

A large, 3D red question mark is positioned on the left side of the image, set against a grey concrete wall. The question mark is rendered with a slight shadow, giving it a three-dimensional appearance. The background wall has a textured, slightly mottled grey color. At the bottom of the image, there is a wooden floor with a light brown, diagonal plank pattern.

***THE CHALLENGE OF***  
***DISCERNING SEASONS***  
**KNOWING WHEN MY SEASON CHANGES**

with PASTOR MICHAEL L. HENDERSON SR.



**DISCERNING SEASONS:  
WHAT TO DO WHEN GOD IS SILENT**

*“For God alone my soul waits in silence . . . my hope is from Him”*

*Psalm 62:1, 5*

## **WHY IS GOD SILENT?**

God is silent because we're doing something to cause a temporary rift in our relationship so that we aren't in a place to hear Him, such as when we're living in denial or disobedience. Other times, we're not doing something we should be doing, and that causes a break in our communication with Him.

**What about when we're obeying Him, seeking Him, waiting on Him, and yet we still hear nothing from Him?**

There are many times when we're waiting on an answer or even just looking for a sign from Him, and we're met with silence in return. He gives us no answer, no sign, no indication that He's working.

This is all a part of the maturing process in our faith. God is *testing* us, *strengthening* us, *developing* us, *preparing* us, and *teaching* us that we can trust Him and that His answers are always worth the wait.

# WHAT SHOULD WE DO WHEN GOD IS SILENT?

- 1. REMEMBER:** The most important thing we must do during a silent seasons is to keep our minds focused on truths from Scripture because when God isn't talking, the enemy most certainly will be.
- If we lean on him while we wait, God will give us the grace to wait and to listen carefully as we pray and keep opening his word and asking him to help us hear him.
  - Remember, He is faithful! He can't *not* be - it's part of His nature - so we can trust Him to work constantly on our behalf, even if we can't always see evidence of His working.



*“Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength;  
They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run  
and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.”*

*Isaiah 40:31*



**2. LISTEN:** It may seem odd to suggest listening as something to do when God is silent, but the times when He's silent are often the times when He's trying to teach us the most.

- Many of us tend to grow impatient while waiting on God and have the tendency to waste these seasons instead of asking Him what it is He's trying to teach us or what it is we need to do as we wait.
- Invite and allow Him to meet with you during those silent seasons. He will offer encouragement and insights that you would've missed if it weren't for His silence drawing you near to Him. He may also reveal some things you've been too busy to notice, or some preparations He wants to make within you to prepare you for the next season He has for you.

*“Come close to God and He will come close to you...”*

*James 4: 8*

**3. GROW:** It can be easy to just absorb the lessons and truths He's showing us without actually applying them.

- We must act on what He's shown us and cooperate with the work the Holy Spirit is trying to do in our hearts. If we allow it, the waiting in silence will test and strengthen our faith like never before, and we'll come out of this season more rooted in our faith and in a deeper relationship with God.



*“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity.”*

*2 Peter 3:18*

## What else should we do?

- **Keep doing whatever He's already called us to do:** Whatever the last instructions He gave you were, keep doing that. Even though it's challenging, stay faithful and wait until He opens up a new season.
- **Do the essential day-to-day things:** Remain in the Word and in prayer. Take care of your physical health just as you care for your spiritual health. Fulfill your responsibilities to your family, your job, etc. Stay faithful in the small stuff!
- **Don't become bitter or envious when God moves in other people's lives:** There's a saying that goes, "when you see God working in someone else's life, don't get jealous; get excited because it means God's in the neighborhood".

These times of silence are so challenging, but they are also the seasons of life when God can teach us the most and strengthen our faith like never before!