

LIVING ABOVE THE SNAKE LINE

Pastor's Bible Hour – March 14, 2010

Tabernacle of Praise – Pastor G. Richardson

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What Happens when God is Silent?

1Ki 19:10 And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, *even* I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

What did God say to Elijah?

Nothing; Nada; No Answer; Not even a hint

What happens when God is silent? Many will not admit periods in their lives when it seems that God is not speaking. Often, this is driven by fear that others will not see us as “spiritual” as they thought us to be. Great men and women throughout the pages of time have had periods of silence in their lives.

Has there been periods of time in your life when it just felt like God wasn't speaking? You're in good company. The prophet Elijah went through a similar period. Like many Christians, he was zealous for the Lord. He knew the Word of God and had not abandoned his faith, but he still had questions.

God, others live their lives in ways that don't glorify you. Yet they still prosper. Can you explain that to me? They have torn down the altars and refuse to worship you with all their hearts, mind and soul. To make matters worse, they, they have killed your prophets with the sword.

The prophetic can symbolize dreams in your lives. Have you ever had your dreams slain by others? Have you ever encountered any prophet killers (dream killers).

Elijah was living in a cave

He was isolate and alone, and he sought God, fully expecting an answer.

Silence...How did God eventually respond? He told Elijah to “go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord” (1 Kings 18:11). I can imagine Elijah. “That’s not what I asked for Lord” “Why do you have me doing this? I wanted an answer from you. God operates different than we can imagine sometimes.

Snake Story: “Go stand on a mountain” reminds me of a tradition of early settlers in America. Many found that building their dwellings places on the hills allowed them to avoid the dangers of poisonous snakes found in the valley. They called this “**living above the snake line**” Their discovery? Once you go above that line certain animals, especially snakes, cannot comfortably live there. **Let me ask you every Saint of God, “Do you live above the snake line?”** Does the enemy/devil still have access to you? If so, I encourage you to climb higher. Snakes (often symbolic of the devil) can’t live up there. My greatest problem isn’t the enemy. Sometimes it is the enemy within that I war against. I must climb a little bit higher.

Psa 61:2 From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: **lead me to the rock *that is higher than I.***

Psa 61:3 For thou hast been a shelter for me, *and* a strong tower from the enemy.

Psa 61:4 I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: *I will trust* in the covert of thy wings. Selah.

Psa 18:31 For who *is* God save the LORD? or who *is* a rock save our God?

Psa 18:32 *It is* God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect.

Psa 18:33 **He maketh my feet like hinds' *feet*, and setteth me upon my high places.** (above the snake line)

1Ki 19:11 And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; *but*

the LORD *was* not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; *but* the LORD *was* not in the earthquake:
1Ki 19:12 And after the earthquake a fire; *but* the LORD *was* not in the fire: and after the fire **a still small voice.**

Silence and the Still Small voice:

How does God operate in the silence? In a still small voice. Our answer as Saints of God, is found in getting alone with God and listening for ... “**His still small voice.**”

WE MUST FORSAKE OUR WAYS TO FIND GODS WAYS TO LIVE ABOVE THE SNAKE LINE

Isa 55:6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

Isa 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Isa 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

TO FIND GOD’S WAYS, WE MUST BE LEAD ABLE AND GUIDABLE

Psa 27:11 Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.

Psa 27:12 Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.

Psa 139:9 *If* I take the wings of the morning, *and* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;

Psa 139:10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

Psa 139:11 If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me.

Psa 143:8 Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.

Psa 143:9 Deliver me, O LORD, from mine enemies: I flee unto thee to hide me.

Psa 143:10 Teach me to do thy will; for thou *art* my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

1. There must be a total surrender of our will and our ways to follow Jesus.

Jas 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Jas 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Jas 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands,

FIVE I WILL'S OF SATAN

Isa 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Isa 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

Isa 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

1. We must learn to follow the leading of God's will in our life not our own will. ("Not my will but thine be done.")

Jam 4:13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

Jam 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Jam 4:15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

1. I will ascend into heaven
2. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God

3. I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:
4. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds
5. I will be like the most High

THE FOUR I WILL'S OF PASLMS SIXTY ONE
(The four progressive "I wills.")

1. **I Will Cry unto thee:** (realize our need of God.)

Psa 61:2 From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.
Psa 61:3 For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.

2. **I Will abide in thy tabernacle:** (Attendance to the House of God.)

Psa 61:4 I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever:
Psa 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

3. **I will Trust:** (Not in the arm of flesh, but in the eternal God)

Psa 61:4 I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings. Selah.

Isa 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

Psa 20:7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

Psa 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Psa 91:2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

Psa 91:3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

4. **I will Sing Praise**

Psa 61:5 For thou, O God, hast heard my vows: thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name.

Psa 61:8 So will I sing praise unto thy name for ever, that I may daily perform my vows.

“So will I sing praise unto thy name forever.” Because my prayer is answered, my song shall be perpetual; because Jesus forever reigns in the position to answer our prayers; because I am preserved in him, it shall be grateful.

Psa 46: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psa 46:2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

Psa 46:3 Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.

Psa 46:4 There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.

Psa 46:5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.

1. **There is a River**: The smooth flowing, and never failing river of God's divine grace.
2. **The Streams Whereof shall make Glad**: Streams flow from the rivers, Are lives are being constantly supplied from the streams of His Power.
3. **God is in the Midst of Her**: God is in the midst of her, His help is sure and near. (Psa 40:3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.)