

The background of the cover features a silhouette of a person standing on a grassy hill with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or prayer. The person is positioned in the center, directly in front of a bright sun that is setting or rising, creating a lens flare effect. The sky is a mix of deep blue and orange, with scattered white clouds. The overall mood is one of spiritual hope and anticipation.

THE SILENT SEASON

*Preparing for a Deeper
Move of the Holy Ghost*

ELDER KEITH JOEL WALKER



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Text: Job 23:3-9, Job 30:20, Job 19:7-11

Introduction

This booklet is designed for Apostolic Pentecostal preachers and leaders who must shepherd congregations through seasons when Jehovah - Jesus seems silent. It affirms that silence is often preparatory — God’s unseen work in waiting — and supplies scriptural texts, sermon outlines, pastoral counsel, liturgical helps, allegories and short tales you can use in pulpit ministry to encourage the people to persevere, pray, and press into a deeper baptism and life in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues .

Core Thesis

Just because God is silent does not mean He is absent or inactive. Many biblical seasons of silence prepare God’s servants for greater ministry, deeper dependence, and more powerful moves of the Holy Ghost.

Part I — Key Scriptural Grid:

Silence as Preparation and Unseen Movement

(Selected passages grouped by theme. Read them in your preferred translation; references only so you

may quote as your pulpit tradition prefers.)

A. Silence before a commissioning or greater move

- Jesus' hidden years and preparation: Luke 2:52 (Jesus increases in wisdom and favor); Jesus' 40 days in wilderness before public ministry — Matthew 4; Mark 1:12–13.
- Jesus' prayerful retreat before major works: Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16 (He rises early, withdraws to pray).
- The disciples waiting for Pentecost: Acts 1:4–14 (they were in prayer and expectation before the Spirit fell in Acts 2).
- Paul's time in Arabia after conversion (pre-ministry preparation): Galatians 1:15–17.
- Moses' 40 years in the desert before leading Israel: Exodus/God's call at the burning bush (Exodus 3) — wilderness preparation theme.
- David's years of hiding and shepherding before kingship: 1 Samuel 16–2 Samuel context (long preparation).

B. Silence and delayed answers that are not denial

- Daniel's delayed revelation due to spiritual conflict: Daniel 10:12–13 (answer delayed by "prince of Persia" until Michael helps).
- The three-week delay in Daniel's vision; answers were real but delayed — shows spiritual factors and

timing.

- Joseph in prison before becoming prime minister: Genesis 37, 39–41 — God working through silence and imprisonment.
- Hannah’s long prayer before Samuel’s birth: 1 Samuel 1 — long cry, eventual answer.

C. Silent testing, refinement, and character formation

- Job’s long season of unanswered cries and final divine encounter: Job 13:24–26; 23:8–9; 30:20; Job 38–42 (God answers out of the whirlwind).
- Paul’s “thorn in the flesh”: 2 Corinthians 12:7–9 — repeated pleading and an answer that is grace, not removal.
- Habakkuk’s questioning of God’s delay and the prophet’s final posture of trust: Habakkuk 1–3.
- Lamentations and the exile — prolonged lament before restoration: Lamentations 3:8, 3:44.

D. Hiddenness as theological reality — God “hides” himself to create longing

- Isaiah’s theological statement: Isaiah 45:15 — “Truly, you are a God who hides himself.”
- Psalms of lament that model honest complaint: Psalm 13; Psalm 22; Psalm 42; Psalm 88; Psalm 77.

E. Silence before revelation or a “still, small voice”

- Elijah’s meeting with God: 1 Kings 19:9–13 — God is not in wind/fire/earthquake but in a still small voice after the storm.

F. New Testament suffering and prophetic silence fulfilled

- Isaiah 53:7 applied to Christ — the servant opens not his mouth.
- Jesus’ silence before authorities and the cry on the cross: Mark 14:61–62; Matthew 27:12–14; Matthew 27:46 (Psalm 22 quotation).
- Acts 9:19–22; Galatians 1:17 — Paul’s early silent preparation and later power.

Short Interpretive Summary

- Many biblical figures underwent long “silent seasons” that prepared them for breakthrough. Delay is not always denial. Spiritual opposition, formation, and timing are biblical explanations for delay and silence. God often speaks after refining.

Part II — Expository Sermon Outline (sermon length ~30–45 minutes)

Title: “The Silent Season: God’s Hidden Work Before a Mighty Move”

1. Introduction — Identify the congregation's experience of waiting (2–3 minutes)
 - Ask: Who has prayed and not yet seen results? Who has felt the Lord was silent?

