



**#1 When God Seems Inattentive**  
*Pastor Mike Chapman*

*God where are the promises that you once spoke to me? ... Why does it seem that everything is crumbling beneath my feet? ... My sense of confidence and protection is gone ... My hope for tomorrow is in shambles ... Where are you? ... Is anybody listening?*

These are the cries of one who has entered a *Winter Season* of the soul. It seems as if God playing *hard to get*. So what do we do? Where do we turn?

**THE WINTER OF THE SOUL**

There are certain books of the Bible that are “wintery” books...

**Ecclesiastes**

**Lamentations**

**Job**

**Psalms of Lament**

*Psalm 22:1-2, 6-8, My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? Why are you so far away when I groan for help? Every day I call to you, my God, but you do not answer. Every night I lift my voice, but I find no relief...But I am a worm and not a man. I am scorned and despised by all! Everyone who sees me mocks me. They sneer and shake their heads, saying, "Is this the one who relies on the Lord? Then let the Lord save him!"* NLT

Psalm 13:1-2, *O Lord, how long will you forget me? Forever? How long will you look the other way? How long must I struggle with anguish in my soul, with sorrow in my heart every day? How long will my enemy have the upper hand?*  
NLT

Even **our Lord Jesus** experienced the winter of the soul.

*Matthew 26:38-39, Then he said, "This sorrow is crushing my life out. Stay here and keep vigil with me." Going a little ahead, he fell on his face, praying, "My Father, if there is any way, get me out of this. But please, not what I want. You do what do you want?"*

*Matthew 27:46, My God, my God, why did you abandon me?*

## WHY THE SILENCE?

There are many reasons why God may be silent, but I am going to touch on only three that he put on my heart.

1. God has already **spoken**.

*Psalm 119:89-90, Your word, Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations. NIV*

2. God has an **appointed time**.

*Habakkuk 2:3, This vision is for a future time...it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed. NLT*

3. God desires our **undivided** attention.

*Psalm 46:10, Be still, and know that I am God!*

## SUGGESTIONS DURING THE WINTER OF YOUR SOUL

1. Go back to **what you know**.

*Psalm 42:6, Now I am deeply discouraged, but I will remember you.*

*Never forget in the **dark** what God told you in the **light**.*

2. **Trust** more not less.

*2 Corinthians 5:7, Our lives are guided by faith, not by sight. GW*

3. Be ready to **receive**.

*Psalm 30:5, 7, 11-12, Weeping may last for the night, but there is a song of joy in the morning...When you hid your face, I was terrified...You have changed my sobbing into dancing...You have removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever. GW*