

Quietness
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"When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour." Revelation 8:1

We are a busy people, filling the time with things to do; filling the silence with things to say. It's hard to restrain ourselves. If there is a gap in action, noise, or entertainment we want to fill it in. We are uneasy with quietness and silence.

When God has acted and spoken, and brought everything to completion; there is nothing left to say and nothing left to do. It is time for quietness and time for silence. It's a beautiful thing, quietness in the presence of God. It is when we recognize that it is time simply to admire and wonder at what He has done. No speaking. No applauding. No intruding with our words and our responses. Simply seeing and hearing and quietly worshiping.

When the people of Israel were at the shore of the Red Sea and filled with fear, what did Moses say? "Do not fear! ... The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent." (Exodus 14:13-14) That experience echoes through the pages of the Old Testament coming to the surface vividly in Psalm 46 with the words, "Be still and know that I am God." That entire psalm is about quietness in the middle of turmoil.

There is a basic quietness to faith, where hearing the Word of God and trusting His promises is enough. A friend talked about how she loved to come to church almost an hour before services started. She said she liked to spend time in God's House simply being there in the quietness. I think that is the most beautiful example of quietness I have ever heard and known.

When everything is said, and everything is done, and it is time for us to finish with our frantic doing and our business with filling the time with our words -- there is an eternal Word from God to be heard and treasured deep within -- simply hearing and believing, and nothing more.