

The Hiding of God's Power when He is Silent in Your Life

Habakkuk 3:4-19 AMPC

[4] And His brightness was like the sunlight; rays streamed from His hand, and there in the sunlike splendor was the hiding place of His power.

Where there was a silence of law and order? This movie called Lord of the Flies shows the base human nature of what man will do when he has no consequences for his behavior.

There are times you have to wonder where is God when mankind exercises his free will to practice debauchery and great evil.

- For example, the Canadian Parliament passed a new law making bestiality legal for humans to perform.
- Sister Ma. From China has a house church underground. When her members get arrested, they are burned with cigarettes and electric prods. They are jolted with cattle prods, beaten with clubs. When they faint, buckets of water are poured on them to revive them so they can continue feeling the torture.
- Open doors ministry reports 215 million people professing Jesus Christ as the savior face daily physical persecution every day worldwide. And with increase hatred, evil and racial injustice many people say where is the God who created all of this. If He is a good God than how can He keep allowing bad people and hypocrite Christians get away with what they do without consequences.
- When will God execute His judgment on evil in the earth when people like Ilse Koch of Nazi Germany makes lamp stands out of the skins of Jewish holocaust victims.
- **This is our narrative with the book of Habakkuk.**
- In chapter one, this prophet questions the fairness of God's judgement. Has anybody ever found themselves questioning the fairness of God's judgement?
- He says.....

Habakkuk 1:2-4 AMPC

[2] O Lord, how long shall I cry for help and You will not hear? Or cry out to You of violence and You will not save?

[3] Why do You show me iniquity and wrong, and Yourself look upon or cause me to see perverseness and trouble? For destruction and violence are before me; and there is strife, and contention arises. [4] Therefore the law is slackened and justice and a righteous sentence never go forth, for the hostility of the wicked surrounds the uncompromisingly righteous; therefore justice goes forth perverted.

- Habakkuk saw the oppression of the weak defenseless people, constant fighting, constant dishonest dealings.
- He saw the destruction of his social and civil structure and endless litigations amongst the people.
- Israel's enemies ruled over them.
- He knew God was punishing a nation for its spiritual backsliding but he wanted to know when will God come and deliver those who held up his name and his glory and honor.
- He is crying out in deep frustration very much like the atmosphere of America Christians today.

The silence of God in our lives is speaking three distinct things to us in a nation very much like Habakkuk's time period:

1. **Go back to God's Word and put His sovereign promises before your eyes and mind everyday.** This keeps the fear and love for His Word going against a flesh that thinks it can get away with compromised holiness living.
 2. Adam and Eve failed to do this and it caused them to become sloppy and negligent of what God told them. Theologians say it was somewhere to between 30 to 40 years between God telling not to eat from the tree and when they ate the fruit.
 3. More false doctrines developed during the 400 silent years than any other time in history. All because man did not experience God's immediate judgement for his actions and continued to create teachings that suited his lifestyle.
 4. So guess what if I do not intentionally put God's Word in front of me as something I love because of intimacy I will become forgetful and eat the fruit. Look at how Habakkuk does it .
- Let's read ***Hab. 3:5*** **Before Him went the pestilence as in Egypt, and burning plague followed His feet as in Sennacherib's army. [6] He stood and measured the earth; He looked and shook the nations, and the eternal mountains were scattered and the perpetual hills bowed low. His ways are everlasting and His goings are of old. [7] I Habakkuk, in vision saw the tents of Cushan probably Ethiopia in affliction; the tent curtains of the land of Midian trembled. [8] Were You displeased with the rivers, O Lord? Or was Your anger against the rivers You divided? Was Your wrath against the Red Sea, that You rode before upon Your horses and Your chariots of victory and deliverance? [9] Your bow was made quite bare; sworn to the tribes of Israel by Your sure word were the rods of chastisement, scourges, and calamities. Selah pause, and calmly think of that! With rivers You cleaved the earth bringing forth waters in dry places. [10] The mountains saw You; they trembled and writhed as if in pain. The overflowing of the water passed by as at the deluge; the deep uttered its voice and lifted its hands on high. [11] The sun and moon stood back as before Joshua in their habitation at the light of Your arrows as they sped, at the flash of Your glittering spear. [12] You marched through the land in indignation; You trampled and threshed the nations in anger. [13] You went forth and have come for the salvation of Your people, for the deliverance and victory of Your anointed people Israel; You smote the head of the house of the wicked, laying bare the foundation even to the neck. Selah pause, and calmly think of that! [14] You pierced with his own arrows the head of the enemy's hordes; they came out as a whirlwind to scatter me the people, rejoicing as if to devour the poor Israel secretly. [15] You have trodden the sea with Your horses, beside the heap of great and surging waters. [16] I heard and my whole inner self trembled; my lips quivered at the sound. Rottenness enters into my bones and under me down to my feet; I tremble. I will wait quietly for the day of trouble and distress when there shall come up against my people him who is about to invade and oppress them. [17] Though the fig tree does not blossom and there is no fruit on the vines, though the product of the olive fails and the fields yield no food, though the flock is cut off from the fold and there are no cattle in the stalls, [18] Yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the victorious God of my salvation! [19] The Lord God is my Strength, my personal bravery, and my invincible army; He makes my feet like hinds' feet and will make me to walk not to stand still in terror, but to walk and make spiritual progress upon my high places of trouble, suffering, or responsibility! For the Chief Musician; with my stringed instruments.**

