



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Sermon: When God Is Silent

SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS SMITH | 1/11/2026 | PAGE 1 OF 5

Day 1: When God Feels Far Away

Devotional: Have you ever felt like God was playing hide-and-seek with you during your darkest moments? You're not alone. Even the psalmist wrestled with this feeling, crying out about God seeming distant when trouble strikes. This isn't a sign of weak faith - it's part of the honest human experience of walking with God. When we face job loss, relationship struggles, health scares, or family crises, our first instinct is often to wonder where God is. We pray, we plead, we search for His voice, yet sometimes we're met with what feels like silence. This can be incredibly disheartening, especially when we see others around us seemingly prospering while we struggle. But here's what we must remember: God's apparent silence doesn't mean He's absent. Just as a loving parent doesn't always immediately respond to every request from their child, our Heavenly Father sometimes chooses silence for reasons we can't yet understand. His timing isn't our timing, and His ways aren't our ways. The key is learning to trust God's heart even when we can't see His hand at work. Your current struggle doesn't define God's love for you. Your unanswered prayers don't diminish His care. Sometimes the most profound growth happens not when God speaks loudly, but when we learn to trust Him in the quiet seasons.

Bible Verse: 'Why, Lord, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?' - Psalm 10:1

Reflection Question: When you feel like God is distant, how can you remind yourself of His past faithfulness in your life, and what specific ways has He shown up for you before?

Quote: So we have to remind ourselves, when God is silent, he has his reasons. Amen. And sometimes he tries our heart. Sometimes he puts us in a circumstance to see what we'll do during those times.

Prayer: Lord, when You feel far away, help me remember that You are always near. Give me patience to trust Your timing and wisdom to see beyond my current circumstances. Strengthen my faith during these quiet seasons. Amen.

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Day 2: God's Eternal Perspective

Devotional: Imagine trying to understand a massive jigsaw puzzle by looking at just one piece. That single piece might seem meaningless, even ugly, but when placed in the complete picture, it becomes essential to the beautiful whole. This is often how our struggles appear to us versus how God sees them. We live in the moment, seeing only today's pain, this month's challenge, or this year's disappointment. But God sees the entire timeline of our lives - past, present, and future. He sees how today's difficulty is preparing us for tomorrow's opportunity. He understands how this season of waiting is developing character we'll need for the next chapter. This eternal perspective is something we simply cannot possess as finite beings. Everything in our world has a beginning and an end, a start date and an expiration. But God operates outside of time, seeing how every moment fits into His perfect plan that spans not just our lifetime, but eternity itself. When we're in the middle of a storm, it's natural to want immediate relief. But sometimes God allows the storm to continue because He's using it to steer us toward something better than we could have imagined. His silence during these times isn't neglect - it's wisdom. He's working on a masterpiece, and masterpieces take time.

Bible Verse: 'Arise, Lord! Lift up your hand, O God. Do not forget the helpless.' - Psalm 10:12

Reflection Question: How might your current struggle look different if you could see it from God's eternal perspective, and what good might He be working through this situation that you can't yet see?

Quote: He sees everything from an eternal perspective. And that's something that we don't have. There's nothing that we have any kind of reference to that relates to eternity. Amen. Everything's on a term here. Everything's for a set time, but God sees a million years down the road.

Prayer: Father, help me trust Your eternal perspective when my view is so limited. Give me patience to wait for Your perfect timing and faith to believe You're working all things together for good. Amen.

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Day 3: The Hidden Work of God

Devotional: Have you ever watched a construction site from a distance? From the street, all you might see is dirt, noise, and apparent chaos. But if you could see the architect's plans and understand the process, you'd realize that every pile of dirt moved and every beam placed is part of creating something beautiful and functional. This is often how God works in our lives. While we see the mess, the confusion, and the apparent lack of progress, He's actually orchestrating something magnificent behind the scenes. Just because we can't see His hand moving doesn't mean He's not actively working on our behalf. Think about the times in your life when you later realized God was working even when you couldn't see it. Maybe it was a job you didn't get that led to a better opportunity. Perhaps it was a relationship that ended, making room for the right person to enter your life. Or a health scare that caused you to make necessary changes you'd been avoiding. Our human nature wants visible proof, immediate results, and clear explanations. But faith calls us to trust that God is working even in the invisible moments. His love for you doesn't pause when His activity becomes hidden from your view. In fact, some of His most important work happens in the quiet, unseen moments when He's preparing your heart for what's coming next.

