

## UNDER THE SURFACE (part 2)

**CHARACTER:** What you do, think, or say when no one is around to know

**Daniel 2:22** "He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with Him."

Last week I wrote about the changes taking place in our front yard and there is another thought I'll share with you about that. Part of the "remodel" was removing a picket fence that was about 15 years old. We had maintained it over the years, painting it periodically but I am a fan of the "shabby chic" look so when it got a little "rustic" looking that didn't bother me. As time went by, we began to notice that some sections of the fence were loose, in other words, I could move them just by wiggling them a little. Not good for a fence. "Rustic" is one thing but falling down is something else. When Dennis started taking down the fence we saw that the posts holding up the fence were rotten but we didn't see how rotten they actually were until digging down in the dirt a ways. They looked white and strong on the surface but underneath some of them were almost completely rotted away. It's no wonder the fence sections were loose: They weren't being held up by anything solid.

**Hebrews 4:13** "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."

I couldn't help but think about our lives: what we look like on the surface and what can exist underneath where no one sees. I need to remember that God sees everything I do, knows everything I think, and hears every word I say. That is not only how God wants me to function when I know He's watching but when no one else is. That's "character": When I am the same in a crowd as when no one is watching. Nothing is hidden from Him. He sees what is on the surface where it's pretty easy to fool people but He's really more concerned with what's underneath the surface: What is hidden from people but in plain sight to Him? We have the responsibility before God to make sure those things are pleasing to Him and to confess them when they're not. What others see on the surface of my life isn't always the reality of who I am but it should be. I need to be the same at home as I am when I'm at church, the mall, or at the dentist's office.

**GOALS:**

- \* be the same under the surface as on top
- \* Have a strong foundation
- \* Remember "rot" takes place gradually, over time

**Jeremiah 16:17** "My eyes are on all their ways, they are not hidden from Me, nor is their sin concealed from My eyes."

**BLESSINGS ON YOUR WEEK!**

**Georgia**