This must be our attitude tonight when facing no results and waiting for God to bring justice and fairness into our private and job situations. You must speak to yourself the hiding of God's power to yourself like Habakkuk did in our opening verse. God has a hiding power He wants us to boast about. This illuminates His Omnipotence while experiencing spiritual impotence. It reminds us we must practice the fear of God in all discouragement and defeat. It

reminds us how much bigger God's capabilities are for our temporary hardships. It puts us in a frame of mind that we can pray in faith when petitioning Him for Kingdom priorities versus praying in fear worry and complaining.

The second thing the silence of God is speaking to us is- **God wants us to practice motivating Him out the high value of pursuing His intimate love.** Not because you are afraid of the punishment judgement of Hell and brimstone. You see when God is silent and you don't experience a negative consequence for not paying your tithes, or not being faithful to the house of God or not disciplining a soul, or refusing to mentor and sacrifice for others and get involved in a ministry, you must make a free will choice at this point. I didn't feel hell or experience any punishment and I have little desire to obey what I know to do so what will be my choice when I do not feel conviction to do the things I am suppose to do. This is where we become brutally honest with ourselves calling on his grace and mercy to empower us to love his word and his spirit. The silence of God wants us to see what's in our hearts when he does not bring immediate consequences on behavior and choices we make that do not please Him or go against His Word. Look what **2 Peter 3:8-10** says about the silence of God.

2 Peter 3:8-10 AMPC

[8] Nevertheless, do not let this one fact escape you, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day. [9] The Lord does not delay and is not tardy or slow about what He promises, according to some people's conception of slowness, but He is long-suffering (extraordinarily patient) toward you, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should turn to repentance. [10] But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will vanish (pass away) with a thunderous crash, and the material elements of the universe will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up.

So in the silence of God He seeks to mature us in specific levels of relational love.

John 4:17-19 AMPC

[17] In this union and communion with Him love is brought to completion and attains perfection with us, that we may have confidence for the day of judgment with assurance and boldness to face Him, because as He is, so are we in this world. [18] There is no fear in love dread does not exist, but full-grown (complete, perfect) love turns fear out of doors and expels every trace of terror! For fear brings with it the thought of punishment, and so he who is afraid has not reached the full maturity of love is not yet grown into love's complete perfection. [19] We love Him, because He first loved us.

Levels of relationship-growing in love:

1. Servant- motivated out of fear and punishment. This is where some of you are right now. You are not motivated to change unless you are going to get in trouble. Or you won't pay the price for love in a relationship because you want what is yours first before pleasing the spouse, the department worker, the family member, etc. This is the relationship level of a servant who seeks affirmation from people more than they do God.
2. Friend- motivated out of covenant. Now you are maturing because you are acting outside of your self interest for that of a friend.
3. Son-to please the father. If I do not know what it means to please male authority in my life and enjoy it, then I will struggle to pay the price of love when God is silent. I will make up all kinds of reasons why I cannot sacrifice to love with my time, my emotion, and my money. This level of the son pleasing his father motivates a person beyond God's silence to do the right thing regardless. I don't want to let my Dad down. Too often I see people motivated out of manipulation and deep resentment in submission to male authority. And the silence of God in your life will bring this all out.

4. Bride-to please the husband. To hurt you is to hurt Me. This is the highest form of relational love.

So,

1. God wants us to put the sovereignty of His Word before us to keep the fear of God motivating us by loving His Word when God is silent and,
2. God seeks to grow the highest level of love in us when He is silent. **Luke 11:28 AMPC**

The third purpose for God's silence is to teach us to choose on our own the relational sacrificing of evangelizing lost and hurting people.

- To choose to pay the high price for love because you are motivated by a husband bride relationship and not driven by you got to win souls or your going to Hell.
- Anybody pursuing something of value pays a high price for what they love.
- Michael Jackson dancing in a mirror all day. Maybe that's why he wrote man in the mirror.
- Athletes like Lebron James. These people choose to pay a high price for what they love.
- Because if you don't love it you won't pay a price for it.

1 John 4:19-21 AMPC

[19] We love Him, because He first loved us. [20] If anyone says, I love God, and hates (detests, abominates) his brother in Christ, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, Whom he has not seen. [21] And this command (charge, order, injunction) we have from Him: that he who loves God shall love his brother believer also.

Hab. Last few verses- **he makes me like hinds feet.**

- This is the proper mindset. Moved by love and not tasing.
- Anything in life requires a price. Both secular and church. Are you willing to pay the price?
- I won't offer something to God without a price.
- The world tells us there is no free lunch.
- So if I don't get the motivation of love right I won't pay premium prices for God.
- People pay tremendous prices because of what they love.
- You can't live without paying prices. Buy the truth and sell it not.

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