

Remnant Life Church
September 6, 2026
The Power of God's Silence
Psalm 13:1-6

There is a way of God that most believers struggle to understand

- And that is the mystery of God's silence
 - Because of God's power and the fact that we know He is the creator of the universe with unlimited authority, we often expect Him to respond to our prayers in that same way – with great power
 - We expect the seas of our storms to be parted
 - We want Him to shake the mountains and send fire down from heaven in response to our pleas
 - And obviously He can!
 - He is the God of thunder
 - He is the God of earthquakes and great winds
 - But God does not always shout His answers
 - He does not rush to action
 - And he does not always respond with the spectacular
 - The truth is, God most often works in the quiet
 - He moves in the stillness
 - He speaks in a whisper
 - Prepares in the unseen
 - And many times, brings breakthrough in the silence

Consider the most dynamic events of all of time and history and how they came about

Think about the creation of the universe

- God spoke a word and all of existence came into being
 - **Gen 1:3** – *And God said, let there be light, and there was light.*
 - ITO Hebrew, the word *said* translates into spoke or uttered
 - It was not a loud, thundering shout or command that we would think would be required
 - It was a spoken word
 - Now, contrast that to when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead
 - **John 11:43** - *When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"*
 - Again, ITO Greek – *called* or *cried out* means to shout aloud
 - The Bible tells us that God simply uttered the words - Let there be light - and in that voice of quiet authority, all of creation came into existence

Consider the birth of Jesus

- It was in the stillness of an early spring morning
 - There was no blast from a heavenly trumpet
 - There were no heavenly choirs singing the Halleluiahs Chorus (that came later for the shepherds in the nearby fields)

- There was no public declaration or celebration
- There was a young teenage girl, her husband, in a likely stone grotto
 - The only eyewitnesses were the common animals of a farmer
 - And she wrapped her newborn, not in fine silken linens, but the more common likely woolen swaddling
 - And it was not an ornate soft cradle where she laid Him, but an animal feeding trough
- It was still, it was quiet, it was hidden from the fanfare it deserved
- And in that silence, the Savior of the world was born

And then think about the resurrection of Jesus

- It was in the pre-dawn hours with no one there to see it
 - The tomb was sealed and the guards were rendered ineffective with no memory of what they saw reported
 - There was no earthquake
 - No great flashes of lightning or earth-shattering peals of thunder
- In the stillness of that early morning third day, the stone was simply rolled aside and Jesus walked out
 - And in the solitude and silence of that one single moment, the greatest victory in all of history was completed

God works powerfully in the silence, and it is a truth that we must understand and embrace in our daily lives as we cry out to God in the midst of our storms

Over these next several Sundays we are going to examine why God works in silence, take a closer look at the power of silence, and then not only understand how to embrace the silence but also learn how to recognize all the ways we are blessed when we do.

Let's take some time this morning to answer that first question: Why does God work so often in silence?

- Why would He not simply operate in our lives in the full power of His glory?
 - Would not a spectacular, dramatic intervention to my prayers bear a great witness to others?
 - Would that not convince those who don't believe in the truth of God's power and existence that He is real and present?
 - The answer to those questions is yes, but God cares more about the circumstances of your life and your faith in Him than He does about how much others may be impressed
- And so why does He not always answer immediately?
 - Why does He not move in the dramatic?
 - Why does He allow us to endure seasons of silence?

There are 4 reasons I would like to share with you this morning as to why He does that...

- This is by no means an exhaustive list
- But I believe they are important to our daily walk with Him

1. God works in silence to develop our faith

- a. The fact is, our faith does not develop within the spectacular
 - i. Faith grows in the unseen
 - ii. It grows when there is no or very little evidence that our prayer has even been heard much less answered
 - iii. Faith grows in the waiting, in the trusting and in the not knowing
- b. And, as you are likely very aware, faith does not just one day explode into this all-powerful place of security in your life
 - i. It takes time
 - ii. It increases not in huge strides but in consistent, small steps
 - iii. Billy Graham is quoted as saying...
 - 1. *Your faith may be just a little thread. It may be small and weak, but act on that faith. It does not matter how big your faith is, but rather, where your faith is.*
- c. Because faith deals with the unseen, it deals with the invisible
 - i. And as our faith grows it forces us to trust in His forever promise
 - ii. Forces us to trust in His perfect timing
 - iii. And forces us to trust in His never ending love
- d. **Hebrews 11:1** defines the word and tells us precisely what we should desire
 - i. The author writes, *Now, faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*
 - 1. What you must know without a moment of doubt, is that what we hope for and what we do not see is not the absence of God
 - 2. It is, in fact, the field in which our unshakable knowledge and faith that He is active in the silence, grows

2. God works in the silence to teach us to listen

- a. We live in a very noisy world
 - i. Everything is so much louder and there is always some type of sound and noise that we live with
 - 1. Whether it's background music while we are moving from room to room in the house
 - 2. Or the fact the radio must be on whenever you drive your car
 - 3. And if it is not artificial noise it is our own talking
 - a. Have you ever been accused of never letting anyone else say anything?
 - b. Well the truth is we can even get like that in our prayer life
 - i. Always talking, always asking, always pleading, many times demanding and even complaining
 - ii. We're always making noise
 - c. No wonder God's silence seems so foreign and disturbing to us!
- b. And to always be talking about whatever struggle, whatever trial we may be in the midst of is to continually give it fresh life
 - i. We should share our concerns

