

# The Sound of Silence

Does God's silence mean He is weary of something?

(Mal 2:17)

God was preparing the way.

(Gal 4:4)

God was about to pour out His grace.

(Mal 3:1, 4:5-6; Rom 5:8)

## In the silence of God, I want to encourage you to ...

1. Remember God's promises and stay faithful. God is always at work, working out His plan even when we don't see the way forward.
2. Learn to stand/sit in the silence of God and wait for Him. Jesus did that when He was on earth—during His trial, sometimes in His interactions with His disciples and other people, and as a regular practice to draw close to the Father.
3. Embrace obedience full heartedly. Sometimes God may be silent because we don't want to listen to Him. We want "one answer," the answer that fits our agenda and not God's. In Malachi, God had given the Israelites the right answer—throughout the Old Testament, He had kept giving them the right answer—but they just didn't want it, so He became silent ... A wise parent often goes silent when an obstinate child continues to disobey and instead badgers the parent with the same request. When we refuse to accept the answer that has already been given, sometimes God goes silent and waits. Live your life through the value of godly obedience.
4. Watch your life and be on guard against an unhealthy assimilation of the culture and practices of the world or God may remain silent in your life.

## Summer 2022

### The Small Group Sermon Study Hebrews Series



**Opening Prayer: *Father, in Jesus' name, through the Holy Spirit, come and speak to us, teach us and transform us as we read, discuss and reflect on Your word.***

*Read the key passage(s) of Scripture from the message and review the points from the sermon notes, then answer the following questions:*

1. What did you like or appreciate about this message? What was new or surprising to you?
2. What do we learn from this passage and message about God (Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit)? What do we learn about who He is, how He feels, what actions He takes, etc.?
3. What does this passage tell us about responding to God? What does living by faith look like in this passage?
4. What don't you understand or what other questions does this passage/sermon make you ponder?
5. What challenges are being brought to light in this sermon/passage? Are there any obstacles to which you can relate?
6. What attitudes, emotions, behaviours, or ideas are being exposed? How do they line up with what we know about God's character and His word?

#### **Personal Reflection:**

***Silently re-read the key Scripture(s) from the message, asking the Holy Spirit to speak to you.***

- What do you need to surrender to Jesus? How will you respond to what God is showing you?
- What verse, phrase or word do you need to take with you this week? How will you act on what you've heard?

*Prayer: Spend time praying for one another (that we would grow in our love for God and others, that we would be transformed by what God has revealed, that we would be alert and obedient to God, etc.).*