

Devotional for May 14, 2021

By Major Brian Coles

Imagine you're standing at the bottom of a long stairway looking up. The lights are off. It's dark. Even though you call out for a response, nothing happens – not even a stir.

Like calling out at the bottom of a long, dark stairway and getting no response, we can struggle with divine silence – those times we call out to God and hear no reply.

For example, following disaster, the victim cries out to God expecting relief and it doesn't come.

Or a spouse, who has been there for years, suddenly pack up and walks out. The one left alone to face what seems to be endless responsibilities turns to God for help, for his comfort, only to be met with silence.

Or when suffering a lingering illness and no prayer, it seems, is effective. Deafening silence from God continues as the pain intensifies.

What has the Bible to say about those anguishing times when God seems silent.

Ps. 19, which directs our attention to the skies, has something to say about those times when God seems silent.

This Psalm falls into two sections. Vs.1-6 deals with the world God has created. Vs.7-13 deals with the truth God has communicated.

As we will discover, this Psalm brings a message of hope to all who struggle with divine silence.

All the way through the song, David reminds us that the Lord is not only close to us but that he cares for us too.

Here are a few of the highlights:

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

² Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.

³ They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.

⁴ Yet their voice^[b] goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.

In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

⁵ It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

⁶ It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is deprived of its warmth.

In this 1st section David looks heavenward as he ponders the world God has created.

He tells us that God uses the heavens and skies to proclaim his glory and power.

Regardless of time of day, location, or native language, if we look up we are able to 'hear' God. He is not silent.

As Paul states in Rms. 1. "... since the creation of the world [God's] invisible attributes,

his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made."

God has not hidden himself from the world. We live every waking moment under the constant reminder of God's presence and power.

Anyone who struggles with the mystery of divine silence – whether it's picking up the pieces after a disaster, recovering from the loss of a loved one,

or trying to find hope to go on after a divorce – needs only to look up. God is speaking!

While the heavens declare God's glory and power they do not declare his will or his plan and promise of salvation.

God has communicated those marvelous truths in his Word.

Here in vs. 7-14 David gives us a more personal example of God's presence.

The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right,
giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the LORD are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.

⁹ The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever.
The decrees of the LORD are firm,
and all of them are righteous.

¹⁰ They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb.

¹¹ By them your servant is warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² But who can discern their own errors?
Forgive my hidden faults.

¹³ Keep your servant also from willful sins;
may they not rule over me.

Then I will be blameless,
innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴ May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight,
LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Here we can observe the **characteristics** of his Word - perfect, trustworthy,
right and radiant –

as well as the **benefits** it provides – refreshing the soul, making wise the
simple, giving joy to the heart, and light to the eyes.

David also sets out the **value** of God’s word using two illustrations for the
purpose of comparison.

In v.10, God’s word is more precious than pure gold and sweeter than
honey from the honeycomb.

Then David tells us how God’s word **warns** us of evil and potential dangers
in vs.11-13.

Finally, David sums up his feelings in a prayer in v.14.

God has revealed himself to us in his creation. We have his word
preserved for us. We are constantly in his presence. He is there and he is not
silent.

This week, pay closer attention to his creation which surrounds you, all
which speak of his presence.

Weave those moments into your solitude and ask him to comfort you in
tangible ways.

Since this psalm uses gold and honey as illustrations of the value of God’s
word focus on both this week.

Eat some honey to remind you of the sweetness of God’s word. Examine
some gold jewelry to remind you of the beauty of his word. God bless you.