2. Scripture reading (choose 2–3): Acts 1:4–5; 1 Kings 19:11–13; 2 Corinthians 12:7–9 (3–5 minutes)
 - Read and briefly explain context.

3. Point 1 — Silence is not absence (Scripture and illustration) (8–10 minutes)
 - Use Elijah: God not in storm but in still small voice.
 - Use Daniel: answers delayed for spiritual reasons; the angel was delayed by a principality.

4. Point 2 — Silence is often preparation (Scripture and testimony) (8–10 minutes)
 - Use Jesus' private seasons of prayer; the disciples waited and were empowered at Pentecost.
 - Use Paul's time in Arabia; Joseph in prison; Moses in Midian.

5. Point 3 — What to do in the silent season (practices) (8–10 minutes)
 - Lament honestly (use Psalms as language).
 - Persist in prayer and fasting (Acts 1 fellowship and prayer; Daniel's prayer).
 - Pursue Holy Ghost intimacy: private prayer, seeking

tongues and filling, worship.

- Stay in the local assembly: community, submission to elders, testimony.

6. Point 4 — Expect God to move mightily after the silence (encouraging application) (4–6 minutes)

- Examples: Pentecost after waiting; Joseph’s elevation after prison; Daniel’s revelation after delay.
- Issue a pastoral exhortation: do not trade the promise for a quick fix.

7. Call to action and altar ministry (in Apostolic Pentecostal tone) (5–10 minutes)

- Invite those hungry for a Holy Ghost fresh encounter to come forward.
- Pray for tongues, fresh fire, and empowerment for ministry.
- Lead a prayer of lament, then a prayer of expectation and declaration: “Lord, move in my silent season and make it a launchpad for Your power.”

Part III — Extended Material for the Preacher’s Study

(useful texts and verses to cite in sermons or Bible studies)

- Job 13:24–26; 23:8–9; 30:20
- Psalm 10:1; 13; 22; 42:1–2; 44:23–24; 77; 88; 89:46;

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- Isaiah 45:15; Isaiah 40:31; Isaiah 53:7
- Lamentations 3:1–66 (entire chapter is pastoral gold)
- Habakkuk 1:2–4; 2:1–4
- 1 Kings 19:9–13
- Jonah (whole book — teaches about God’s mercy and human complaint)
- Daniel 9–10 (prayer and delayed angelic response)
- Genesis 37–50 (Joseph story)
- Exodus 3; Moses’ Midian years
- 1 Samuel 1 (Hannah); 1 Samuel 16–31 (David’s hidden years)
- Matthew 4; Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16 (Jesus’ prayer retreats)
- Acts 1:4–14; Acts 2 (waiting and Pentecost)
- Galatians 1:15–17; 2 Corinthians 12:7–10
- Romans 8:28 (God working all things together for good)
- Psalm 46:10 (“Be still, and know that I am God”) — the discipline of being still

Part IV — The Silent Side of Jehovah:
Theological Points to Emphasize in an
Apostolic Pentecostal Pulpit

- God’s silence sometimes signals a deeper work in the Spirit: sanctification, pruning, and preparation for power (John 15 imagery and the fruitfulness that comes by abiding).

- Silence can be spiritual warfare: delayed answers may have spiritual causes (Daniel 10). Pray with discernment and ask for deliverance.
- Silence cultivates dependence: when God's voice is not felt, faith must act on His promises and the witness of Scripture.
- Silence does not override God's covenant promises; God may be working quietly to fulfill them in His timing.
- The Holy Ghost is present in silence — press into baptism and gifts; silence can be the womb of a fresh outpouring.

Part V — Fables, Tales and Illustrative Stories for Pulpit Use

(Use these as brief illustrations — you may tell them, adapt them, or use them as devotional reflections.)

A. Classic devotional works and tales to reference or quote

- St. John of the Cross — The Dark Night of the Soul (silence as sanctifying obscurity).
- The Cloud of Unknowing — the apophatic path: seeking God in silence beyond images.
- Julian of Norwich — revelations that come after deep suffering and apparent absence.
- Sayings of the Desert Fathers — many short stories

of monks who sat in silence and found Christ in the desert (e.g., Abba Poemen, Abba Anthony).

- Thomas à Kempis — *The Imitation of Christ* (teaches interior stillness).
- C. S. Lewis — *A Grief Observed* (raw witness to God’s silence in bereavement) — useful for pastoral empathy.

B. Short original illustrative tales you can tell from the pulpit

(Short, original, sermon-appropriate; keep to 1–2 minutes each)

1. The Potter and the Quiet Wheel

A broken pot sits under the potter’s hand. The wheel turns slowly in silence for a long time. The clay thinks the potter has forgotten it, but in that quiet turning the potter reshapes the vessel so it will hold water for the family. God’s silent wheel is shaping you for a purpose greater than your pain.

