



Let's Go Higher DEVOTIONALS

SERMON: "WHEN GOD TESTS YOUR FAITH"

MINISTER STANLEY GROSS

Day 1: When God Feels Silent

Devotional: Have you ever felt like your prayers are bouncing off the ceiling? You pour out your heart about that job situation, that relationship struggle, or that family crisis, and all you hear back is... silence. It's one of the most disorienting experiences in our faith journey. We know God loves us, we've read about His faithfulness, yet in our moment of greatest need, He seems nowhere to be found. But here's what we need to understand: God's silence doesn't equal His absence. Sometimes the very moments when we feel most alone are when God is closest, working behind the scenes in ways we can't see or understand. Think about it - when a loving parent watches their child take their first steps, they don't rush in to catch them at the first wobble. They stand close by, ready to help, but they allow the child to develop strength and confidence. God sees your tears. He hears every whispered prayer, every desperate plea. His silence isn't indifference - it's confidence in what He's already placed within you. The question isn't whether God cares, but whether we'll trust His heart even when we can't see His hand. Today, if you're in a season of silence, remember that God hasn't moved. He's right there with you, closer than you could ever imagine.

Bible Verse: 'Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.' - Deuteronomy 31:6

Reflection Question: How might your current season of silence actually be an opportunity for your faith to grow stronger rather than a sign that God has forgotten you?

Prayer: Lord, when I can't hear Your voice, help me to trust Your heart. Remind me that Your silence doesn't mean Your absence. Give me the strength to keep believing even when I can't see what You're doing. Help me rest in the truth that You are always with me. Amen.



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Day 2: The Refining Fire

Devotional: Gold doesn't become precious by accident. It goes through intense heat, pressure, and purification processes that remove impurities and reveal its true value. The goldsmith knows exactly how much heat to apply and for how long - too little and the impurities remain, too much and the gold is damaged. It's a delicate, intentional process that requires expertise and patience. Our faith works the same way. The challenges you're facing aren't random hardships - they're part of God's refining process. Every difficult season, every unanswered prayer, every moment when you have to choose trust over fear is making your faith more valuable, more pure, more resilient. The heat you feel isn't meant to destroy you; it's meant to reveal the precious faith that God has placed within you. Just like the goldsmith never leaves the gold unattended during the refining process, God never takes His eyes off you during your trials. He knows exactly how much you can handle and for how long. He's not trying to break you - He's trying to make you into something beautiful and strong. The very fact that you're being tested means there's something valuable in you worth refining. Trust the process, even when it's uncomfortable.

Bible Verse: 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.' - Psalms 46:1

Reflection Question: What impurities in your life might God be trying to remove through your current challenges, and how can you cooperate with His refining process?

Prayer: Father, I don't always understand why the fire has to be so hot, but I trust that You know what You're doing. Help me to see my trials as opportunities for growth rather than just obstacles to endure. Refine my faith and make it pure. I surrender to Your process. Amen.



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Day 3: You Already Know What to Do

Devotional: Remember taking tests in school? The teacher would spend weeks preparing you, going over the material, answering questions, and making sure you understood the concepts. But when test day came, they stepped back and let you demonstrate what you'd learned. Their silence during the exam wasn't because they stopped caring about your success - it was because they believed in your ability to apply what they'd taught you. God operates similarly in our lives. He's already given you His Word, His promises, and His principles. He's walked you through situations before, shown you His faithfulness, and equipped you with everything you need. When testing seasons come and He seems quiet, it's not because He's abandoned you - it's because He believes you already know what to do. You know how to pray. You know how to declare His promises. You know how to fall to your knees and seek His face. You know how to choose faith over fear, hope over despair, and trust over worry. The silence isn't God's absence; it's His confidence in your spiritual maturity. He's saying, 'I've taught you well. Now show Me - and show yourself - what you've learned.' This is your moment to demonstrate that your faith isn't dependent on feelings or circumstances, but on the unchanging character of God.

Bible Verse: 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.' - Proverbs 3:5-6

Reflection Question: What spiritual truths has God already taught you that you can apply to your current situation, even without hearing His audible voice?

Prayer: Lord, thank You for all the ways You've prepared me for this moment. Help me to remember what You've already taught me and to walk in the truth I know. Give me confidence to apply Your Word even when I can't feel Your presence. I trust in what You've already shown me. Amen.



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Day 4: It's a Setup for Something Greater

Devotional: Have you ever noticed that some of life's most beautiful stories come after the most difficult chapters? The promotion that comes after the season of struggle. The healing that follows the diagnosis. The breakthrough that emerges from the breakdown. What if the storms you're facing aren't just random difficulties, but divine setups for something incredible? When we're in the middle of a trial, it's hard to see beyond the immediate pain and confusion. We focus on what we're losing, what's not working, what seems impossible. But God sees the bigger picture. He sees not just where you are, but where He's taking you. Every challenge is preparing you for a greater level of blessing, responsibility, or influence that you couldn't handle without this preparation. Think about it - if God promoted you to your destiny without proper preparation, you might not be ready for what He has in store. The very struggles that feel like setbacks are actually setups. They're building character, developing resilience, and creating a testimony that will help others when you reach the other side. Instead of asking 'Why is this happening to me?' try asking 'What is this preparing me for?' Your current test is tomorrow's testimony.

Bible Verse: 'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.' - Romans 8:28

Reflection Question: How might your current struggles be preparing you for a greater purpose or blessing that God has planned for your future?

Prayer: God, help me to see my trials through Your eyes. When I'm tempted to focus on what's going wrong, remind me that You're setting me up for something greater. Give me patience to trust Your timing and excitement for what You're preparing me for. I believe You're working all things for my good. Amen.



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Day 5: Get Excited About the Test

Devotional: This might sound crazy, but what if we could learn to get excited about our tests? Not because we enjoy pain or difficulty, but because we understand what they represent. When a teacher gives you a test, it means they believe you're ready to move to the next level. When God allows a test in your life, it means He sees something in you that's ready to be promoted. Every test is a sign that breakthrough is coming. Every trial is evidence that God is preparing you for something significant. The very fact that you're being tested means you're not stuck where you are - you're being prepared for where you're going. God doesn't waste our pain. He uses every struggle, every tear, every moment of confusion to build something beautiful in us and through us. Yes, tests are hard. Yes, they're uncomfortable. But they're also temporary and purposeful. When you're in the middle of a test, remember that it has an expiration date. God knows exactly how long it needs to last to accomplish His purposes in your life. Hold on, stay faithful, and get excited - because if God is testing you, something amazing is on the horizon. Your breakthrough is closer than you think.

Bible Verse: 'And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.' - Hebrews 11:6

Reflection Question: How can you shift your perspective to see your current test as preparation for a promotion rather than just a problem to endure?

Prayer: Lord, help me to see my tests through the lens of faith rather than fear. Give me excitement for what You're preparing me for, even in the midst of difficulty. Help me to remember that every test has a purpose and an end date. I trust that You're working something beautiful in my life. Amen.