

Partners In Courage, March 2013

When Silence Is Golden

Sermon by Wes Daughenbaugh

INTRODUCTION: You've heard it said, "Silence is golden." Perhaps you've also heard about Benjamin Franklin's list of 12 virtues that he built his life around. One was "silence." His short definition of what it would look like fleshed out in his life was this: "Speak not but what may benefit others or yourself. Avoid trifling conversations." He added "humility" at a friend's suggestion but his original list was only 12. Humility really isn't a virtue, anyway. It's the key to all virtues—because if we humble ourselves, God will give grace to us and ADD virtues to our lives. When it comes to practicing silence, you REALLY WILL need God's grace. So it would be a good idea to humbly ADMIT that many times you spoke when you should have been silent.

Recently I read a book by Joyce Meyer called CHANGE YOURWORDS, CHANGE YOUR LIFE. While reading that book on an airplane thoughts began to come to me about the value of silence. These flowed in the way God gives me sermons. Strange, I would not have chosen to speak on the value of silence. But I quickly listed down these many reasons that silence really is golden and a rare virtue.

Joyce quoted a Spanish proverb I like: "Don't speak unless you can improve the silence."

1. SILENCE IS GOLDEN WHEN OTHERS ARE SPEAKING.

When we really HEAR people it adds tremendous value to their lives. That means we have to really LISTEN and that cannot be done without being silent while THEY speak. James 1:19 **My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.** Silence is what we are doing when we are being SLOW to speak. Paul wrote, **"Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says"** (1 Cor. 14:34). This does not mean women can't teach or preach. It just means that they should LISTEN when someone else is preaching. Men must keep silent in the churches, too. But men are not as verbal as women and aren't as tempted to talk while the preacher is preaching. My point is simple—we just cannot hear and talk at the same time. So if we want to learn, we'll have to keep silent while someone else is speaking.

2. SILENCE IS GOLDEN WHEN THE DEVIL COMES AROUND.

When you feel real discouraged—that's a sign the devil is near, breathing on you. We must resist the devil and he will flee (James 4:7). So we must learn to resist discouragement—because most of us will never actually see the devil. Discouragement is the best proof that the invisible devil is near. At times like that—it's really wise not to say anything. The expression of discouragement, self-condemning words, and words of fear and worry are very useful tools for the devil to use. These kinds of words give power to him—power that would be turned to your harm.

Jesus said very few words during the whole experience of his betrayal, arrest, false trial, condemnation, torture and crucifixion. He had already explained this to the disciples when he said, **"I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me"** (John 14:30-31). One reason the devil had no hold on Jesus was because Jesus didn't say angry condemning words like, "I knew you jerks would run off and leave me" or, "Wait till I rise from the dead! I'm going to torch this whole place!" I'm sure the devil was watching for some kind of word from Jesus that would have given him a hold on Jesus. But Jesus

was mostly silent during this time when the devil was so near. Is. 53:7 **He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth."**

Now consider what Paul wrote, Eph. 4:26-27 **"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.**

Eph. 4:29-32 **Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.**

The point is that the devil really WANTS a foothold in our lives and angry, bitter, slanderous and hurtful words give him just what he needs to work with. That's why when we are tempted to let those kinds of words come out it's best to do what Jesus did and say very little. We don't want the devil to have any "hold" on us.

Prov. 10:19 **When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.**

3. SILENCE IS GOLDEN WHEN YOU WANT TO HEAR FROM GOD AND GET GUIDANCE.

God is a Spirit and He usually communicates with our spirits. If our bodies are at rest and our minds are quiet we are more likely to "hear" the gentle whisper of the Holy Spirit. That's how God communicated with Elijah. 1Kings 19:11-13 **The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"**

Elijah had to get alone, get quiet, and avoid distractions. Then he heard God's gentle whisper or as the King James Version says, he heard a "still small voice."