1. But we must be careful not to allow the problem to become the focus of our thinking
 2. Rather make the author of the solution become the object of your heart and mind
- ii. I have come to recognize that silence is something that can take many forms
1. There's a familiar saying, "Silence is golden."
 - a. This is especially true when we find ourselves wanting to say something negative about someone, or insert ourselves into a conversation where we do not belong
 - b. Yet hopefully we have the good sense to keep our mouth shut in those moments and thus the absence of our words, our silence, is the golden value.
 2. It is also true when you come home exhausted from a hard day's work, that all you want is some peace and quiet
 - a. Then the silence becomes a place of rest
 3. But silence can also make us uncomfortable.
 - a. There have been times here at RLC, before I begin our morning prayer, that I will be silent for 10 or 15 seconds
 - b. Testimonials at a funeral when no one stands to speak
 - c. But we read in the Bible about being still and quiet
- iii. God said in **Psalm 46:11** – *Be still and know that I am God*
- iv. In **Habakkuk 2:20** we read - *The LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him.*
- a. These instructions are given by God because silence is the posture of listening
- v. It is only when we are silent that we can clearly hear the voice of God speaking into our lives
1. If your concern is that you never seem to hear from God, I might ask have you ever stopped talking long enough that you can hear Him?
- vi. Because when we are silent, we can hear His voice
- vii. When we are still, we can sense His presence
- viii. And when we are quiet, we can receive His direction
- a. When He is silent, He is often teaching us to listen for and to His voice

3. God works in the silence to build our patience

- a. There is no doubt that we have become very impatient
 - i. We stare at the microwave wondering why it is taking so long
 1. I begin to get antsy when I pull up to the drive-thru teller at my bank and no one speaks to me as I am lowering my window
 - ii. Because we want everything right now!
 - iii. We want answers immediately – and with that small phone in your pocket or purse you literally have the knowledge of the world at your fingertips
 1. Book details
 2. Conversation information

- iv. But that same impatience can easily be carried into our expectations of God
 - 1. We want our prayer answered before we stop praying
 - 2. We want our deliverance now
 - 3. We want breakthrough now
 - 4. We want heavenly provision right now!
- b. But here is the truth of this desire
 - i. God's timing is not our timing
 - 1. He does not work or move according to our expectations, He works on His own perfect schedule
 - ii. His pace of action is not ours
 - 1. He may seemingly be answering our prayers at the speed of a snail
 - 2. While we want our prayers answered on the back of a cheetah
 - iii. But be reminded of who He is as you listen to what the prophet writes in **Isaiah 55:8-9**
 - 1. *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*
- c. It God's silence He is teaching us to wait on Him
 - i. To trust Him and His timing
 - ii. We can then see more clearly that God is never late
 - 1. And He is never too early
 - 2. His timing is flawless and always for our good
- d. And within that patience comes the realization that God is always at work in your life, even when you cannot see it
 - i. And when it is not happening as fast as you think that it should

God works in the silence to increase our faith, to teach us to listen, to build our patience...

4. God works in the silence to prepare us for the breakthrough

- a. Silence is the birthplace of breakthrough
 - i. They are the hidden places where God shapes us, molds us and prepares us for what He is bringing into our lives
 - ii. Listen to this sequence...
 - 1. In the silence, God works
 - 2. In the hidden, He prepares
 - 3. In the unseen, He arranges
 - 4. And when He determines that the time is right, He releases the breakthrough into your life
- b. Yet there are times when those prayers may appear to be going unanswered
 - i. But consider several prayers that God did not answer in the way they were asked
 - 1. Moses begged God to let him lead His people into the Promised Land (**Deut 3:23-27**)
 - a. But Moses died on Nebo's peak, his request refused because of his sin in the desert.

2. Paul prayed three times for the removal of that "thorn in the flesh." (2 Cor 12:7-8)
 - a. Instead, he was compelled to make the best of it for the rest of his life
 - b. God did not grant the request of his prayer telling him, *My grace is sufficient for you...* (2 Cor 12:9a)
3. Even Jesus Himself in the garden cried out to be released from the torture and terror of the cross. (Luke 22:42)
 - a. Instead, He had to fully suffer the pain of it.
 - b. Because He submitted His own will to the Father's
4. And then think of Israel in Egypt.
 - a. Joseph was long dead, and the nation was under new leadership, a Pharaoh who was hostile towards the Jews.
 - i. The Bible calls him *the Pharaoh who knew not Joseph.* (Ex 1:8)
 - b. And God's chosen people became slaves in Egypt for over 430 years.
 - i. Where was God during this time? Did He care? Did His promises to Abraham still matter for anything?
 - ii. What must it have been like to endure the unending apparent absence of God?
 - c. But God was not absent
 - i. He was simply waiting for the birth of the deliverer
 - ii. The one who lead them to freedom and the promised land

Because in the silence o God is not emptiness, it is His fullness

- It is not His absence, it is His very real presence
- It is not earthly stagnation, it is divine activity

God is working in the silence!

- He is preparing the breakthrough
- He is arranging the circumstances
- He is aligning His people
- He is positioning the resources

But you must continue to develop your faith

You must stop talking so that you can listen

You must embrace the wisdom of patience

And you must prepare your heart and mind for the breakthrough

There had likely never been a time of such desperation and apparent hopelessness inflicted on one people in the same way that the Israelites of the Bible endured, until what the Jews suffered in WWII

- There was found on a wall in a cellar in Köln, Germany, where Jews had been hidden from the Nazis for extended periods of time, an inscription - written by an anonymous author:
 - *I believe in the sun even when it is not shining. I believe in love even when not feeling it. And I believe in God even when he is silent.*

That is the faith in God and in what He is sovereignly doing that we should each desire to live within.

Because there is power in the silence of God!