



The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic design.

Abraham's silence with God

Genesis 22:1-19

Is FBC a safe space Part 3
An FBC Family Life Ministry sermon series

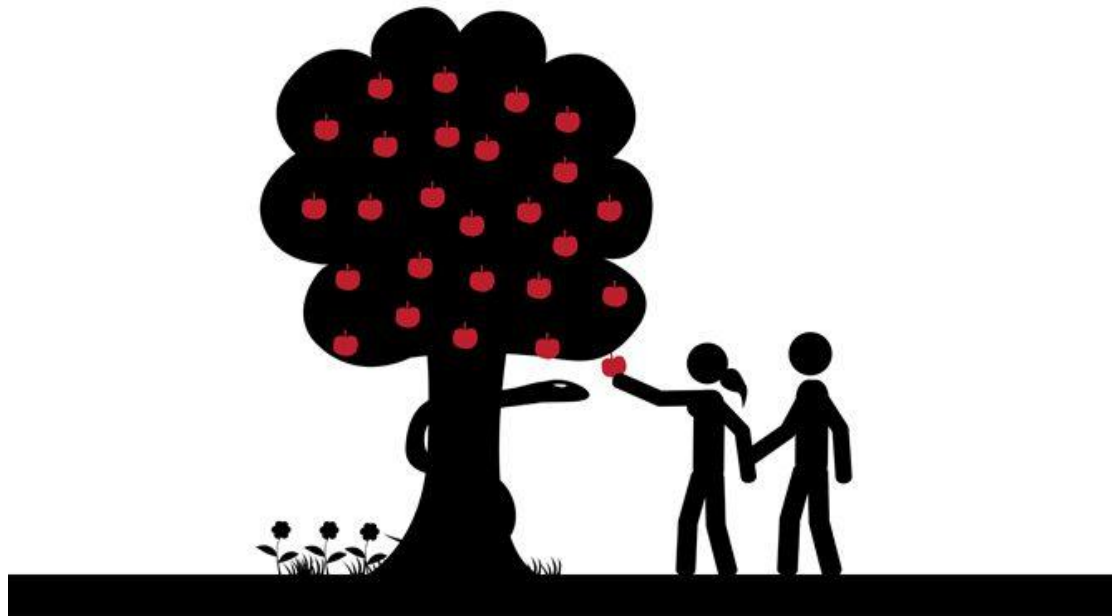
Last week's sermon

- υ God desires us to vigorously dialogue with Him.
- υ Dialogue with God progresses in incremental steps of boldness.
- υ How we dialogue boldly with God images how we have bold dialogue with other believers.
- υ The boldest form of dialogue with God is Lament.

What's the key difference in a Christian safe space and a secular safe space?

- u In a secular safe space the discussion is aimed at you learning to trust your own wisdom.
- u In a Christian safe space the discussion is aimed at you learning to trust in God's wisdom.

The end purpose of all safe spaces is to reveal who you really trust with your life



<http://jackklumpenhower.com/tag/adam-and-eve/>

22 *Some time later God tested Abraham.* He said to him, “Abraham!”
“Here I am,” he replied.

² Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love— Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.”

⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?”

“Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.

“The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

⁸ Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

⁹ When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

¹² “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

¹³ Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

¹⁵ The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶ and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

¹⁹ Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they set off together for Beersheba. And Abraham stayed in Beersheba.

Why the Binding of Isaac story has created so much interest

- To many it is an exemplary story of what it means to be a person of faith.
- To some others it is a horrific story – how can a good God ask for child sacrifice?
- *To some others it is a strange story as Abraham does not object to the instruction from God.*

²³ Then Abraham approached him and said: “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

Genesis 18:23-25

Abraham is no stranger to questioning God's instructions, especially regarding his offspring.

- ² But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir." Genesis 15:2-3
- ¹⁷ Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?" ¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!" Genesis 17:17

God is no stranger to explaining his instructions to Abraham.

- ¹⁹ Then God said, “Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. ²⁰ And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. Genesis 17:19–20
- ⁴ Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” ⁵ He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness. Genesis 15:4–6

The Genesis 22 narrative deliberately avoids all mention of how Abraham felt about this instruction from God, compared to the earlier chapter with Ishmael

³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about.

