The Power of Stillness by Dr. A. B. Simpson - posted by sermonindex () on: 2017/12/16 9:24

It was aœea still small voiceaœ or the sound of a gentle stillness. Is there any note of music in all the chorus as mighty as the emphatic pause? Is there any word in all the Psalter more eloquent than the one word, Selah (Pause)? Is there anything more thrilling and awful than the hush that comes before the bursting of the tempest and the strange quiet that seems to fall upon all nature before some preternatural phenomenon or convulsion? Is there anything that can so touch our hearts as the power of stillness?

Sweet Stillness

The sweetest blessing that Christ brings us is the Sabbath rest of soul, of which the Sabbath of creation was the type. T here is, for the heart that will cease for itself, aœathe peace of God that passeth all understandingaœ a quietness and confidence, which is the source of all strength; a sweet peace, aœwhich nothing can offend.aœ There is, in the deepest center of the believera€™s soul a chamber of peace where God dwells, and where, if we will only enter in and hush ever y other sound, we can hear His aœœstill voice.aœ

A score of years ago a friend placed in my hands a little book, which became one of the turning points of my life. It was called aœœTrue Peace,aœ and was an old medieval message. It had but one thought, and it was thisa礼貌 that God was waiting in the depths of my being to talk to me if I would only get still enough to hear His voice

Stillness Challenged

I thought this would be a very easy matter and so I began to get still. But I had no sooner commenced than a pandemon ium of voices reached my ears, a thousand clamoring notes from without and within, until I could hear nothing but there noise and din. Some of them were my own questions, some of them my own cares, and some were my very prayers. O thers were the suggestions of the tempter and the voices from the worlda€™s turmoil. Never before did there seem so many things to be done, to be said, to be thought. In every direction I was pushed and pulled and greeted with noisy ac clamations and unspeakable unrest. It seemed necessary for me to listen to some of them and to answer; but God said, aœœBe still, and know that I am God.aœ

The God of Stillness

Then came the conflict of thoughts for the morrow, with its duties and cares. But God said: aœœBe still.aœ And as I list ened, and slowly learned to obey, and shut my ears to every sound, I found after a while, that when the other voices ceased, or I ceased to hear and heed them, there was a still, small voice in the depths of my being that began to speak with an inexpressible tenderness, power, and comfort. As I listened it became to me the voice of prayer, and the voice of wis dom, and the voice of duty, and I did not need to think so hard, but that aœœstill, small voiceaœ of the Holy Spirit in my h eart was Goda€™s prayer in my secret soul; was Goda€™s answer to all my questions; was Goda€™s life and strength for soul and body, and became the substance of all knowledge, and all prayer, and all blessing; for it was the living GOD Himself as my life and my all.

We cannot go through life strong and fresh on constant express trains, with ten minutes for lunch; but we must have qui et hours, secret places of the Most High, times of waiting upon the Lord, when we renew our strength, and learn to mount up on wings as eagles, and then come back to run and not be weary, and to walk and not faint.

The Way of Stillness

The best thing about this stillness is that it gives God a chance to work. aœHe that entered into His rest hath ceased fr om his own works, even as God did from His.aœ When we cease from our works, God works in us; when we cease fro m our thoughts, Goda€™s thoughts come into us; when we get still from our restless activities, aœœGod worketh in us b oth to will and to do his good pleasure,aœ and we have but to work it out.

Beloved! Let us take His stillness; let us dwell in aœœthe secret place of the Most Highaœ; let us enter into God and His eternal rest; let us silence the other sounds, and then we can hear aœœthe still, small voice.aœ
Then there is another kind of stillness: the stillness that lets God work for us, and we hold our peace; the stillness that ceases from controversy, and self-indication, and expedients of wisdom and forethought and let God provide and answer the unkind word, and the cruel blow, in His own unfailing, faithful love. How often we lose God’s interposition by taking up our own cause and striking for our own defense.

There is no spectacle in all the Bible so sublime as the silent Savior answering not a word to the men that were maligning Him, and whom He could of laid prostrate at His feet by one look of Divine power, or one word of fiery rebuke. But He let them do their worst and He stood in the power of stillness God’s Holy Lamb.

God give to us this silent power, this mighty self-surrender, this conquered spirit, which will make us more than conquerors through Him that loved us. Let our voice and our life speak like the still, small voice of Horeb, and as the sound of gentile stillness. Then after the heat and strife of earth are over, men will remember the morning dew, the mellow light and sunshine, the evening breeze, the Lamb of Calvary, and the gentle, Holy, Heavenly Dove.