**** Recently I had an experience that showed me, once again, how important it is to get quiet and listen. I was facing financial disaster with four open weeks—January 27, Feb. 3, Feb. 10 and Feb. 17. Speaking in churches is the main way I earn my living. Four open weeks would have been a disaster. The night of Feb. 1, I was awake in the middle of the night, not saying anything. A gentle impression came to me, "Joe Sapienza." I got up and wrote his name down and in the morning, I called Pastor Sapienza who pastors Celebration Church in Wayland, MA. His winter revival speaker had cancelled due to picking up a bad parasite on a missions trip. The dates of his winter revival were Feb. 17 and 18th. I told him I was available and he booked me—which is really a rare thing for a church to schedule someone on short notice. In spite of being just 16 days before the flight I got a ticket into Boston for only \$340. I spoke there and received an \$1800 honorarium. Because of that I was able to keep current on all our bills. It was true supernatural guidance—but not "spectacular" guidance.

I remember Kenneth Hagin writing that we often miss the supernatural because we're only looking for the spectacular. That experience has made me want to get real quiet again and see what else I pick up from God's Spirit. Not long after that I was in a motel in Ewart, Michigan. I was just quietly working when an idea came to me of how to help Pastor John Musamali get out of a jam and turn it into a big blessing.

He had rented a tent for a crusade and it was stolen. The owner accused him of selling the tent and had him thrown in a Kenyan jail in deplorable conditions. He got out by putting his car up

as a pledge that he would repay the value of the tent. So far, neither he nor I had come up with any funds to repay this tent. Pastor Musamali's life dream is to have a large crusade tent with which to evangelize African nations. The IDEA that came into my spirit was to ask some of my partners to buy a new tent for \$2500. The thought was that Pastor Musamali could use the sound system we provided a couple of years ago and rent out the tent and sound system for events like weddings and funerals and generate money with which to repay his debt. At the same time, he'd have his own tent.

At the time of this writing half of the money (\$1250) has been donated. I feel confident that some other partners will feel led to help finish the project. The IDEA came to me when I was very quiet. **Isaiah 30:15 In quietness and trust is your strength.** We should TRUST that if we get quiet in God's presence ideas, thoughts, truth and various communications from God will be picked up by our spirits and our minds will be able to "hear" it because there won't be a lot of interference.

Luke 5:16 But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. Prayer involves not just talking, but listening. Jesus found that quiet places in the desert were ideal for hearing from His Father.

4. SILENCE IS GOLDEN WHEN WE DON'T WASTE OUR WISDOM.

Prov. 12:23 A prudent man keeps his knowledge to himself, but the heart of fools blurts out folly. Any wise person would love to share his or her wisdom—but since most people are not asking for it, don't want to hear it, and wouldn't value it—they just keep silent and know what they know.

Prov. 17:28 Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue.

Prov. 18:2 A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions.

It is very RARE for a foolish person to keep silent because they delight in telling everyone their opinion, even if they don't really know anything. That's why even a fool is thought to be wise if he doesn't say anything. A wise man, however, doesn't want to share the facts he knows with people who don't give a rip about facts but only delight in their own opinions. So he saves his breath and energy and doesn't waste his wisdom on those who won't value it.

5. SILENCE IS GOLDEN WHEN OTHERS ARE SLEEPING.

Prov. 27:14 If a man loudly blesses his neighbor early in the morning, it will be taken as a curse.

**** I've stayed in a lot of motels and always marvel at the inconsideration of so many who loudly slam doors and loudly talk or yell in the hallways—or stomp to and from the bathroom on the floor above me. We can practice consideration of others in our own homes—because it's very easy to disturb the sleep of other family members just by being noisy when there is no need to be. When we are in motels—it's always good to be considerate of others by being as quiet as possible. Silence is golden when we practice the golden rule. **So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets (Matt. 7:12).**

**** Sometimes people ask me about how to get real anointed with the Holy Spirit. My answer usually surprises them and most of them do not pay much attention to my advice. I tell them, "Fill every day with little acts of kindness, because as you do that, you are practicing your anointing." Do you think being considerate in a motel by keeping your room door from slamming shut while others are trying to sleep has nothing to do with the anointing? All the people who think little things don't count are people who will always have very little anointing. The people who think little things count will find anointing accumulating like compound interest. This is one of the reasons there are few truly anointed people. God doesn't anoint selfishness, however it might be manifested. Consideration of others is a big deal with God—and it is expressed in a myriad of little ways.

