



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

WHEN GOD IS SILENT

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June 21, 2023

God's silence is an unsettling matter and His silence is very difficult for a believer, even frustrating. It is terrifying when God seems to be distant and we can't feel His presence. However, God has His own reasons or doing whatever He does. After all, His ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55: 8). We can only try to understand why He is so quiet.

1. God may not be ready to speak. He may be waiting for the fullness of time concerning us and our situation.
2. He may have already spoken to us, but it was not the answer we were looking for.
3. He may be testing us to see what we are going to do. He may be waiting for our response, whether we will obey Him or meddle with His plan.
4. Sometimes, God is silent so we won't base our faith on feelings, senses or knowledge.
5. Sometimes, God may seem distant, but He is only trying to build up our faith and lead us to grow spiritually.
6. If He's not answering our prayers, it may not be God's will for us. As a Father, He wants the best for us.
7. God may be preparing us to go through a time of preparation so that we may conform to His purpose for us. We must strive and prepare ourselves to fit into His plan.
8. He wants us to trust Him. We need to trust in God alone to be our rock, salvation and fortress (Psalm 62: 6-9).
9. What we are asking for may hurt us. Psalm 121: 7 tells us that *"The Lord will keep you from all harm – He will watch over your life."*
10. God has already answered in His Word. The Bible shows us many examples of how God has listened and answered prayers. It contains countless

promises of the Lord to us. The Bible can also be our guide to show us the right path.

11. God has already answered, but we didn't like His answer. In Exodus: 14: 15, the Lord told Moses to stop praying and get moving. Sometimes, God has already directed us what to do, but we pray for more guidance as an excuse to postpone doing it.
12. We are impatient and hesitant to wait on God.
13. One hindrance to hearing God is our lack of faith. In Matthew 17: 19-20, Jesus told His disciples that they were unable to drive out the demon because of their lack of faith.
14. We may need to fast.
Reasons to Fast:
 - (a) It draws us closer to God.
 - (b) It gives us guidance.
 - (c) It strengthens our prayers.
 - (d) Jesus set the example in Matthew 4: 1-11.
 - (e) It is a way to humble yourselves in the sight of God

CONCLUSION: Our relationship with Jesus is a journey. As in any journey, there may be times of joy and times of sorrow. It is His desire that we should grow and mature into the person He wants us to be. He doesn't expect perfection, but He expects growth. We need to allow Him to work in us. When we find that God seems to be silent at times, we need to examine our motives, our attitude and our life. We need to be more diligent in seeking Him. We have the confidence in His promise that, when we seek Him with all our heart, we will find Him (Jer. 29: 13).

REFLECTION: Have you ever found yourself frustrated because God seemed silent? What did you do?

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