

Why All This Silence?

Erwin Lutzer

I. Introduction.

- A. The silence of God is the great mystery of our existence—why does He not intervene when we think He should?
- B. Suffering is difficult to explain when it is so great.
- C. Text: Psalm 77.

II. God sometimes whispers to us in our circumstances.

- 1. It helps to remember what God has done in the past.
- 2. It is a testimony of God's faithfulness when times are dire.
- 3. Everything that comes to us—if we receive it correctly—can be received from God. (Jonah 4)

III. God speaks through redemption.

IV. God shouts through His promises.

- 1. This is all we have to hold onto sometimes.
- 2. God will never leave a believer. (Hebrews)
- 3. God knows better than we do.

V. What we have to learn.

- 1. The silence of God should never be misinterpreted as the indifference of God. God cares.
- 2. The silence of God should be interpreted as part of the purposes of God. God's silence grows our faith.
- 3. Even in God's silence, He can still be heard. (Luke 7)

Application questions:

- 1. What are ways that God speaks in suffering?

- 2. How would you counsel someone struggling to hear God in the midst of suffering?

3. How can it be said that God's silence grows a person's faith?
