

A serene sunset over a beach. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm orange glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. Waves are breaking onto a dark, pebbly beach. In the background, dark mountains are visible under a twilight sky with some clouds.

Delighting

in God

What Did You Say?

The Place of Silence in Christian Worship

Silence and the Christian Life

Good News

Silence - connection to beauty.









Silence - connection to beauty.

- Breath-taking

Silence necessary for hearing.

- “In the silence of the heart God speaks. If you face God in prayer and silence, God will speak to you...” - Mother Teresa

Silence necessary for hearing.

- God does not need us to be quiet for us to hear Him.
- We need to be quiet in order to hear.
 - Be careful presuming to know the message

Silence - connection to mystery.

- Rom 16
- ²⁵ Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

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Silence - connection to intimacy.

Psalms 131

- ¹ My heart is not proud, LORD,
my eyes are not haughty;
I do not concern myself with great matters
or things too wonderful for me.
- ² But I have calmed and quieted myself,
I am like a weaned child with its mother;
like a weaned child I am content.
- ³ Israel, put your hope in the LORD
both now and forevermore.

Silence and the Christian Life

Bad News

Ps. 50.3

³ Our God comes and does not keep silence,
before him is a devouring fire,
and a mighty tempest all around him.

Silence is a sign of powerlessness

Ps 115

¹ Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory,
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness.

² Why should the nations say,
“Where is their God?” ³ Our God is in the heavens;
he does whatever he pleases.

⁴ Their idols are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.

⁵ They have mouths, but do not speak;
eyes, but do not see.

Silence is connected to death

Ps 31

¹⁷ Do not let me be put to shame, O LORD,
for I call on you;
let the wicked be put to shame;
let them go dumbfounded to Sheol.

Silence is connected to death

Ps. 115.17

It is not the dead who praise the LORD,
those who go down to the place of silence;

Silence is related to calamity

Ps 22.1-2

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

² O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.

Mother Teresa

- “In the silence of the heart God speaks. If you face God in prayer and silence, God will speak to you. Then you will know that you are nothing. It is only when you realize your nothingness, your emptiness that God can fill you with Himself. Souls of prayer are souls of great silence.”

Lam. 3.26

²⁶ it is good to wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.

Ps 46.10

¹⁰ He says, “Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.”

Hab. 2.20

But the LORD is in his holy temple;
let all the earth keep silence before him!

Is 53.7

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

Ps. 141.3

Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD;
keep watch over the door of my lips.

Ps. 62.1, 5

For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from him comes my salvation.

² He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall never be shaken. ³ How long will you assail a person,
will you batter your victim, all of you,
as you would a leaning wall, a tottering fence?

⁴ Their only plan is to bring down a person of prominence.
They take pleasure in falsehood;
they bless with their mouths,
but inwardly they curse.

⁵ For God alone my soul waits in silence,
for my hope is from him.

Ps. 37.7

⁷ Be still before the LORD
and wait patiently for him;
do not fret when people succeed in their ways,
when they carry out their wicked schemes.

Ex 14.14

¹³ Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

Is 30.15

**¹⁵ For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel:
In returning and rest you shall be saved;
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.**

Zech. 2.13

¹³ Be silent, all people, before the LORD; for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

Ps. 83.1

¹ O God, do not keep silence;
do not hold your peace or be still, O God!

Zeph 1.7

⁷ Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

Ps. 35.22

²² You have seen, O LORD; do not be silent!
O Lord, do not be far from me!

Isaiah 42

“Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him,
and he will bring justice to the nations.

² He will not shout or cry out,
or raise his voice in the streets.

Isaiah 42

³ A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.
In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;
⁴ he will not falter or be discouraged
till he establishes justice on earth.
In his teaching the islands will put their hope.”

I Cor. 4.20

²⁰ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

St. Augustine

“You awaken us to delight in your praise.
You have made us for yourself, O God, and
our hearts are restless until they find their
rest in you.”