

The Soul Waits in Silence

Ps 62:1, 5

1

1 My soul waits in silence for God only; From Him is my salvation.

5 My soul, wait in silence for God only, For my hope is from Him.

What a beautiful thought that the Psalmist presents for us here. The tranquility of the first parts of these verses helps to give perspective to the second parts. It is interesting that the first parts, while appearing to be the same, are actually slightly different, more on that in a minute, while the second parts have a single thought they are presenting, though from two different perspectives...

2

A) From God is Salvation

B) From God is Hope

This is where the difference in the first parts of the verses kind of comes into play. In verse 1 the Psalmist says...

3

“My soul waits in silence for God only”

This statement speaks to the understanding that from nowhere else can salvation be gained or received, only from God. Salvation is not found in any man or any idol. Salvation is God’s to give. Have you ever really given any thought to this idea? Salvation, by its very nature and definition, must come from God. The definition of Biblical Salvation is being freed from the burden of the consequences of our sin. Sin is what separates man from God, therefore Salvation must come from God, as only God can forgive man his sin that separates him from God. What we see then is the Psalmist’s acknowledgment of that fact.

Verse 5, starts differently...

4

“My soul, wait in silence for God only”

This speaks more to the Psalmist giving himself encouragement. He acknowledged in verse 1 that he understood that Salvation can only come from God. He is now exhorting himself to believe in that Salvation and to use that belief as he foundation for his hope in it.

If you happen to be reading from the King James version you might notice that there is another slight difference in these two verse. The KJV begins verse 1 with “Truly” and verse 5 uses “Only”, the NASV is more accurate when translating “only” in both verses. Both come from the same Hebrew word...

OT:389 'ak (ak)

5

Akin to OT:403; a particle of affirmation, surely; hence (by limitation) only:

This is where the KJV gets the translation of “Truly” as in “Surely.” So, the difference is that verse one expresses the Psalmist's patient stillness of submission to his God, while verse 2 is his self-encouragement towards that very attitude and disposition which he has just professed to be his.

What I mean by this, is that in verse 1, he claims to know that he has salvation from God and is waiting for that salvation to come to fruition, and in verse 5 he speaks to that fruition as being his hope. John speaks to this hope in...

1 John 3:2-3 6

2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. **3** And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

John points out that the hope is on Christ. The Psalmist says much the same thing when he says on God “Only.” He stirs himself up to renew and continue the faith and commitment that he has chosen. So, in his words, he presents to us both the temperament we should have, and the effort that we should make to sustain and deepen it. These, then, are the two points we want to look at...

- 7
- 1) His expression of waiting
 - 2) His encouragement to himself

Noting that in these expressions there is to be found the peace and comfort that brought him the ability to say...

8 ***“My soul waits in silence for God only”***

I don’t know that there any translation of the word “AK” is better than the other one, “Truly” or “Only,” either speak to the fact that God is the source. Either meaning fits.

Looking at the translation that the KJV uses, “Truly,” we find an interesting thought. As in...

Ps 73:1 9

1 Surely God is good to Israel, To those who are pure in heart!

The thought here isn’t just a statement of acknowledgment, though it is that, it is much more, much deeper. It becomes an adamant affirmation of the trace of the struggle through which it has been won. “Truly” speaks to the effort involved in attaining that Salvation in God and maintaining our hope in it.

1 Tim 4:7-10 10

7 But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; **8** for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. **9** It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance. **10** For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.

In that one word, that one thought, is the record of man's conflict and the promise of God's victory. Here then is the sign of the divine effect of effort and struggle in a truth revealed in Christ, and in a submission practiced by man. It is as if the Psalmist had said, as we might, "Yes!" in spite of all his human confusion and fears, and self-imposed struggles, my soul waits in and upon the Almighty God. I have overcome these, and now there is peace within."

That is the true meaning, I think, of the thought of the...

11

"SILENCE"

This is the expression of peace and comfort that comes from knowing God's Salvation and founding our hope in it. We should also note that the expression...

12

"My soul is silence unto God"

describes the completeness of the Psalmist's unwavering submission and obedient faith to God. His whole being is a great stillness, broken by no warring passions, by no voiced desires, nor by any rebellious reluctance. There is a thought in...

Ps 109:4-5

13

4 In return for my love they act as my accusers; But I am in prayer. **5** Thus they have repaid me evil for good And hatred for my love.

