

When God is Silent

August 23, 2020

Today we want to speak on the God who is silent at times in our life. There are seasons in our life, when God chooses to remain silent. Today, it seems that God is very silent during this time of world crisis. But God has a special plan! We are told in Isaiah 45:15:

Truly you are a God that hides yourself, O God of Israel, the Saviour. Job lamented in his trial: Job 23:8-10. God hides himself on every side. But he knows the way that I take, and when he has tried me I shall come forth as gold. 19:25-26, he saw the 2nd coming and resurrection.

Many times God gives us very few details in times of darkness. When we're in a trial, God does not do a lot of explaining. This helps to allow faith to develop, and hope and trust. These would not develop if God explained everything beforehand.

Trust - is based on past experience.

“The God who delivered me in past trials, will deliver me in this one.”

I know that God is faithful. He is worthy be trusted!

The apostle Paul said, experience works hope [or expectation]..

In Romans 5:3-4 it states: “we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope [or expectation]:”

Many things would not develop in our life, if God explained everything during our time of trial and darkness. God could not say to Job, this trial will be over in one year. And you will receive double for everything you've lost. NO, Faith and many other divine qualities, would not develop if God explained everything and the outcome, during our trial.

Great light is the result of experiencing great darkness first

(Someone was given a vision of three different women)

- ° **The first woman in this vision, the Lord praised, complimented, encouraged, And gave a lot of attention to.**
- ° **The second woman was not given nearly as much attention as the first woman**
- ° **To the third woman, the Lord walked right past her, did not speak to her, or even look at her.**

The person having the vision, interpreted it, the very opposite of what God was trying to say.

**It was assumed, the first lady was very spiritual, thus God lavished her
The second lady was not nearly as spiritual - was not as blessed.
The third lady, God was greatly displeased with.**

Then, God explained the True meaning of the vision.

The first lady was so unstable and immature, needed all that attention.

The second lady was more mature, did not need as much attention.

The third lady was very spiritual, God could trust her, in dark trials.

People with great light, have first experienced great darkness. JOB.

Some of the greatest spiritual treasures we receive-during dark times.

- **As God is silently writing his laws deeply upon our hearts.**
- **As God is quietly depositing His riches within us.**
- **As God is doing his special work in the deepest parts of our heart.**

And during the dark times, God is often so very silent.

So we will seek Him, and trust him, and faith will develop.

Remember, if God explained everything, gave many details, Faith would not develop, and many other divine qualities.

The Life of Joseph

In Genesis chapter 37:5-9, God gave Joseph several dreams.

In the dreams, Joseph was made ruler over his brethren.

Joseph was only 17 years old at this time.

The dream would not be fulfilled for another 22 years, and more.

God did not explain to Joseph when this dream would be fulfilled.

It would be fulfilled many years later.

God did not explain where this dream would be fulfilled.

It would be fulfilled in another country, in Egypt.

God never explained how the dream would be fulfilled.

And all the things he needed to pass through, to fulfill this dream.

God never told him, you will first be betrayed by your brethren.

And sold as a slave into a foreign country, Egypt. There in Egypt -

He would be betrayed, and put in prison for a number of years.

But Psalm 105:17-19, further explains why God allowed all of this:

“He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant:

Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron:

In the original Hebrew, it literally meant {iron was being put into him}.

Until the time that his word came: the word of the LORD [was refining]

him.” Psalms 105:17-19

God was putting iron in Joseph’s soul, to become a world deliverer.

Joseph was to have answers when there was a future world famine.

God never explained all the processes he needed to go through first.

God is often silent, he does not explain or give many details.

Jacob - Joseph's father

Joseph was a very special son of Jacob. Joseph had disappeared. Jacob did not know where his son was, that his brothers betrayed him. This brought great anguish to Jacob. Where is my dear special son? It brought about great brokenness and sadness to Jacob. And God did not choose to show him, that Joseph was safe, in Egypt. God uses his knowledge sparingly and very wisely. God knows when he is best to speak, and when to remain silent. Slowly, God was bending Jacob more and more into a straight man.