6. SILENCE IS GOLDEN WHEN WE HAVE NOTHING GOOD TO SAY ABOUT SOMEONE.

You've heard it said, "If you can't say something good about someone, don't say anything at all." That's good advice. Kenneth Hagin told of a man who always said something kind about everyone. When one violent town drunk ended up meeting an untimely death someone asked him if he could say anything good about the dead man. He said, "He had such beautiful eyes."

Isaiah 58:9-10 "If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday."

We often think we are not pointing a finger and speaking maliciously because what we are saying is "true." That person really IS a jerk! That may be true, but silence is more virtuous than pointing out faults and telling about those faults to others.

Is. 29:20-21 The ruthless will vanish, the mockers will disappear, and all who have an eye for evil will be cut down— those who with a word make a man out to be guilty, who ensnare the defender in court and with false testimony deprive the innocent of justice.

Who will be cut down in judgment? Those who with a word make a man out to be guilty will be in trouble with God. This means, acting as if you are the judge and jury, talking about someone as if you have proven their guilt when in fact, you know don't know all the facts.

7. SILENCE IS GOLDEN WHEN A FOOL IS MOUTHING OFF.

Always remember, there is no use arguing with a demon. If a person is being outrageous it may be that an evil spirit is in control of them. You will not be able to reason with a demon. **Prov. 29:9 If a wise man goes to court with a fool, the fool rages and scoffs, and there is no peace. Prov. 26:4 Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you will be like him yourself.**

8. SILENCE IS GOLDEN WHEN IT GIVES US TIME TO THINK OF A POSITIVE CONFESION OF GOD'S WORD.

Prov. 18:21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Annie Schuler wrote, "He showed me that there are various levels upon which man speaks. He showed me especially one level as it relates to things of the heavenly world. I saw words that went forth and then returned to the speaker; these were empty words, which went forth and then came back. They were void, dry and useless and accomplished nothing.

Then He showed me powerful words—creative words that came forth from human lips. Whether good unto good or evil unto evil still they were creative and had power to bring things to pass. When uttered they became filled with power and their power lay in their ability to create channels or ways in which their import would come to pass. They would be turned into receptacles into which divine blessing would flow.

This same force worked in the same way unto evil as it did unto good. Powerful forces were waiting to utilize the lips of man to bring forth through them either blessings or cursings. Book 3, I SAW THE LORD, pages 72-73 "CREATIVE WORDS"

***** Imagine an angel and a demon standing beside you just waiting for words to come out of your mouth that could become a receptacle for either a spiritual blessing or a spiritual curse! This is happening to people all the time, although very few realize it.

While Annie saw this is a vision, Joyce Meyer gives some examples that I believe explain this vision.

Jesus said, "**Did I not tell you and promise you that if you would believe and rely on Me, you would see the glory of God?**" (**John 11:40 AMP**). Based on that verse, Joyce likes to say, "I believe and I will see the glory of God."

Do those words sound like receptacles that could hold the blessing of an angel? Yes!

The Bible says, **“With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation”** (Isaiah 12:3).

Recently I realized that the “water” could mean whatever we need for life. Financial provision is part of the “water” of salvation—because salvation is not just being saved from sin. Salvation is being saved from disease, poverty and futility as well. The last four years finances have been a continual challenge for me since I earn most of my living as a speaker in churches. Now I’m saying, **“I’ll always have plenty of water—financial provision—because my well of salvation is not going to go dry.”** Do you think an angel could use those words as a receptacle to contain financial blessing? I do.

Joyce Meyers writes, “I said, ‘God loves me,’ thousands of times by faith before I ever felt it. We might say that confession is a large part of possession. We choose to believe what God says and say the same thing by faith. The result is that our confession of God’s promises leads us to possess them experientially.”

