



STILLNESS in STRUGGLES

Sunday, October 8, 2017

A QUIET COMMITMENT:

- QUIET your mind and soul before the LORD — “*Be still, and know that I am God*” (Psalm 46:10)
- COMMIT to obedience: *Commit* to doing whatever God will say to you in this message — “*to obey is better than sacrifice*” (1 Samuel 15:22)

Q: What stabilizing truths do you hold on to in the storms of life?

Q: What is God’s purpose, for us, as we go through the difficult times of life (Romans 8:28-29)?

Q: What is God’s process, for us, as we go through these difficult times of life (2 Corinthians 3:18)?

In a glorious sense, when we gaze upon the **glory of God**, as seen in the **Word of God**, we are changed into that same glorious image—the image of the **Son of God**, through the working of the **Spirit of God**. As we meditate upon the Person of Christ we begin to display His characteristics in our life.

It may seem **profoundly obvious** but most often it is **practically obscure** (hidden or dimly seen in our lives).

Stillness in Struggles (Psalm 46:10)

When we are still before God, we will hear His still small voice speaking His stabilizing truths which will lead to quietness in the storm.

Goal: Our goal in these messages is to understand our role of *stillness is the struggles of life* in order that we would worship God through life's storms. We will consider God's process of stillness first through **Scripture**, second through **submission** and finally through **surrender**.

I. Stillness through Scripture (Psalm 46:10)

The key to embracing the trial is learning to "*be still*," being quiet before the Lord. Instead of **rushing** we **rest**, instead of **giving into distraction** we **direct our attention** and focus on the Lord. In our stillness, as God speaks, we can listen, as a **student** of His Word and embrace the truth. This is when we begin to truly "*know that He is God*."

II. Stillness through Submission (Isaiah 55:8-13)

When in stillness we submit, "coming under" the ministry of the Spirit of God, teaching me the Word of God, I will embrace the truth of God and be changed into the likeness of the Son of God and respond in worship to the struggles of life.

III. Stillness through _____ (Job 42:1-6)

Consider Job and his suffering without cause—it was not brought on because of sin.

- † *Chapters 1-2:* we see the way that a Godly man responds to adversity—he simply worships (Job 1:13-21 & Job 2:1-10).
 - † *Chapter 3:* we see Job pouring out his heart to the Lord in anguish.
 - † *Chapters 4-37:* we see the dialogue between Job and his well-meaning friends.
 - † *Chapters 38-41:* God answers Job "*out of the whirlwind*" by challenging his knowledge of and ability to care for all of creation while revealing great truths about Himself.
 - † *Chapter 42:* Job answers the Lord in humility and surrender.
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Layton Talbert ("*Beyond Suffering*") – "Coming face to face with God's might and insight, antiquity and awareness, majesty, sovereignty, and freedom is more than enough to humble Job in to the dust, literally. **Any stranger to that dust has not yet seen God for Who He is, however much he may know about Him.** Beneath the Lord's attributes that arouse Job's awe runs an undercurrent of compassion and benevolence—qualities that, *once recognized and experienced, awaken love and submission.* "For the first time, he sees the God of grace, who is not only just but loving and caring."

Consider what Job’s surrender looked like as he answers the Lord.

A. Job acknowledges God’s _____ (v. 2)

Isaiah 26:3 “Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed [fixed] on Thee*: because he trusteth in *Thee*.”

B. Job admits his own _____ (v. 3-4)

C. Job attests to what he _____ (v. 5)

His eye of faith sees his God clearer and more vibrant than he as ever seen Him. With this new sight, his heart rests.

D. Job abhors himself in **unconditional** _____ (v. 6)

One who surrenders is in no position to make demands. He is at the mercy of the one to whom he has surrendered.

Conclusion: As you consider your current struggles or struggles that have yet to confront you, **are you, in stillness, approaching Scripture?** Are you **submitting to God’s transcendent ways?** Are you willing to **surrender your fight, demanding your own way?** Are you in stillness worshipping God through your struggles?

Q: What will it take for you to be still before your great and Loving God?

What is my next step? Please consider doing the questions on the back of this page.

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What Is My Next Step?

Hearing — Giving *attention* to God's Word with the intent to obey it — James 1:21-25

Doing — Making *application* of God's Word to be more like Christ — Eph. 4:22-24

Date: _____ Text: _____ Speaker: _____

1. What did God show **me** that **I** must confess and forsake because it does not reflect Christ and hurts **my** relationship with Him and others? (**Put OFF SIN**)
2. What did God show **me** about Himself in this text? (**Renew your mind**)
 - a. What is He like?
 - b. What does He like?
 - c. What does He dislike?
3. What does God say to me in this text? (**Renew your mind**)
 - a. What command to obey?
 - b. What promise to claim?
 - c. What principle to apply (*If I do _____, then God will do _____*)?
 - d. What example to follow?
4. What verse(s) should **I** memorize and meditate upon through-out this week to help make **my** change lasting? (**Renew your mind**)
5. In light of what **I** have heard from God,... (**Put ON CHRIST**)
 - a. What character quality of Jesus must **I** demonstrate *with God's help* this week?
 - b. In what situations will **I** most likely be tempted not to respond in a Christ-like way?
 - c. How can **I** get ready for those situations? (*If I don't have a plan for change, it probably won't happen.*)



OUR MISSION: to Supremely love GOD,
Sacrificially love others
—ALL to the GLORY of GOD!