Here the Psalmist is talking of the fact that he has received evil when all he tried to do was good. When he tried to show love, they became his accusers. This is the idea behind the "Silence" of Psalm 62. How do we respond to God's love, grace, and mercy. Do we, as so many have throughout the centuries reject God, Christ, the Spirit, or the Word? Or do we find in Him the peace and comfort, the "Silence of our Soul?"

This brings us now to our first point...

14

1) His expression of waiting

I don't know about you but I am not a patient person. I hate waiting in lines, I hate waiting for my artichoke to get big enough to eat, I don't have the patience to shop. I pretty much want it now. I get the feeling that the Psalmist here might feel the same way about waiting but understood that God does things in His own time, so the Psalmist, as should all men, silenced his soul. He quieted that inner impatience that plagues all humanity to wait for God. James speaks to this silence in...

James 5:7-9

15

7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. **8** You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. **9** Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

James talks of the silence as being patient. He illustrates it with the analogy of the farmer who plants his fields and then waits for the rain. The farmer cannot cause the rain to fall. He doesn't control the weather. He is totally dependent on the weather to have a successful crop. James is saying that that is how it is with our Salvation. Like the farmer, we must prepare the fields, our hearts, to receive the seed, the word, and like the farmer we must tend to the field so that the seed can grow and not be choked out by the tares of this world, but ultimately man must wait until such time as Christ returns to take the saved to their reward. Like the Psalmist, we must be patient and wait on God and while waiting we need to be silent putting our trust in God and know that He will be faithful and keep His promises. Our job is to work at being silent. Work at being patient, work at enduring so we might finish the race...

Heb 12:1-2

16

1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, *2* fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

A thought about this patience, this silence; It is first and foremost...

A silence of the will; The plain meaning of this phrase, is resignation, a resigning, and resignation is just a silent and controlled self-will.

Before the throne of the Great King, His servants are to stand like those long rows of attendants we see in movies or painted on the walls of Eastern temples, silent, with folded arms, straining their ears to hear the master's words, and ready to obey his every command. A man's will is to be an echo, not a voice. It is the echo of God being sounded through His faithful servant and not the self-willed voice of self. It should be silent. It is an attitude. Notice What Eli said to Samuel in...

1 Sam 3:9

17

9 And Eli said to Samuel, "Go lie down, and it shall be if He calls you, that you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

If He calls you, say; "Speak Lord, your servant is listening." The Psalmist is saying to not let the noise of our own will drown out the voice of God. And ultimately control our impatience until He does. I guess the point is, if we cannot hear His whisper, it's not because He isn't speaking, it's because we aren't listening.

Such a silence is strength. It is not passiveness, or indifference that God requires when He requires us to put our wills in accord with His. It is faith. We wait on God because we have faith in the Salvation He has promised.

This brings us to our next point...

18

2) His encouragement to himself

The Psalmist sought to strengthen his own commitment when he said...

19

“My soul, wait in silence for God only”

This is where staying faithful to God and in our obedience to Him can become so hard for man. We must keep our hearts silent too. That is what this is saying.

Rom 7:18

20

18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.

Paul is not saying that our fleshly bodies are evil incarnate. That is not his point. He is saying that the natural inclination of the flesh is to indulge itself in the things of the flesh. If this body of flesh were inherently evil then the actions it would be capable of would be actions of evil. We know that isn't true. Paul is teaching that for us to do actions of righteousness we must first overcome the fleshly desires of the body with the will of God. That is what is defined as Repentance. That is what the Psalmist is saying. We need an attitude of silence, patience, so that we can work at enduring the trials and tribulations of this world through the love of God sent with and revealed in Christ.

When I was a young, I would look forward every year to pheasant season. I knew that I couldn't just go out and start hunting. That was against the law. So I would wait anxiously for November to come around. It wasn't easy, but I knew that if I was just patient it would get here. Friends, Christ is coming, He will get here. We need to quiet our souls and patiently wait for Him.

In keeping with the theme of this lesson, the Psalmist says in...

Ps 29:11

21

11 The Lord will give strength to His people; The Lord will bless His people with peace.

We might find it a daunting task to silence our inner turmoil, to be patient in the face of trials, to be faithful to God, or to maintain our hope in His promise of Salvation, but God will give us the strength to maintain and endure and in our faithful obedience He will give us peace, peace in our souls, peace in our attitude, and in the end, peace in eternity.

Phil 4:7

22

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

23

The Peace of God

The peace that brings strength, comfort, joy, love, all the things that Christians find in being a child of God. These are the things that a faithful follower finds when they...

24

Silence their Souls