⁹ When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

Gen
12

Gen
15

Gen
17

Gen
18

Gen
21

Gen
22

God calls
Abram to
Go

The Lord's
covenant with
Abram dialogue

The covenant
of the
circumcision
dialogue

The pleading
for Sodom
dialogue

God assures
Abraham over
Ishmael being sent
away

God asks
Abraham to
sacrifice
Isaac

- Continuous vigorous dialogue with God teaches us to trust in His wisdom.

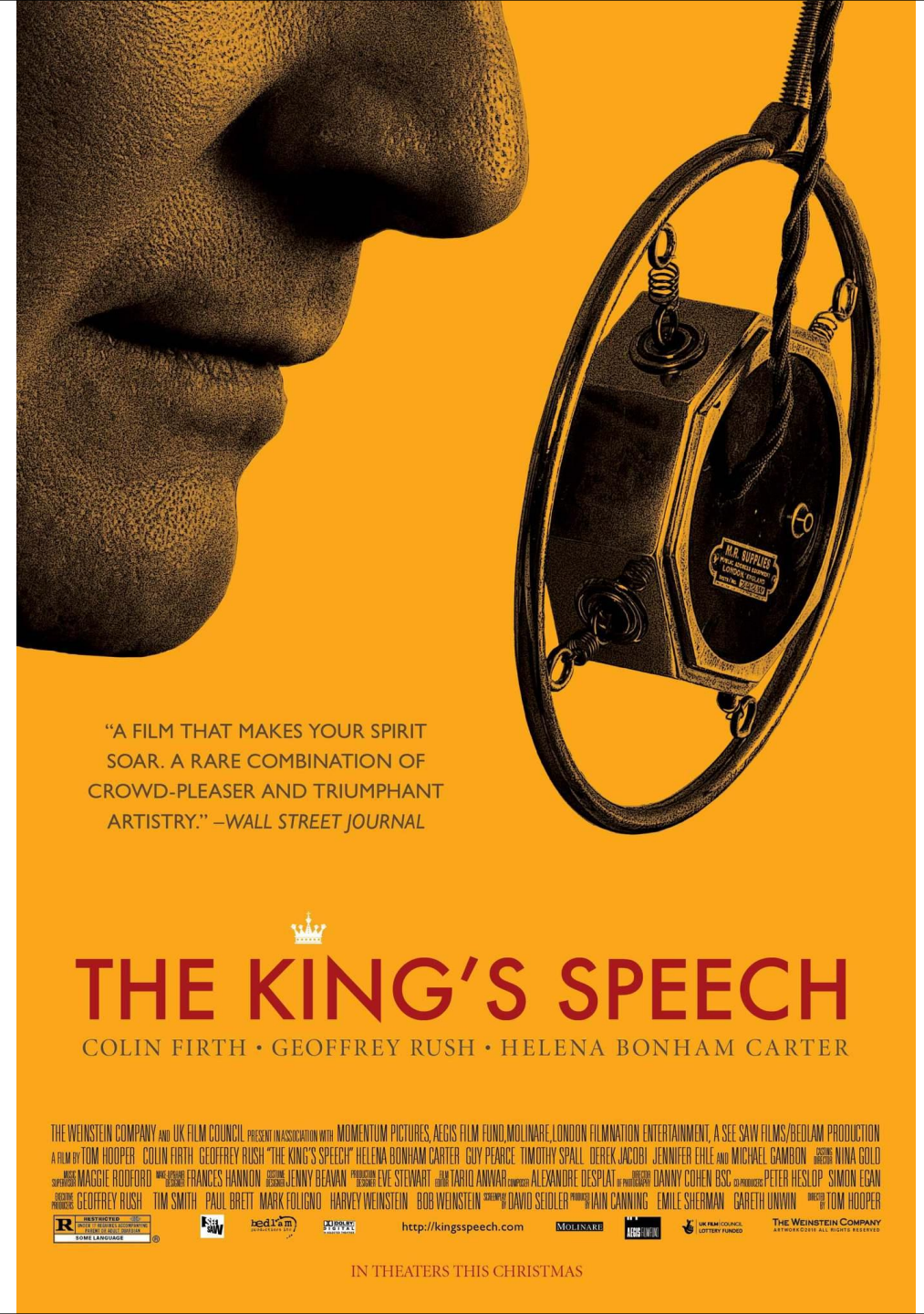
⁴ Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." Genesis 15:4