Bible Verse: 'But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted; you consider their grief and take it in hand. The victims commit themselves to you; you are the helper of the fatherless.' - Psalm 10:14

Reflection Question: Can you think of a time when you later discovered God was working behind the scenes in a situation where you initially felt He was absent, and how does that memory encourage you in your current circumstances?

Quote: Just because we can't see it doesn't mean it's not happening. Amen. And we have to remind ourselves because our old flesh will get us on those doubt wheels and those negative wheels and that train of thought. But we have to remind ourselves, just because I can't see it doesn't mean it's not happening.

Prayer: Lord, help me trust that You are working even when I can't see it. Give me faith to believe in Your hidden activity and patience to wait for Your perfect timing to reveal Your plans. Amen.

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Day 4: Casting Your Cares

Devotional: There's something powerful about the image of casting. When you cast a fishing line, you don't hold onto it - you release it completely, trusting it to go where it needs to go. When you cast a vote, you let go of your choice and trust the process. This is exactly what God invites us to do with our worries and concerns. Peter reminds us to cast all our anxiety on God because He cares for us. Notice it says "all" - not just the big, dramatic concerns, but also those seemingly small worries that keep us up at night. The bills that stress you out, the relationship tension that weighs on your heart, the health concern that nags at your mind, the future uncertainty that creates anxiety - God wants all of it. Sometimes we hesitate to bring our "smaller" concerns to God, thinking He's too busy with global issues to care about our personal struggles. But remember, this is the same God who numbers every hair on your head and notices when a sparrow falls. Nothing that matters to you is too insignificant for Him. Casting your cares doesn't mean becoming passive or irresponsible. It means releasing the weight of worry while still taking appropriate action. It's the difference between carrying a burden and managing a responsibility. When you truly cast your cares on God, you'll find a peace that doesn't depend on having all the answers or controlling all the outcomes.

Bible Verse: 'Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken.' - Psalm 55:22

Reflection Question: What specific worry or concern have you been carrying that you need to truly cast on God today, and what would it look like to practically release that burden to Him?

Quote: Cast all your care. Those things that seem insignificant to your best friend maybe seem insignificant to your. To your. To your spouse or whoever, but yet God sees them. He says, cast them on me. Those things that seem so big. Could God possibly turn this situation around? Cast them on me.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I cast all my anxieties and concerns on You right now. Help me truly release these burdens and trust in Your care. Sustain me with Your peace that surpasses understanding. Amen.

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Day 5: Your Name in Glory

Devotional: In a world obsessed with fame, recognition, and leaving a legacy, there's one place where having your name written matters more than any earthly achievement: the Lamb's Book of Life. This isn't about temporary recognition or fleeting success - this is about eternal significance. Every day, we see people striving to make their mark, to be remembered, to have their names associated with something important. Social media feeds are filled with attempts to build personal brands and gain followers. But all of these earthly recognitions will fade. The most important place your name could ever be recorded is in God's eternal record. When your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life, it means you belong to God's family forever. It means that no matter what struggles you face on earth, no matter how silent God might seem during difficult seasons, your eternal destiny is secure. This truth should bring incredible comfort during those times when you feel forgotten or overlooked by the world. If you've never asked Jesus Christ into your life, today is the day. Don't let the enemy convince you that tomorrow will be better - today is the day of salvation. And if your name is already written in that book, let this truth anchor you during every storm. You are loved, you are chosen, and you are eternally secure in God's family.

Bible Verse: 'And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.' - Revelation 20:12

Reflection Question: If you know your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life, how should this eternal security change the way you handle temporary struggles and God's seasons of silence?

Quote: A new name is written down in glory. Amen. Can we give God praises? Amen. We're singing a song in heaven Angels are rejoicing Amen. A new name is written down in glory we're thankful. Glenn Strickland's name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You that my name is written in Your book of life. Help me live with the confidence and peace that comes from knowing my eternal destiny is secure in You. Amen.

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