

The Secret Is Out: Boldly Declaring the Gospel Message of Jesus Christ

By Bishop Charlene M. Jamison

Secrets have a magnetic quality—they intrigue, compel, and beckon us to uncover the truth hidden within. In the Bible, one divine secret stands above all—a mystery once hidden, now revealed in the gospel message of Jesus Christ. Today, we boldly declare this transformative truth, proclaiming it to a world desperate for salvation and hope. The secret is out, and its revelation is both a call to action and a message of eternal joy.

What Is a Secret?

A secret, by definition, is knowledge that is hidden or known by only a few. Scripture often describes the gospel as a "mystery" that was once concealed but is now unveiled through Christ. As Paul writes in Colossians 1:26-27: "The mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." This profound truth—that Christ dwells within believers and offers the hope of glory—was a secret revealed at the appointed time.

God, in His infinite wisdom, chose to reveal His plan of salvation at the perfect moment in history. Galatians 4:4-5 affirms this: "But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship." The secret of redemption was hidden for ages, glimpsed through Old Testament prophecies, and fully unveiled in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Why Share the Secret Now?

The urgency of the gospel compels us to share this divine mystery without delay. Jesus Himself commands us to spread the good news to all corners of the earth. In Matthew 28:19-20, He declares: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The gospel is no ordinary message; it is the power of God for salvation. Romans 1:16 reinforces this truth: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile." The time to share this secret is now, because the world is groaning for redemption and healing. Romans 8:22-23 describes this longing: "We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies."

Boldly Proclaiming the Gospel

To boldly proclaim the gospel is to stand firm in faith and speak the truth with conviction. Paul's example serves as a powerful testament to this boldness. In 2 Corinthians 4:5-6, he writes: "For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ."

As followers of Christ, we are called to be ambassadors of His kingdom. 2 Corinthians 5:20 emphasizes this responsibility: "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." This sacred calling requires courage, love, and unwavering commitment to the truth.

Moreover, Jesus reminds us of the cost of discipleship in Matthew 16:24-25: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it." Declaring the gospel boldly may invite challenges, but it also brings the unparalleled joy of fulfilling God's purpose.

The Impact of the Revelation

The revelation of Christ transforms lives, uniting believers and drawing people of all nations into God's family. Ephesians 2:14-16 illustrates this reconciliation: "For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross."

As we boldly proclaim the gospel, we participate in God's redemptive plan, offering hope to the lost and brokenhearted. Isaiah 55:10-11 affirms the power of God's Word: "As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

Boldly Proclaiming the Gospel

To boldly proclaim the gospel is to speak with conviction, courage, and passion. It means declaring the truth even when faced with adversity, ridicule, or persecution. Paul exemplifies this boldness in his ministry, stating in Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes." Unashamed and steadfast, Paul proclaimed the message of Christ to Jews and Gentiles alike, despite imprisonment and suffering.

We, too, are called to embrace this fearless proclamation. In 2 Timothy 1:7-8, Paul encourages Timothy, "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline. So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord." The gospel is not meant to be hidden—it is a light that shines brightly, illuminating the darkness and bringing hope to all who encounter it.

Sharing the secret of Christ requires not only boldness but also compassion and humility. Jesus, the ultimate example, approached people with love and understanding, meeting them in their brokenness and offering healing. As we declare the gospel, we must do so with empathy, respecting each person's journey and recognizing their inherent worth as children of God.

The Impact of the Revelation

The revelation of Christ transforms lives and societies. Ephesians 3:6 describes the inclusivity of this mystery: "This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members

together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus." The secret is no longer exclusive to a specific group; it is a universal invitation to salvation, embracing people of all nations and backgrounds.

When we share the gospel, we participate in God's redemptive work, bringing light to the lost and broken. Isaiah 61:1 captures this mission: "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners." As bearers of this divine secret, we are entrusted with the sacred responsibility of guiding others toward freedom and restoration.

The secret is out: Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). Let us boldly declare this gospel message, inviting all to partake in the glorious hope of salvation. In doing so, we shine the light of Christ into a world longing for redemption and reconciliation.