

WHY? WHEN GOD IS SILENT

PSALM 22

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EVEN WHEN GOD SEEMS SILENT, HE IS STILL SOVEREIGN.

“The claim is *not* that God hides always or that we have no evidence of God’s reality. The suggestion is that divine hiding occurs at times for God’s own purposes.”¹ – Paul Moser

“If there were no obscurity man would not feel his corruption; if there were no light man could not hope for a cure. Thus it is not only right but useful for us that God should be partly concealed and partly revealed, since it is equally dangerous for man to know God without knowing his own wretchedness as to know his wretchedness without knowing God.”² – Blaise Pascal

“We cannot plausibly blame God, then, for the blinders we sometimes stubbornly choose to wear.”³ – Paul Moser

Steps when God seems silent

- Be honest – Psalm 22:1-2 *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?*² *O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.*

1 Peter 5:7

casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Psalm 22:3

Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

Psalm 22:4-5

*In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.*⁵ *To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.*

Psalm 22:14-15

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;¹⁵ my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

- Remember that you are not alone – Psalm 22:19-21 *But you, O Lord, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid!* ²⁰ *Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog!* ²¹ *Save me from the mouth of the lion! You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!*

“When the train goes through a tunnel and the world gets dark, do you jump out? Of course not. You sit still and trust the engineer to get you through.” – Corrie Ten Boom, Holocaust survivor & Christian author

- Preach to yourself – Psalm 22:22-24 *I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:* ²³ *You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!* ²⁴ *For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.*

What to preach to yourself in the dark

- God has worked victories in the past.
- God is still working even if I don't see it.
- God loves me because I am still reminded of my insufficiency.
- God still cares about me because He shows me my sin.
- God will work this for my good.

¹ Paul K. Moser, *Why Isn't God More Obvious?* (Norcross, GA: RZIM, 2000), 4.

² Blaise Pascal, *Pensees*, trans. A.J. Krailsheimer (London: Penguin, 1995), 446.

³ Moser, 36.