

# Silence and Solitude: By Erica Jermanus



In this day and age, it can be so easy to get distracted by the things of this world. There are so many things in the world that clamor for our attention. There are our cell phones, computers, televisions, people, animals, and traffic. For others, it may be their jobs, relationships, careers, technology, bank accounts, social media, friends, or family that may be a distraction. Sometimes, we do not think much of it until after we start putting these things before God and allowing them to become an idol in our hearts and lives. I know I have been there before too and have needed to repent for this, and I think we all have more often than not.

For this reason, God may separate many of His children from certain relationships, friendships, jobs, and careers because these things and people may not be the will of God for us. He knows that if we continue to keep those things and people in our lives that we are not going to get to where God wants us to be. So, He will have us lose certain people, places, and things in our lives because they are causing us to fall and stumble or hold us back from what God wants to do in our lives.



We may need to let go of certain things, people, and places and find time with God in the quietness and stillness. God wants to speak directly to our hearts, and He wants to give us guidance, direction, and instructions for us to follow. Jesus Christ said in John 10:27, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth." When we separate ourselves from certain people in our lives, we are able to hear the voice of God more clearly. He will speak to us when we are still in His presence. When we get quiet enough, we are able to hear His voice. It is a still, small whisper that can be likened to an intruding thought. But we want to see if that thought is from God and not ourselves or the enemy.

It is when we get into the secret place with God, and we are listening to His voice that not only will He protect us from evil and harm, but He will also lead and guide us by His Spirit. He will show us the way He wants us to go. He will show us what His will, plan, and purpose is for our lives. He may lead us to do something that is in His will that will help us to get back into alignment or position with Him and His timing.



Psalm 91:1 says, “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” When we are in the secret place with God, that is when we are under His protection and nothing can harm us. God is protecting His children with His blood of protection over them when they are walking in the will of God for their lives.

If we want to see fruit in our lives, then we need to be willing to not only abide with Christ, but also to obey Him and step out in faith to do His will. Obedience may look like getting into the secret place with Him and listening to His voice. It may look like stepping out in faith and doing the things you know God is calling you to do. If God is calling you to start a ministry or business or to write a book, go ahead and do it. Sometimes, obedience may look scary at first, but once you do it you will be glad that you stepped out in faith and obeyed the voice of the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes, the only way to know what God is calling us to do is by getting in the word of God or the Bible and reading it as well as getting into stillness and quietness and listening to His voice. When you want to get guidance and instructions from God and you want



to obey Him, it may require you to take risks and challenges that may look hard and difficult at the moment. But when you do, God will carry you through it, and He will help you to do what needs to be done. Sometimes, small acts of obedience really speak volumes. Small acts of obedience can bring blessings and breakthroughs when we choose to obey the voice of the Holy Spirit.

When you get into the secret place to hear the voice of God, there are going to be distractions. The enemy is going to try to make lots of noises or disruptions to try to stop you from hearing from God. Why? Because he does not want you to get instructions or guidance from God on the next steps to take in your life. He knows that if you hear from God and get directions from Him and where to go and what to do, you will take steps of obedience. Eventually, that obedience will bear much fruit in return. You will come out with a harvest because of your obedience. You will get rewards for your faithfulness and obedience to the word of God and the voice of God.

When those distractions come, you may need to pray for God to remove the distractions of the enemy and for



there to be peace and quiet in your home and in your environment and in your mind. There are times when our minds may be racing with thoughts, and we have a hard time hearing from God because our minds are going everywhere at once. So, we may need to ask God to quiet our minds and our thoughts and to help us to focus on Him and what it is He wants to say to us. We may need to ask God to silence the voice of the enemy and the lies of the enemy. Because if we do not pray that the enemy is going to try to speak to us, we may mistake his voice for God's voice.

But one way you can know if a voice is from God or not is if the voice lines up with scripture in the Bible. Because if what you are hearing does not line up with the Bible, then it is not from God. The enemy will try to whisper in your ears just like Jesus Christ does. So, we need to ask God for discernment to know what is from Him and what is not.