2. The Shepherd Who Watched at Night

A shepherd sits through many long nights with no enemy in sight. The sheep think the guard has fallen asleep. One night a thief comes; the shepherd rises and saves them. The quiet nights were the preparation for the night of rescue: God’s watching in times you feel abandoned.

3. The Bell That Rang Under Snow

In a small town a bell tower was buried in snow all winter. People couldn't hear it and thought it broken, but inside the tower the clapper was beating slow, steady rhythm — the bell stayed ready. In spring its ringing would call the town together. God's internal rhythm keeps working even when you can't hear it.

C. Testimony-style tales to encourage altar ministry

- Brief modern testimonies you can adapt: Joseph's prison years, a missionary's years of silence before release, a pastor who waited and received a regional revival after years of seeming failure. (Use real local testimonies from your church where possible.)

Part VI — Practical Pastor's Tools: Liturgy, Prayers, and Ministry Helps for Silent Seasons

A. Corporate practices

- Nights of prayer and fasting focused on “waiting” (Acts 1 model).
- Testimony services where people testify to God's unseen work.
- Small-group “waiting rooms”: groups committed to persistent prayer for one person or one family.

B. Sample pastoral prayers (short)

1. Prayer of Lament (leader prays aloud; congregation echoes)

“Lord, how long? We cry to You. Hear our plea. You know our pain. Hide not Your face, but in this waiting give us grace to trust.”

2. Prayer for Empowerment in the Silent Season

“Father, in the quiet prepare us for power. Fill us anew with the Holy Ghost; teach us to wait and to worship. Use this season to make us vessels for Your fire.”

3. Prayer against spiritual delay (with discernment)

“Lord Jesus, frustrate the delays of the enemy. Let Your angel come with speed. Remove hindrances and release Your word and power in our time.”

C. Altar ministry suggestions

- Invite those seeking Holy Ghost baptism or renewal to come forward for prayer.
- Offer brief one-to-one praying teams, focusing on listening prayer, tongues, prophetic encouragement, and spiritual counsel.
- Encourage testimonies after the altar time — the first answer often stirs faith in others.

Part VII — Sermon Illustrations You May Adapt (one-liners and quotes)

- “God often whispers in the aftermath of the storm. The loud things do not contain Him; the still small voice does.”
- “Pentecost followed 10 days of waiting: the church’s soul needed silence before the Spirit’s sound.”
- “Your prison is not your punishment if God is preparing you for palace influence.”

Part VIII — Recommended Hymns, Worship Songs and Readings (Apostolic Pentecostal friendly)

- Hymn ideas: “Sweet, Sweet Spirit”; “More About Jesus”; “Power in the Blood”; “Spirit of the Living God” (choruses suitable for invocation of the Holy Ghost).
- Scripture readings for a service of waiting: Psalm 63; Psalm 42; Isaiah 40:28–31; Acts 1–2 (selected); Lamentations 3:22–26.

Part IX — Further Reading for Preacher and Congregation

- St. John of the Cross — Dark Night of the Soul (classical mystical text)

- The Cloud of Unknowing (anonymous)
- Julian of Norwich — Revelations of Divine Love
- Thomas à Kempis — The Imitation of Christ (selections on stillness)
- Modern: C. S. Lewis — A Grief Observed (pastoral empathy)
- Works on prayer and waiting: Eugene Peterson — A Long Obedience in the Same Direction (useful on perseverance)

Part X — Closing Exhortation and Suggested Benediction

Exhortation: “Beloved, do not despise the delay. The silent season may be the womb of a mighty move of the Holy Ghost. Keep seeking, keep praying, keep testifying. God is at work where we cannot see. The Holy Ghost will make the silent season fruitful.”

Suggested Benediction

“May the God who works in the hidden place grant you renewal; may the Holy Ghost fill you with power; and may you go forth in the day of His visitation. Amen.”

Appendix — Short “cheat sheet” of scriptures to memorize for ministry moments

- Psalm 13: How long? — an honest prayer to teach.

- Psalm 22: The cry of dereliction turned to trust.
- Acts 1–2: Waiting before Pentecost.
- 1 Kings 19:11–13: God in the still small voice.
- Daniel 10:12–13: Answers delayed by spiritual opposition.
- 2 Corinthians 12:7–9: Thorn and sufficient grace.
- Romans 8:28: God works for good even in silence.

Final notes for the Apostolic Pentecostal pulpit

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