**** I’ve known for years that it’s important to say the right things. But I never had a mental picture of an angel or a demon standing beside me just waiting for my words to see if they would hold either a blessing or a curse. If an angel is waiting to fill my words with blessing, then I am going to ramp up my effort to confess God’s promises as true!

Is. 41:18 I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs. Based on this verse I am saying, “God is going to make financial provision flow for me even in the most unexpected places where it seems impossible.” Now—do you think an angel could find that confession of faith useful as a receptacle into which a blessing could be poured?

**** Now imagine a believer saying something like this, “It looks like we’re going to starve. There is just no way we are going to make it.” Could a demon find those words to be a useful receptacle to hold a curse? I think so!

What if a believer says, “Things are getting worse and worse and I’m getting older. It looks like I’m headed for financial disaster.” Do you think a demon might find those words real useful as a receptacle for a curse? God says, **“Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you”** (Is. 46:4). What if the believer said, “God is going to sustain me. He made me and if I need Him to, He will carry me through any rough place or deep water. He is going to sustain me and rescue me.” I’m sure a demon *could not* use those words and I’m sure that an angel *could* use them.

What does all this have to do with silence? Silence is golden because it gives us time to find God’s promises and build a confession. It keeps us from blurting out fearful or self-condemning words that the devil would find useful to use against us. However, silence is only good for a time. It doesn’t by itself provide a receptacle for an angel to fill with a blessing. Words of faith do that. But silence gives us needed time to search for, find, and collect faith statements that will be ideal to hold spiritual blessings.

Jesus said, **“I tell you, on the day of judgment men will have to give account for every idle word they speak”** (Matthew 12:36). What would an accounting like that look like? Can you imagine the Lord asking you, “Why did you say so many words of unbelief and fear that gave the devil so many receptacles to fill?” I’d rather hear Him say, “Well done, good and faithful servant. Your words were very useful to Me and My kingdom. You chose to speak of My promises and gave the angels thousands of useful receptacles for blessings that have now overflowed into the lives of thousands.”

**** Here’s a needed clarification. If you have a cold or a headache or a pain in your hip it is not wrong to just admit that. People get weird when they start denying reality. If you have a pain in your hip, admit it and take some MSM Glucosamine Sulfate. Your joints will appreciate it. You could say, “I feel pain in my hip. I must need some nutrient I’m not getting. I believe God will show me what nutrient I need and I believe He’ll provide the money for it. Maybe I need to exercise

a little more. In fact, losing some weight wouldn't be a bad idea." That's better than saying, "My hip feels just fine" when in fact it is hurting. People that refuse to admit if they are sick and are always "confessing" they are well are practicing superstition rather than faith. Here's a good verse that brings balance. Rom. 4:19 **Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead.** He faced the facts, yet he did not weaken in faith.

Now, with God's help and coaching, I think we can all choose to confess God's promises in a way that would make our words receptacles for His blessings. Our silence, our refusal to utter complaints, worries and fears gives us time to find these promises and then speak from an agreement with God.

9. SILENCE IS GOLDEN WHEN A CORSE JOKE COMES TO MIND.

The apostle Paul wrote, **"But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving"** (Eph. 5:3-4).

When some coarse joke comes to mind—just don't tell it. When an obscenity comes to mind—just don't say it. When something foolish comes to mind—just don't say it. Just remain silent.

10. SILENCE IS GOLDEN WHEN A CONFIDENCE NEEDS TO BE KEPT.

Prov. 20:19 **A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much.** We must not only avoid sharing confidential things with people who talk too much, we must keep secret what others have told us in confidence. We don't want to BE the person who talks too much. People who can keep confidences are people who can keep their mouths shut in silence.

