



When You Need An Answer And God is Silent

MAIN THING

Spiritual Warfare Surrounds The Christian Going Through Hard Times

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 13:1-2, Daniel 10:10-14, Psalm 13:3-6

ICEBREAKER

If God approached me in a dream and said, "Ask for whatever you want and it's yours," I would ask

OPENING THOUGHT

We've all had situations that we've prayed about and God has remained silent. No answers. No change in your situation. What are we supposed to do? Do we keep praying- does God need to be asked one-hundred times before He moves, and if you only ask ninety-nine times, He doesn't do anything? I've asked that question. What exactly is going on here?

One of the things that the Bible shows us is that there is FAR more going on than meets the eye, especially when it comes to prayers. I think we minimize prayer. We ask people to "Say a little prayer" from time to time. If we truly knew what was going on with prayer and what types of battles and outright wars are fought over our prayers, we would realize there is no such thing as a "little prayer."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the one thing that you heard this past Sunday that stuck out to you? Why did it resonate with you like it did?
2. The sermon talked about the spiritual warfare surrounding God's silence. It said that God's silence 1) isn't a referendum on your faith, 2) You have a powerful enemy opposing your prayers, and 3) God and Satan believe your prayers are important enough to fight over. How does knowing these things change your view of prayer and the timing of God's answers to them?
3. The sermon identified four things to do when you are going through God's silence: 1) Keep Praying, 2) Keep Trusting, 3) Keep Rejoicing, and 4) Keep Worshiping. Which of these is most natural for you? Which is the hardest? And why did you answer as you did?

LIFE APPLICATION

Sometimes I get frustrated with God's silence. I find myself thinking, "If my son or daughter needed something this desperately and I could do something about it, I wouldn't wait two weeks or a month, or require them asking me fifty times before I did something about it." I find myself getting upset at God's silence, as many of us do. However, we only see a small part of what's going on. We don't see the angels and demons doing spiritual warfare. We don't see the big picture going on that God, in His wisdom, doesn't allow us to see because we aren't ready to handle it. That's when we regain our tempers, say, "Your will be done," and continue on in faith knowing that "all things work together for the good of those who love God" (Romans 8:38).

CHALLENGE

Have you ceased praying because of God's silence? What have you stopped that you realize you now need to continue? If you have gotten discouraged because of God's silence, which of the four things do you need to start doing today?