¹⁹ Then God said, "Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. Genesis 17:19

¹¹ The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. ¹² But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. Genesis 21:11

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, ¹⁸ even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned."¹⁹ Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

Hebrews 11:17-19



"A FILM THAT MAKES YOUR SPIRIT SOAR. A RARE COMBINATION OF CROWD-PLEASER AND TRIUMPHANT ARTISTRY." —WALL STREET JOURNAL

THE KING'S SPEECH

COLIN FIRTH • GEOFFREY RUSH • HELENA BONHAM CARTER

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IN THEATERS THIS CHRISTMAS



I am the good Shepherd,
and I know My own,
and My own know Me.

John 10:14

My sheep
hear My voice,
and I know them,
and they
follow Me.

John 10:27



God does not contradict himself but we often feel that He does.



God can heal you from your disease or He can heal you through your disease

You say You're near to the broken
You say Your peace passes understanding
You say You're hope for the hurting
Where are You now

Come close, I'm on the verge of breaking
Come close, I'm desperate for Your presence
Come close, the weight of pain is crushing
Come close

She touched Your hem and You healed her
You opened eyes with the dirt we walk on
When will I wake from this nightmare
Where are You now
Where are You now

So come close, I'm on the verge of breaking
Come close, I'm desperate for Your presence
Come close, the weight of pain is crushing
Come close

You are good, You are good, I believe You are good
You are good, You are good, I still believe You are good
You are good, You are good, I believe You are good
You are good, You are good, I still believe that You are
good

Lament by SeaCoast Worship

- Continuous vigorous dialogue with God teaches us to trust in His wisdom.
- Reflect back to recognize patterns of God's guidance in your life.

