

THERE IS NO ANSWER FROM GOD

When God is silent in response to our prayers, while He Himself encourages us to call on Him in our struggles, it is because either He is acting in His sovereignty, performing that which is best for us, or He is sanctifying us, or calling our attention to hidden sins. The Psalmist wrote, If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me (Ps. 66:18). That is, guilty of known sin but continuing practicing it. In order for peace to reign in our troubled heart and our relationship to be restored with God, it is necessary to test and examine our ways, and return to the Lord; to lift up our hearts and our hands to God in heaven, acknowledging that we have transgressed and rebelled against Him (Lam. 3) confessing our sins to be forgiven. A heart that is repentant, the Lord will not forsake it, said David. If that is the reason why God remains silent to our prayers, that will be a good start. A church that embraces false teachings, has separated itself from God and have alienated itself from receiving His blessings in having their prayers answered. *Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened at all, that it cannot save, not His ear dull with deafness that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear (Isaiah 59:1-2).*

We blame God for not answering our prayers; for this reason, many deny His existence, disregarding their sinful life-style as a result of God's silence to their prayers. The holiness of our God does not mingle with sin; there is no relationship with Him if we choose the world's life-style, instead of observing His commandments. God is not a robot to do things we want Him to do, the way we want Him to do. In this world there are many gods people chose to worship. But none of them is the true supreme GOD, the Creator and Ruler of the universe, Eternal and Infinite, All-Powerful, All -Knowing, etc. etc. When we try to approach Him, we must do it realizing that His presence is holy ground. Enter His presence in awe of Him in humbleness and adoration, shoes off in submission to what He has to say. His love will embrace you, bringing you close to Him, for He is a Father to those who love Him. YAHSHUA said, "What man is there of you, if his son asks him for a loaf of bread, will hand him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will hand him a serpent? If you then evil as you are, know how to give good and advantageous gifts to your children, how much more will your Father Who is in heaven give good and advantageous things to those who keep on asking Him!" (Matt.7:9-11). When telling the disciples the parable of the widow, YAHSHUA concluded by saying, "And will not God defend and protect and avenge His elect, who cry to Him day and night? Will He defer them and delay help on their behalf? I tell you, He will defend and protect and avenge them speedily..." (Luke 18: 1-8). In our suffering, He will rock our cradle until the storm passes by, provided that we are walking with Him. God's silence does not mean He has given us a deaf ear; No, to the contrary, He is closer to us, but He must do what it takes to sanctify us. The process of sanctification is slow, otherwise, we would not be able to endure it. The secret of contentment is submission to His will. When God is silent, that will be the time to be still before Him until He directs us to the next step in our walking with Him. The Prophet Habakkuk said, "It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord" (2:20).

The Bible says that "the earnest prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [tremendous in its work]. The prayer that is of faith will save who is sick and the Lord will restore

him; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess to one another therefore your faults, praying for one another that we may be healed and restored” (James 5:14-16). It is the prayer of faith that will produce results. Praying in spirit and in truth, believing in hope for what is unseen, connects us to God and He hears and answers us accordingly to His will, and in His time. *“For the Holy Spirit comes to our aid and hears us up in our weakness, for we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplications and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groanings too deep for utterance. And He Who searches the hearts of men knows what is in the mind of the [Holy] Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes and pleads in behalf of the Saints according to and in harmony with God’s will”* (Rom. 8:25-27). The Holy Spirit ministry of intercession is active when we pray. He joins us by aiding us in what to pray for. Praying in the Spirit is being one with Him in agreement as He pleads for us. We are never alone in our sufferings. The Holy Spirit is near us, carrying our burdens to the Lord God, while we pray. Praying in agreement with Him, God will surely hear our prayer, *“for He Who searches the hearts of men knows what is in the mind of the [Holy Spirit], because the Spirit intercedes and pleads in behalf of the saints according to and in harmony with God’s will”* (Rom. 8:27).

According to Peter, if the husband is not honoring his wife in his marriage relationship, realizing her to be joint heirs of God’s grace, his prayers will be hindered and cut off. (1 Peter 3:7). Man is supposed to be the spiritual leader of his household, and as such, he holds great responsibilities before God when he prays. The family should be held by the prayers of the husband in his leadership. Keeping a good relationship with his wife, is a good start to make it happen. The Lord’s desire is that we call on His name for help in purity of heart, so that our prayers will be answered. He desires us to know Him by experiencing His love and compassion and all that He is. Our God likes to share Whom He is with us. YAHSHUA tore the veil of the temple, opening the entrance to heaven, so we all can enter into His presence as in the Holy of Holies, so we can communicate directly with Him. He is our High Priest, interceding for us. *“Therefore, brethren, since we have full freedom and confidence to enter into the [Holy of] Holies in the blood of the YAHSHUA ... since we have a great and wonderful and noble Priest over the house of God, Let us all come forward and draw near with true hearts in unqualified assurance and absolute conviction engendered by faith, having our hearts sprinkled and purified from a guilty conscience and our bodies cleansed with pure water...”* (Heb. 10)

Yesterday, today and forever our God is the same. He is Whom He said He is. Our ways must be only His ways, so that we can walk with Him the same path together, sharing our troubles and finding relief in His presence, as we face the storms of life. The joy of the Lord is the strength of those who patiently wait for answers to their prayers. *“[What, what would have become of me] had I not believed that I would see the Lord’s goodness in the land of the living? Wait and hope for and expect the Lord; be brave and of good courage and let your heart be stout and enduring. Yes, wait for and hope for and expect the Lord”* (Ps. 27:13-14).

Lord, the storm seems high and difficult to fight;
But we know You are in it all the way, as You were in the days of old.
As the disciples, we too cry, Save us Lord, for we are perishing in the storm.

Speak a word, O Lord and that is enough for peace to come.
Amen!