

# **SILENCE IN A WORLD OF NOISE**



## **The Silence of Grace**

Sometimes when God is silent, there is great peace.

***And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and broke 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; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.***

*1 Kings 19*

The God of the universe speaks to Elijah in the voice of a gentle stillness.

**And Elijah knows he is in the presence of THE HOLY.**



## **The Silence of Judgment**

Sometimes when God is silent there is fear and trembling.

*We knock on the door crying, "Lord, Lord, open to us!"*

*A long silence is followed by a far-away voice saying "I never knew you."*

*See Matthew 25*

God keeps calling out to us in a thousand ways, and we keep closing our ears and turning away.

...Then comes a terrifying moment, when we cry out to heaven and hear nothing.

***"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord GOD, "when I will send a famine on the land; not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD."***

*Amos 8*

When Jesus said to the storm, “peace, be still!”.... there was a great calm.  
When Jesus was brought before Pilate and Herod .... he remained silent.



It was a silence they could feel in the pit of the stomach. A silence they would never forget. A silence we will never forget, if we choose to stand in the indecisive shoes of those men.

**It's a noisy world out there, and the noise is getting louder.**

The noise of strife among people and nations.

The noise of nature ....

***“....and upon the earth distress of nations in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world.”***

*Luke 21*

Yet, no matter how loud the noise becomes, we can know the silence of God's grace deep within...

...if we ignore the noise and walk with the Master.

***“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”***

*John 14*



*Prayer: Holy Lord, we need your gentle stillness as the noise in this world gets louder and louder. May we find your grace, your peace, your presence as the noise swirls around us. Help us not to get carried away by the noise. Help us not to join the noise. Help us to let go of anxiety and fear in the midst of the noise. And Lord, may we listen, always listen to your gentle whisper....not turning from it, not rejecting it. Forgive us when we do, draw us back. Help us. We never want to be faced with the silence of your judgment because we kept turning away. Instead, may we stop and listen, opening our hearts to your call, embracing the peace you offer us, a peace that places us in your arms, a peace that silences all our fears, a peace that brings us hope and freedom from despair in this world of noise. Amen.*