

Why is God Silent?

The Dark Night of the Soul

My Story:

After my first miscarriage I went through several cycles of grief. The fertility meds I took made it worse. Satan used that time to attack me in the worst way. There were several times when I was close to killing myself. It was the darkest time of my life. Even though God was closest to me right when my suffering began, I felt he had abandoned me. Worse I thought he was cruel. He had made this promise of 3 children. I had one beautiful baby girl, my stepson refused to speak to us, and now the third one had died. What kind of person, let alone God, would make a promise like that and then take them away? Did his promise include dead babies? I worked my way through that. I was still angry with God for being silent and for not answering my prayers but through teachings from my church, I decided he wasn't necessarily cruel. Maybe the promise just wasn't fulfilled yet. I endured watching many women in my circle of friends becoming pregnant. I endured babies being born and watching people get what I desired more than anything in the world.

Finally I found out I was pregnant again with two babies. I knew that this was God giving me back double what I had lost. Unfortunately that wasn't the case. It was just more loss. At exactly 8 weeks I miscarried again. It was different this time because I felt it all. There was no going to sleep for a few hours and it was over when I woke up. For me it was better this way.

But I had another battle to fight. I didn't go as deep into the darkness as before. We decided to do some fertility treatments and again was taking the same medicine that sent me spiraling before. The doctor couldn't find a single reason for my infertility or pregnancy loss. So we continued to try. I asked God to protect my mind this time. While there were many side effects, suicidal thoughts were not one of them. Finally in August the treatments worked. I got a positive pregnancy test. 3 days later I lost the pregnancy. The doctor called it a chemical pregnancy. It was about this time when I got the feeling I had been completely abandoned. I felt I had done everything I could to help this promise along. I changed my diet. I prayed and prayed and prayed. I took vitamins and supplements. I did everything possible to fix my body. And still nothing. I controlled what I could, but with the things that were beyond my control God was just silent.

I remember the moment it became clear that God's silence was on purpose. I was still going through the motions of church. Mainly for my daughter and husband. Mostly for my daughter. So we were at our community group gathering. I don't even remember what we were discussing. I had absolutely nothing to say because all I could think about was that I didn't care. Finally our group leader spoke up and said "Y'all have been really quiet. You usually have more to share." And I just broke. I spilled it all. My anger with God, my disappointment. And His silence.

There is no end date for the dark night of the soul. That's one of the worst things about it. You don't know when it will end. And it's not always like the veil is suddenly lifted and everything is better. Sometimes things get better slowly. So slow that you may not even realize it's better until one day you realize God just spoke to you, or that song just touched your heart in a familiar way, or you want to raise your hands in praise again. But the dark night will be over and when it

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is you will be a more mature follower of Christ because you will know what you can endure. My dear friend said recently... "Nothing is too hard for me anymore because I've already done the hard thing."

Prayer: Father reveal yourself to me. Reveal where you are working in my life. Give me some direction. Increase my faith because faith comes from you alone. Fill me with your spirit and draw near to me. Let me see your work in my life again. In Jesus Name I pray.

Response:

Are you experiencing a feeling of loss of connection with God? Not because you are choosing not to obey but because He is silent in your life right now. If so, write a bit about what that feels like in your life.

Read these verses and **journal** what came to mind as you read:

Mark 9:29; Matthew 17:4-20; Luke 17:6-10; Isaiah 54:7 the whole chapter, but this verse stands out.

What are your thoughts/feelings/questions?

What is your answer to the question "Why is God silent?"

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The Purpose of Darkness

The simplest answer is so that we can appreciate the light. Having gone through the darkness I love the light all the more. And because of that I can appreciate the darkness. The darkness is a time for growth and searching. Where being in the light can give amazing experiences the darkness is where we seek. We look for God in a way we have never looked before. We yearn even for just a drop of his goodness and when we receive God's goodness again we are so much more grateful for it.

Another purpose for the darkness is so that you can become a guide through the darkness. Before I went into this deep dark time I never knew it existed. I would never be able to help someone else who was experiencing it. Or at least give them some insight as to what was happening. Many people told me that they like me had experienced loss and miscarriage. I didn't see the value in those sentiments. In fact I even became resentful of them. I felt it negated my feelings of hurt, anger and sadness. But looking back now I realize I should have seen it as a beacon, that someone had gone through this and made it out the other side and I could too.

I have lived through a pain I never thought I would have experienced. A pain that I didn't understand before I lived it. It wasn't just the loss of my babies, but it was the loss of my faith. I didn't believe God's promises any more. And worse I just didn't care. God was silent to my pleas and my prayers. I didn't stop going to church mainly because of my family. But I certainly didn't sing the songs and there were times where I completely checked out. I would pull out my phone and scroll through facebook during the sermon. It no longer applied to me. My soul was downcast. I was lost and adrift in my grief. I doubted that God would listen, understand or care about me. I wondered what I had done to deserve this silence.

If that is you right now then I can tell you that eventually the Lord will reach down and bring peace to your soul. If he is not already working that out. I know because he did for me. I'm not saying the peace won't come from more pain. I literally had to break a bone to get that peace and learn my lessons. It won't look like that for you. It will be completely different, but when it happens you will know.

Then I read about the dark night of the soul and I listened to some podcasts about the silence of the Lord.

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Read these verses and **journal** what came to mind as you read:
Psalm 42; James 1:2-8

What are your thoughts/feelings/questions?

What purpose does God have to bring you through the darkness?
