Remnant Life Church
October 4, 2026
The Blessings of His Silence
Deuteronomy 28:1-3

God is very present and at work in our lives even in the times of His silence

Now, it is without question a difficult concept to embrace because it runs so contrary to our nature

- We use silence for many reasons and rarely are they positive
  - We use it to demonstrate anger (The silent treatment)
  - We use it to hide from a difficult situation (I did not make a sound!)
  - We use it to protect ourselves (I wasn't about to comment on what he said!)
- But God will often use silence to operate His perfect will in our lives
  - The struggle is we continue to view silence, any silence, as a negative
  - But God is not angry in His silence
  - He is not hiding
  - And He is not in any need of protection from our circumstances
- And so, by accepting and understanding those things regarding the silence of God, we can come to a place of recognizing the blessings that are available to us
  - Yes…blessings
  - But before we consider those specifically, I think it is important to talk about blessings in general for a moment

The words bless, blessed, blessing, and blessings appear in the Bible over 725 times

- There are multiples usages of the word and even multiple meanings
- One of the most common usages is that which comes as a result of an action or the actions of a person
- Another way to say that is a blessing is a positive consequence
  - Look at 2 examples of that – 1 from the OT and 1 from the NT
  - Gen 39:5 - *From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field.*
  - Matt 16:15-18 - *But what about you?" Jesus asked. "Who do you say I am? Simon Peter answered, You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Jesus replied, Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.*
    - In both of these cases a blessing was realized because of a person's actions
    - The integrity and godly life of Joseph and the faith of Peter
- What about blessings today in our lives?
  - Certainly there are many ways to define or states those
  - But for the Christian there are elements of life that must be rightly in place to receive the blessings of God

- A significant portion of the book of Deuteronomy is spent recording the law of God as it was being given to the people
  - And those laws introduce the concept of obedience and blessing
  - Deut 28:1-3 - *If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God: You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country.*
- The same remains true for us today
  - To be in a posture or position to receive blessing requires obedience
  - And obedience most often comes in the times when we are walking in faith, when we are patient, when we are listening to the voice of God or simply waiting for Him to speak into our lives
- When we do that, we are in the place to receive the blessings of God
  - Even the blessings found in His silence

What are the blessings that come in the silence of God?

- Look at just 3 this morning, but there are certainly more

1. <u>Silence brings intimacy with God</u>
   a. There is no doubt that silence from God can cause a measure of uncertainty
      i. We begin to ask questions
         1. Am I missing something?
         2. Why is this happening?
         3. What am I not doing that I should be or what am I doing that I should not?
         4. And inevitably we arrive at the place of, what do I need to do?!
      ii. Now the uncertainty or the questions in and of themselves is not sinful, it is human
      iii. But our actions because of our uncertainty can become sinful if we are not careful
   b. God's silence is a time when we must draw closer to Him
      i. Intimacy with God means pressing into who He is, not who we are
         1. Our own strength is not the solution to whatever situation we are dealing with
         2. In fact, your solution to the problem will likely only set you back further from where you should be
         3. All 4 Gospels record the times the disciples were rowing across the Sea of Galilee in a storm
            a. Their efforts were futile, their own strength inadequate
            b. Only Jesus' action – meaning their inaction – resolved their struggles
   c. The silence of God is the time that we ought to rest in Him
      i. When you are quiet, you can hear His voice
      ii. When you are still, you can sense His presence
      iii. When you are waiting, you can experience His nearness

iv. When you are patient, you can know His strength

d. Intimacy with God can found in the silence

2. Silence brings clarity
   a. How many of you utilize "white noise?"
      i. I use white noise when I go to sleep to offset the ringing in my ears
      ii. But I also use background noise if I am doing a relatively mindless chore
      iii. But what I came to realize years ago is that for me to focus or concentrate, I do not want some constant noise in the background of what I am doing
   b. The same is true within the silence of God
      i. It is in those times of silence that clarity can be realized
      ii. Answers can come to questions that have long been asked
      iii. Strategies can be realized where there was aimless wandering
   c. But many times, those things are dependent on your willingness to quiet the noise
      i. Then you can think more clearly
      ii. When you slow down or limit your activity you can see more clearly His hand of direction
      iii. When you wait your understanding comes into focus
      iv. Psalm 46:10 - *He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."*
      v. The words "be still" can also be translated as "let go"
         1. To know that He is God means we need to often let go of a situation
         2. IOW stop trying to solve the situation through your own power, your own understanding, your own knowledge…
         3. And receive the blessing of clarity of waiting on God
   d. And it is then that the voice of God brings direction
      i. Those things that you need, like Elijah in the cave on Mt. Horeb, that often come in the clarity of God's silence
   e. God's silence brings the blessing of intimacy, the blessing of clarity…

3. Finally, His silence brings the blessing of strength
   a. The energy of our lives is divided into 3 segments
      i. Our physical energy
      ii. Our emotional and mental energy
      iii. And our spiritual energy
   b. And each of them ebb and flow within our lifetime
      i. The energy in your body changes as you get older but can also rise or fall depending on your general health, how much sleep your getting, and so many other factors
      ii. Your emotional and mental energy is often dictated by how busy you are, how often you rest your mind, what it is that you are doing and even with how you feel physically
      iii. But your spiritual energy is independent of the first two
         1. The other two are primarily influenced by your activities, your circumstances, and your environment

2. Your spiritual energy, however, is dependent on none of those
    a. It is dependent on your relationship with God
    b. That is why the verse found in Isaiah 40:31 is confusing to many
        i. *…but those who wait upon the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*
        - How does waiting on the Lord make you stronger?
        - That word also translates as hopes
            - But in either case it is not activity that makes you stronger it is waiting, hoping, listening to God that renews your strength

iv. To be rested, strengthened, empowered means we are waiting, patient, and trusting in Him

The ultimate example of God working in the silence is found at the end of Jesus' earthly life

- Jesus stood silently before His accusers
    - He did not argue, He did not fight, He did not even defend Himself
        - Although He certainly could have in a spectacular way
    - Remember what Jesus said to Peter in the Garden of Gethsemane when Peter had drawn his sword and struck Malcus the servant of the high priest
    - Mattew 26:53 - *Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?*
        - In Jesus' day a Roman legion consisted of approximately 6000 men
        - Jesus said I can call down 12 legions, or 72,000 angels
            - Consider this – we read in 2 Kings 19:35 that one night a single angel came to the rescue Jerusalem and 185,000 soldiers in the Assyrian camp were killed
            - That was one angel
            - If you do the math that means those 12 legions of angels could have wiped out 13 billion people
        - In Jesus' day the world population was approximately 300 million
            - He could have destroyed the entire world's population 40 times over!
            - But He didn't
                - He stood in silence
                - Because in His silence He was obeying and carrying out His Father's will

It is that same obedience that positions each of us to receive the blessings of God

- And many times, those blessings come in His silence
- Because He was silent, you too can be silent as you wait on God to act in His perfect timing according to His perfect will for your life

Do not become anxious when it appears God is absent in His silence

- He is not

- He is preparing in the unseen, He is arranging the circumstances, He is aligning the people, and He is positioning the resources so that you can receive the blessing of His breakthrough in your life.
- Do not become discouraged
    - Do not be afraid of the stillness
    - Do not allow frustration to goad you into premature or foolish actions
    - Trust God in the silence
        - The breakthrough is coming
        - The harvest is coming
        - The answer is coming
        - The victory is coming

Now that end result may not look like you thought it would, but rest assured He is working all things together for your good!