

# Where is God? What to do When You Feel Like God is Silent

Eric Smith | July 12, 2020

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## Sermon Summary

Where is God? Have you ever asked that question? Maybe you've experienced someone asking you that question. It's typically a question borne of distress, confusion, disappointment, or pain. The "Where are you God?" question is often followed by a feeling that God is silent. What can we do when we feel like God is silent? What follows is not an exhaustive or sequential step by step instructional, but rather a biblical look at what we can "do" when we feel like God is silent.

## Diving Into The Message

What Can I Do When I Feel Like God is Silent?

### **START WITH JESUS**

**God has spoken through His Son & Jesus is willing to connect with you.**

Hebrews 1:2&3 NLT

JESUS IS WILLING!

Mark 1:40-41

Check Your Relationship with Jesus - PUT YOUR TRUST IN GOD

### **EMBRACE MYSTERY - It's okay to say, "I don't know."**

Job's three friends thought they knew WHY Job faced the trouble he was facing:

They accused Job of Sin which resulted in Suffering and created the need for repentance.

Job 38:4-7 NLT      Job 42:5 NLT

[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/what-the-bible-really-say\\_b\\_862356](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/what-the-bible-really-say_b_862356)

*"Faith is not constant, nor are you born with great amounts of faith. It must be grown and developed over time."* John Townsend Where is God p 139

### **ELIMINATE ENTITLEMENT - It's the difference between "You owe me" and "I need you."**

HUMBLE YOURSELF

1 Peter 5:6 NLT      James 4:6 NLT

## **ENTER DIALOGUE - Pray. God wants you to ask Him for what you need.**

**Use the Lord's Prayer as a pattern: Worship, Respond, Request, Readiness**

*Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.*

*May your Kingdom come soon*

*May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.*

*Give us today the food we need,*

*and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.*

*And don't let us yield to temptation,*

*but rescue us from the evil one. **Matt 6:9-13 NLT***

**Matt 7:7 NIV**

## **WORK and WAIT - Trust God to do His part while you do your part.**

**Phil 2:12-13 NLT**

**WAIT PATIENTLY**

*Wait patiently for the Lord, Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord.*

**Psalm 27:14 NLT**

## **ENGAGE OTHERS - Stop being a lone ranger. Participate in a Life Group.**

**Matthew 26:36-38 NLT**

## **ELEVATE GOD - Praise God in the silence.**

Job experienced excruciating calamity in life (he lost his family, his wealth, and his health) and he experienced deafening silence from God, NEVERTHELESS, he steadfastly determined to be:

1. Guided by God.
2. To make God-honoring choices,
3. And to believe God would make a way where there seemed to be no way.

Job praised God in spite of His circumstances.

Job exclaimed His trust in God as he elevated God in Praise.

**Job 1:21-22 NLT**

***From the example of Job we see that we can (ELEVATE) praise God (in the midst of life's difficulties) because God is:***

- good & loving God

*You gave me life and showed me kindness, and in your providence watched over my spirit.*

**Job 10:12**

- notices every detail of my life

*But he knows where I am going. And when he tests me, I will come out as pure as gold.*

**Job 23:10**

- is in control

*Did someone else put the world in his care? Who set the whole world in place?*

**Job 34:13**

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# LIFE APPLICATION SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

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### Life Application Questions

1. Do you remember the time that God spoke SALVATION into your life through Jesus? Describe the circumstances of your encounter. How did your life change after you “started” hearing from God through Jesus?
2. Are you comfortable with saying, “I don’t know” when experiencing hard things in life? Tell the group about an experience you have had that you did NOT understand at the time you were going through it that you were later able to see what God was doing. What has happened in your life that you still do not understand? Are you willing to say, “God, I don’t know why, but I trust you?”
3. Explain the difference between an attitude of “you owe me” vs. “I need you.” One definition of humility is “thinking less about yourself and more about others.” How do we demonstrate humility toward God? Toward others? What do you feel like God owes you?
4. Spend time with God in prayer. Use the model prayer of Jesus. Worship Him, Respond to Him, Request what you need from Him, Express your Readiness to live for Him. Speak your prayer out loud, whether you are alone or in a group.
5. A Christian is rescued by God to work. Our working does not earn our rescue, but rather we work because we’ve been rescued. When it feels like God is silent, we are to work hard to show the results of our salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. Oftentimes one of the best steps we can take when we feel like God is silent is to serve. How and where are you serving God? Is God prompting you to begin serving? Talk this over with your group or a trusted friend.