

## **Week #5 – Is God Ignoring Me?**

Turn to Psalm 13:1-2 and read it out loud. Have you ever felt like this? It's like somebody flipped a switch, and every prayer just hits the ceiling and falls back down on your head, leaving you feeling defeated and ridiculous. In the end, we end up feeling like we've failed—like there is something wrong with us.

It doesn't sound like the intimate relationship and loving union with God that you signed up for.

Unfortunately, as is the case with most things in the spiritual life (or life in general, for that matter), there is not a clear-cut answer to break through the silence. However, there are countless numbers of faithful followers of Jesus who have come face-to-face with a *season of silence*. (see below for the most famous person to experience a season of silence).

In the end, it is important to realize that these silent periods are not truly absences at all, but moments where God is challenging us to a new level of faith and trust in him. It is much like our actual first steps: A young child is challenged to walk longer and longer distances as they are taking their first steps, knowing that this challenge will enable them to enjoy a richness of life that would otherwise be impossible. In the same way, God refuses to allow us to remain stationary infants; he challenges us (by whatever means necessary) to lay aside our childish conceptions of him and our selfish demands for his intervention. Through periods of silence, He challenges us to deeper levels of maturity and relationship, and he challenges us to seek him.

### **Thought to Ponder:**

- *How many times has God been faithful to you? Go ahead now, count them up, and record in your journal for future remembrance.*

### **Prayer Activator:**

This idea of "silence" from God is a difficult one for us to process. As we enter into this week, your challenge is to do two things. First, read Job 38-41. (If you really want an exciting challenge, read the whole book.) Job is a man who was blessed by God, who had his blessing taken away, and who was forced to wrestle with not only the loss of everything he had but also complete and utter silence from God as to why. After many discussions between Job and his friends as to why God has done this or isn't answering him, God shows up and speaks... fasten your seatbelt, it's powerful!

The second part of your challenge is this—take note of the things that Job wasn't *noticing*. There are a lot of ways that God was blessing and caring for Job that he simply didn't see because of his frustration and hurt. Once you have noticed a few, compare them to your own tendencies—what are blessings you may miss? When it feels like God is ignoring you, see if there are ways he's speaking that you don't notice. Take notes, and write them down in your journal.