Once again, God often does not explain many things. If He did, faith would not be developed, and many other virtues. This was very true in the life of Job.

The purpose of trials

The trial of Job

Did you know that The book of Job is the oldest book in the Bible. It was written 400 or 500 years before Genesis. About 2000 B.C. Only several hundred years after the flood. The book of Job has a very important message for all of us. The message in Job capsules the message of the whole Bible.

Why did God create this temporary earth, and mankind?

It was to develop a tested people.

In Isaiah 14:12-14, Ezekiel 28:13-16, we have a record of Satan's fall. This terrible rebellion was before the earth was created.

Rev. 12:4 informs us, that Satan drew 1/3 of the angels in heaven.

But Paul tells us in 1 Cor. 6:3: that we are called to judge angels?

We are literally called to replace the fallen angels of heaven. Thus, During the short life, we must pass tests Satan / followers failed.

A dozen times, Scripture tells us, heaven and earth will pass away. In Revelation 21:1. John sees a new heaven and a new Earth. For this present heaven and earth, had passed away. In Revelation 21:9, what is the only thing that remains from this earth? John is told: come up here, I will show you the bride. the lambs wife. The only thing that remains from this earth, is a people who have responded to God's love. Only a tested people remain.

This is the reason this temporary earth was created. To develop a tested people, who love God from their own free will. You can never force anyone to love you. It must come from the heart.

What is the first thing we learn about our first parents, Adam / Eve? They were tested! By whom? By the very one we are called to replace

God's Silence

Coming back to our theme: during our trials, God is often silent. This is where we are really being tested. Do we trust God? Do we believe he is faithful and true? Would He only do what is best for us? Will he not make everything beautiful in his time, - Ecc.3:11. Is the Lord worthy to be trusted? This is the purpose of tests. Often in tests, God is silent. This is our greatest test, God's silence.

In Job's trial, God was silent for months. Job was a very good man. He represents a good man in the trial, to be made even a better man. Suddenly, in one day, he lost everything, bankruptcy, all his children. And His wife was hysterical, all his friends misunderstood him. And God remained silent for months. What a test!

God did not explain to Job what was going on.
He did not explain the purpose for the test.
Job was not ready or conditioned to hear what God had to say. For
During this trial, certain problems came to the surface in Job's heart.
The trial caused Job to say a number of unspiritual things.
God had to wait for these things to come to surface.
Job need to be convinced of things he was unaware of in his heart.
So God waited in silence for months.
God's silence, is a major part of the trials and tests.
This is where our true character is revealed! When God is silent.

God speaks at the right time

God knows when it's best to speak to us, when it will help us!
God knew when to speak to Job. God had waited for months.

People who know God best, have known great silence at times.
Moses for example, spent many years in the wilderness.
God didn't explain everything to him, nor does he to us.

Delays are of God! We are tested greatly during delays.
Israel failed terribly in the wilderness, during delays.
This is when we are being tested.

There is such a blessing for those who wait for God! Isa 64:4:
"For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor
perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee,
what he hath prepared for him that waits for him."

Israel missed all their blessings and promises, because they failed
their tests in the wilderness, and many of these tests were delays.

Testimony of a great man - John Wright Follette

**This man was a great man of God. He wrote several books -
The Author of Broken Bread, and Arrows of Truth**

He had a vision one day, of a lattice.

He was walking on one side of the lattice, the Lord on the other side.

He couldn't see the Lord, but he knew that He was there.

At times growth on the lattice thinned out, could faintly see the Lord.

Then the Lord was out of sight again.

Finally, there came an opening, and he saw the Lord clearly.

God created the seasons, day and night, light and darkness,

Summer and winter. Times of blessing and times of difficulty.

There are times when God speaks much, other times He's very quiet.

So in the times when God is silent, let us hold steady.

Let us keep faith in our heart.

May we maintain a good confession.

Let's believe God to bring us through the Dark time, silent times

Unto a new day!

Do not be discouraged, or depressed. The Lord of hosts is with us.

Amen!