Gen
12

God calls
Abram to
Go

Gen
13

The Lord gives
the promised
land to Abram

Gen
14

God assists
Abram to
rescue Lot with
only 318 men

Gen
19

God rescues Lot
from Sodom

Gen
21

Isaac is born

Gen
22

God asks
Abraham to
sacrifice
Isaac

Gen
12

Gen
12

Gen
14

Gen
20

Gen
21

Gen
22

God calls
Abram to
Go

Abram lies
about Sarah to
Pharoah

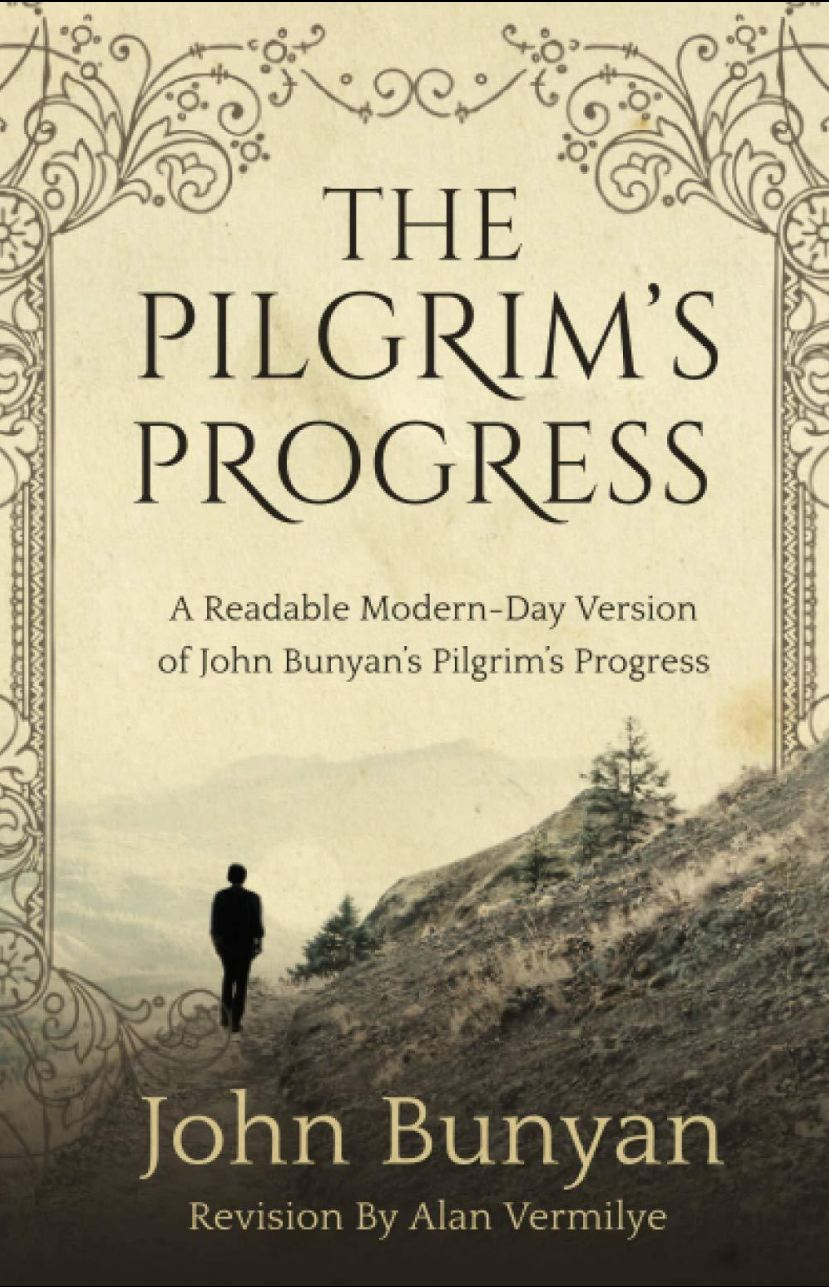
Abram and
Sarai use Hagar
to have a child.
Sarah mistreats
Hagar.

Abraham lies
about Sarah to
King Abimelek

Sarai demands
Abraham send
away Hagar and
Ishmael to certain
death in the
desert.

God asks
Abraham to
sacrifice
Isaac

- God told Abraham similarly to also “Go” in chapter 12.
- Abraham had a similar encounter with his other son and God had kept His promise in chapter 17:20 (chapter 21:11-13).
- God had been faithful to his covenant promise in chapter 12 and had never asked anything from Abraham until now.
- Abraham learns about the extend of God’s mercy and justice in chapter 18.



THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

A Readable Modern-Day Version
of John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress

