He doesn’t...*His ways are deep and mysterious!* When the heathen get the perfect parking spot they sputter, “Cool!” to no one but themselves. Yet, the godly Christian knows who is responsible when they get it. *Right or wrong?* We don’t know.

Christians feel that they are doing the “right thing” when they send their requests, notices, thanks and updates to God by prayer. Yet, in day to day real life circumstances, non-believers lives (if paralleled) look much the same as believers. This only solidifies for non-believers, more so, the *unnecessary* inclusion of a God-based belief system in their lives. Sunday morning is a great time to catch up on sleep, watch the game or maybe get some things done around the house and hey, keeping that 10% in their own pocket sure helps out too!

When we have “something” real and not questionable (like a parking spot story) something that is hard to debate away, then it glorifies God to blab it. He is probably pleased that churches turn out “nicer” and more law abiding people but He has more up His sleeve. He wants to shatter the “norm” and He wants to do it His way by challenging our often times complacent acceptance of the safe and sane Invisible Doctrine.

Little by little as we say “Yes!” and join this unique parade, we are truly bolstered by these current exciting acts of God, rooted in love, that add personal weight to the validity of scripture.

The bigger base audience needs this, wants this, and has to have it. There are so many attacks against Christianity these days. The validity of Christianity as a religion and what can really set it apart is that we have a supernatural God who can do and is doing supernatural works in people’s lives today. He has hopes, *real hopes*, to continue doing so tomorrow, we can too!