

Psalms 66:18 (ESV)

“If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.”

Isaiah 59:2 (ESV)

“But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.”

Facing Seasons of God’s Silence John 11

John 11:1-6 (HCSB)

Now a man was sick, Lazarus, from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, and it was her brother Lazarus who was sick. So the sisters sent a message to Him: “Lord, the one You love is sick.” When Jesus heard it, He said, “This sickness will not end in death but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” (Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus.) So when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.

Seasons of God’s Silence...

I. Often Come During Times of Suffering.

Verse 3 – “So the sisters sent a message to Him: ‘Lord, the one You love is sick.’”

Job 23: 1-3,8-9 (NIV)

Then Job replied: “Even today my complaint is bitter; his hand is heavy in spite of my groaning. If only I knew where to find him; if only I could go to his dwelling! “But if I go to the east, he is not there; if I go to the west, I do not find him. When he is at work in the north, I do not see him; when he turns to the south, I catch no glimpse of him.

“Conflict is the only way to turn faith into a personal possession.”
- Oswald Chambers

II. Are Times to Remember Spiritual Certainties.

- God’s Love is Ever Constant.

Verse 5 – “(Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus.)”

- God’s Word Never Changes

Verse 4 – “When Jesus heard it, He said, ‘This sickness will not end in death but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.’”

Psalms 119:50 (NIV)

"My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life."

Job 23:10-12 (NIV)

But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold. My feet have closely followed his steps; I have kept to his way without turning aside. I have not departed from the commands of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread.

- God is Always in Control

Verse 21-22 - "Then Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if You had been here, my brother wouldn't have died. Yet even now I know that whatever You ask from God, God will give You'"

III. Will Often Lead us to Greater Experiences of His Presence and Power

Verse 23-26

"Your brother will rise again," Jesus told her. Martha said, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me, even if he dies, will live. Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die--ever. Do you believe this?"

Job 42:1-5 (NIV)

"Then Job replied to the LORD: 'I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. ...My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you.'"