Series: Hard Truths | Big Help

INTRODUCTION

Our culture is conditioned to get things without waiting. We have instant text messages, instant information and answers, and instant results in nearly every aspect of life.

Yet we do not always get immediate answers from God. Sometimes one of the hardest parts of the Christian life is not when God say no – it is when God says nothing.

There are seasons when you pray and heaven seems silent. You read your Bible, but nothing seems to move your heart the way it once did. You ask God for direction, healing, answers, help for family, and yet the silence continues.

And in these moments, people often begin asking distressing questions…
Has God forgotten me? Did I do something wrong? Why doesn't God answer?

But throughout the Bible, God's most faithful servants often walked through seasons like this.

This week's hard truth is one the older generation knows very well:

When heaven is quiet, God is often doing a work in us to strengthen our faith.

1. Defining "Quiet" Biblically

Biblical silence does ***not*** mean:

- ✓ God stopped caring, forgot about us, lost control, or changed His promises.

Biblical silence ***often*** means:

- ✓ God is preparing timing, shaping character, and proving and strengthening our _____.

2. Bible Example: David

Psalm 13:1-5 – *"**How long** wilt thou forget me, O LORD? for ever?*
__how long__ wilt thou hide thy face from me?
__How long__ shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily?
__how long__ shall mine enemy be exalted over me?
… But I have trusted in thy mercy… I will sing unto the LORD…"

Insights:

- ✓ David asks "how long" ***4*** times. This is not rebellion; it is _____ before God.
- ✓ In 6 verses, he went from questions to trusting to singing before circumstances changed.

Key Truth

- ✓ Even before circumstances change, we should put our trust in God and wait on Him.

3. Bible Example: Job

Job 23:8-12 – *"Behold, I go forward, but* ***he is not there****; and backward, but* ***I cannot perceive him****…****I cannot behold him****: he hideth himself…that* ***I cannot see him****… <u>But he knoweth the way that I take</u>: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold…"*

Insights:

- ✓ Job could not feel God's presence, but God knew exactly where Job was.
- ✓ Job chose to wait on God, keep His commandments, and esteem His words above food!

Key Truth

- ✓ God is always with the child of God (inside us); Jesus will never leave us or forsake us.

4. Bible Example: Martha, brother of Lazarus

John 11:6-21 – *"… When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days… Then said Martha unto Jesus,* ***Lord, if thou hadst been here****, <u>my brother had not died</u>."*

Insights:

- ✓ Martha misunderstood God's silence: the delay was not a mistake, it was _____!

Key Truth

- ✓ God is all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-present. We must wait for His perfect timing.

5. THE OLDER GENERATION

Listen to their Testimonies:

- ✓ "I waited years to see prayers answered… and some have yet to be answered."
- ✓ "There were long seasons I did not understand. God was working on me also."
- ✓ "I carried burdens quietly that many did not know about… some only God knows."
- ✓ YOUR TESTIMONY:

  _____

  _____

6. PRACTICAL WISDOM FOR ALL GENERATIONS

- ✓ Silence often means God is preparing us or situations. ***Malachi-Matthew*** *– 400 years of silence*
- ✓ We should <u>*not*</u> be _____ when silence comes. ***Mt 27:46*** *– Jesus Christ knows personally!*
- ✓ Never _____ action when God has not opened the door. ***1 Samuel 13*** *– Saul failed in silence!*
- ✓ God allows quiet seasons to refine us and remove dependence on feelings. ***1 Peter 1:7***
- ✓ What <u>*not*</u> to do: *inventing answers, rushing major decisions, assuming worst case, comparing to others*

To the younger generations:
Silence often creates unhealthy assumptions (vain imaginations). God may be protecting you.

To the older generations:
Be an example for the younger believers; share your personal testimony of this truth.