

**WHEN GOD IS SILENT**  
*Tough Questions, Real Answers*  
Pastor Dennis Clanton  
Woodland Church  
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*“I praise you, God! Don’t keep silent.” (Psalm 109:1, CEV)*

1. IS SIN MY PROBLEM?

*“We know that God doesn’t listen to sinners, but he is ready to hear those who worship him and do his will.” (John 9:31, NLT)*

*“If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.” (Psalm 66:18, NLT)*

2. IS IMPATIENCE MY PROBLEM?

*“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.” (Matthew 7:7, NLT)*

*“One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.... But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?” (Luke 18:1,8, NLT)*

3. ARE YOU BLAMING GOD?

*... “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.” (John 11:21, NLT)*

4. DO I BELIEVE THAT GOD HAS A PURPOSE IN HIS SILENCE?

*“Some prayers are followed by silence because they are wrong, others because they are bigger than we can understand. It will be a wonderful moment for some of us when we stand before God and find that the prayers we clamoured for in early days and imagined were never answered, have been answered in the most amazing way, and that God’s silence has been the sign of the answer.” *Daily Thoughts for Disciples, Oswald Sanders, p 75**

*“My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? Why are you so far away when I groan for help? Every day I call to you, my God, but you do not answer. Every night I lift my voice, but I find no relief.”*  
(Psalm 22:1–2, NLT)

## 5. HAVE I UNCONDITIONALLY SURRENDERED TO GOD?

*“So Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. “All right,” he told them, “go and worship the LORD your God. But who exactly will be going with you?” Moses replied, “We will all go—young and old, our sons and daughters, and our flocks and herds. We must all join together in celebrating a festival to the LORD.” Pharaoh retorted, “The LORD will certainly need to be with you if I let you take your little ones! I can see through your evil plan. Never! Only the men may go and worship the LORD, since that is what you requested.” And Pharaoh threw them out of the palace.”* (Exodus 10:8–11, NLT)

*“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.”* (1 Peter 5:5b–7, NLT)

## GROWTHWORK

*“When the crowd heard the voice, some thought it was thunder, while others declared an angel had spoken to him.”* (John 12:29, NLT)

1. Reverence the name of the Lord.
2. Start with 5 minutes a day after reading your Bible and be quiet.

### 3. TRUST GOD IN THE DARKNESS, CONFUSION, OR SILENCE.

*“Then Job answered the LORD. I know, LORD, that you are all-powerful; that you can do everything you want. You ask how I dare question your wisdom when I am so very ignorant. I talked about things I did not understand, about marvels too great for me to know. You told me to listen while you spoke and to try to answer your questions. In the past I knew only what others had told me, but now I have seen you with my own eyes. So I am ashamed of all I have said and repent in dust and ashes.” (Job 42:1–6, GN)*