

# Sermon Study Guide



“Hello...God” Series

## #4: When God is Silent

August 1, 2021 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

*In this 4-part sermon series, we examine how we respond to God’s answer to our prayers.*

### Reflect

How do you react to silence or to a very quiet place? Do you like it or do you appreciate some noise better? Why?

### Read and Discuss

#### Discussion Questions

1. In a world where noise and constant action are part of what is normal, praying in silence or when it is too quiet may even keep us from concentrating in praying. How do you feel when God seems to be silent and you don’t know if He is listening to your prayers or not? How do you feel when God seems to be listening to other people’s prayers, but not to yours?
2. Here are some Biblical principles to know what to do when God is silent:
  - a. **Remember God’s sovereignty (Job 38-42).** What do you understand about God’s sovereignty? When you pray, do you have the right to demand an answer from Him? Why or why not? Who was Job? What was God’s response to him after being so silent for a long time in Job 38:4-5? What does God’s answer tell you about Him that Job realized in chapter 42:3? How do you feel that you don’t understand everything about God and how He runs things?
  - b. **Remember God’s mercy (Psalm 13).** How does God’s mercy speak of God’s action? Could you relate to David when he poured out his heart to God when God was silent in his life (v. 1-3)? Share with the group a time when you “complained” to God about His silence and seeming inaction. What did David declare in verses 5-6 in spite of God’s silence? In what situation do you feel God’s loving-kindness?

- c. **Remember to trust the Lord (Psalm 22).** Why do you trust God even when He is silent? In spite of God’s silence in Psalm 22:1-2 as expressed by David during his time of need, how did David consider God in verses 3-5 and 8? What experience in the past can you look back to and say, “Yes, I can trust God today and even in the future, because He proved that I could trust Him in the past”?
- d. **Remember to examine your life (Psalm 66:18).** How does the way you live your life lead to God’s silence (James 5:16)? What should you ask yourself when God seems silent (Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 59:1-2)? What should be your action when you realize that it is your fault that God is silent?
- e. **Remember God is waiting for us to be silent (1 Kings 19:11-12).** Why is God waiting for you to be silent when from your point of view He seems to be the One silent and not responding to your prayers? How did God speak to Elijah in the midst of discouragements in 1 Kings 19:11,12? In the midst of noise constantly surrounding you, do you ever hear God’s still, small voice through His Word? Share an experience when you found His answer to your pleas in His Word, the Bible? Why is personal quiet time with the Lord so important?

### Respond

**In Walk:** How is your prayer time? Are you struggling because God is silent? What lesson did you learn from today’s message that may answer your question of why He is silent?

**In Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank You for helping me understand why there are times that You are silent and, from my perspective, appear not to be paying attention to my needs. Thank You for reminding me that You are sovereign and know what is best for me. I can never fathom Your mind because You are almighty God; I just need to trust Your mercy, grace, and character. May You help me realize and admit that my own sin and shortcomings are keeping You silent. Help me be still so that I can hear Your voice. I pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.