

HELEN SANDERS

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WHEN GOD IS SILENT

One of the hardest places for most of us as Christians is when we pray, and we don't hear any answer from God. We seek His face and read His word, but we don't get direction. It is in this place that our faith either grows or we abandon it.

There was no open vision in the days of Samuel. When he was born, Eli, the High Priest, had sin in his family and in the place of worship and sacrifice. He couldn't hear from God because there was no open vision. (1 Samuel 3:1.) It had gotten so bad, that God raised up Samuel to be a prophet to bring judgment to the ungodly family of Eli and to the nation of Israel. Sin can definitely keep us from hearing from God.

Between the Old and New Testaments, there was a period of time of almost 400 years where there was no prophet, or word from God that was raised up. Those were silent years until John the Baptist came on the scene with the message of "repentance." People were hungry to hear from God, and when John came on the scene the common people received him while the religious leaders didn't.

When God is silent, we must examine our hearts to see if there is anything blocking communication with Him. If there is, then we must repent to remove that blockage. That was John's message to get the people ready to receive the true Prophet that would come, Jesus Christ.

Another reason that God is silent is that He has told us to do something, and we have put it off. It may be a sin that God is dealing with us to stop doing, or an assignment that we haven't done. We will not be given a new word from God if we haven't done what he told us to do already. Many a time this will happen because people fear the unknown and choose not to move forward because they are comfortable where they are at. Think of a word from God as a seed. It has to be planted and grow in our hearts. Like a seed that is planted, if it didn't break through the dirt, it would never grow. In our lives there is often pain with the "breaking through" stage, but it has to happen to grow. If God isn't speaking to you, examine your heart and repent if you haven't done what He asked.

Another reason that things are silent is Satan is blocking the answer from coming as he did with Daniel. Daniel prayed and it took 21 days for the answer to come because there was a battle in the heavenlies between God's angels and Satan's demons. Daniel was a righteous man without sin in his life, so the delay wasn't caused by sin.

Regardless of what is causing the silence, know this one thing. God hasn't forsaken you. Don't stop believing God will show you the way. Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth if you ask for help. Silence doesn't last forever. It is a season that can change when we are ready to change with it.