John Bunyan

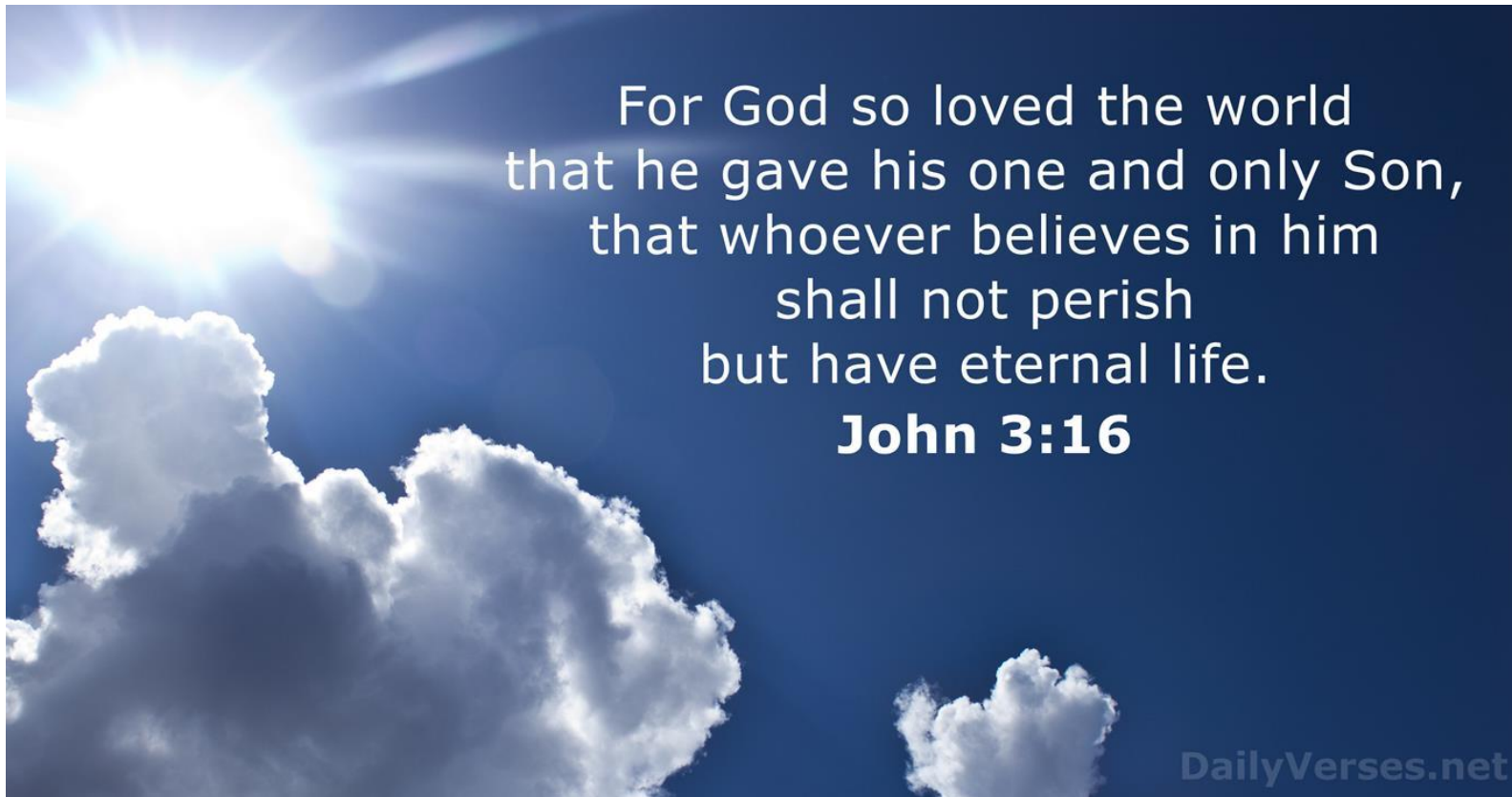
Revision By Alan Vermilye

<https://www.amazon.com/Pilgrims-Progress-Modern-Day-easy-read/dp/194848112X>

- Continuous vigorous dialogue with God teaches us to trust in His wisdom.
- Reflect back to recognize patterns of God's guidance in your life.
- Difficult decisions reveals what you are not prepared to surrender to God.

- Isaac was Abraham's favorite son. God asked Abraham to sacrifice him.
- Esau was Isaac's favorite son. God allowed Rebekah and Jacob to manipulate Isaac to bless Jacob instead.
- Joseph was Jacob favorite son. God allowed Jacob to think Joseph had been killed for a few decades due to the deception of his other sons.

² Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac..





- Continuous vigorous dialogue with God teaches us to trust in His wisdom.
- Reflect back to recognize patterns of God's guidance in your life.
- Difficult decisions reveals what you are not prepared to surrender to God.
- Silence often reveals the condition of our hearts before God.

⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."





God's silence

- Every word God speaks is for a purpose and every moment of silence is also for a purpose



A time to keep
silence,
And a time to
speak;

Ecclesiastes 3:7

¹ I said, "I will watch my ways
and keep my tongue from sin;
I will put a muzzle on my mouth
while in the presence of the
wicked."

² So I remained utterly silent,
not even saying anything good.
But my anguish increased;

³ my heart grew hot within me.
While I meditated, the fire burned;
then I spoke with my tongue:

Psalms 39:1-3

God's silence

- Every word God speaks is for a purpose and every moment of silence is also for a purpose
- There is a silence that leads to clarity of purpose and a silence that leads to rumination



God speaks in the silence of the heart, and we listen. And then we speak to God from the fullness of our heart, and God listens. And this listening and this speaking is what prayer is meant to be.

— *Mother Teresa* —

AZ QUOTES