11. SILENCE CAN BE GOLDEN WHEN SOMEONE IS STUMBLING TO EXPRESS THEIR IDEAS.

This takes real sensitivity. Typically, it shows more kindness to silently keep listening than to finish someone's sentence for them. I'm pretty good at supplying a word someone is struggling to find. If I think it will delight them when I speak the very word they are struggling to find to express themselves, then I say that word in a questioning way as if, "Is this the word you are looking for?" But if someone has a stuttering problem I always let him or her struggle to get it out because I think it puts more value on that person than if I tried to say it for them. Also, when we finish the sentence for someone we are presuming that we know what he or she wants to say. Often we are wrong and it just shows what poor listeners we really are.

1Th. 5:14 **And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.** Shorten that to "be patient with everyone." That patience, in some cases, can only be demonstrated by remaining silent and patiently listening while others with less verbal skills try to express themselves.

12. SILENCE IS GOLDEN WHEN WE USE IT TO ACTUALLY THINK.

John Maxwell has written a book called THINKING FOR A CHANGE. In it he describes various kinds of thinking—and how beneficial they are. He shares his opinion that few people take much time to actually THINK.

When I get really quiet I can think best of all the things that need to be done. These things just float up inside me and I can fill several pages of a yellow legal pad with "to do" items. Then I can sort these into the ones that require several action steps—which is basically planning. There is a lot to be said about the benefits of good planning.

Psa. 20:4 **May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.**

Prov. 16:3 **Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.**

Prov. 21:5 **The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.**

Is. 32:8 **But the noble man makes noble plans, and by noble deeds he stands.**

God can't make your plans succeed if you don't make them. You are unlikely to make them unless you value times of quietness and silence. The most successful people on earth plan their days the day before and thus are pro-active and not just reactive to whatever happens.

13. SILENCE IS GOLDEN WHEN YOU ARE REALLY TIRED.

When you are really tired it is a lot easier to say angry things, complaining words, grumbling words and the like. When you are really tired it seems like it takes more strength than you possess to say godly, encouraging and faith filled words.

Is. 40:29-31 **He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.**

When you "hope in the Lord" or "wait upon the Lord (KJV) your strength will be renewed. It is valuable to just sit in God's presence and SOAK. Eccl. 5:2 **Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few.**

We get to thinking that our devotional time must be filled with our own speaking—telling God how great He is, repenting of sins and asking for His help. But lovers don't talk all the time. It is good to just enjoy the quiet embrace of God and let your heart do the talking, as if every beat were saying, "I love you, Lord."

When I am tired I keep a tighter reign on my tongue because it is so much easier to be crabby and curt to others if I'm exhausted. I may not have enough strength to say lots of wise and kind words at times like that. But I usually have enough strength to keep my mouth shut and avoid saying something regrettable.

14. SILENCE IS GOLDEN WHEN THE SITUATION CALLS FOR YOU TO DEMONSTRATE KINGLY DIGNITY.

When Jesus was on trial the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate was asking him if he was a king. After one of Christ's answers he said, **"You are a king, then!"**

Jesus answered, **"You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."**

When Jesus said he was a King he had no crown, no royal robe, no palace, no royal guard, no army to surround him—nothing to prove he was a king EXCEPT his ability to be silent while others mocked and ridiculed and blasphemed him. His still and quiet demeanor amazed Pilate. You see, Jesus just wore his dignity by keeping silent and calm.

I'm a big believer in "wearing your spiritual dignity." When others think you are a bad person, but you know you are not, then you don't have to convince them with words. Just wear a silent, calm, and peaceful demeanor. It speaks volumes without saying a word. Others with less dignity would be accusing their accusers, insulting those who insult them, fearfully begging for mercy and the like. Jesus just calmly and silently ACTED LIKE ROYALTY.

WHEN SILENCE IS NOT GOLDEN

Silence has its time and place and there may be many more situations where silence is golden than the fourteen I have listed above. However, we need to realize that there are times when it's really wrong to be silent.

1. DON'T KEEP SILENT ABOUT WHAT JESUS DID FOR YOU.

Psa. 107:2 KJV Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;

Jesus delivered one man from a legion of demons and then told him, **“Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you”** (Mark 5:19). Do not keep silent about what God has done for you. Tell people your testimony of how you were saved from sin and the new peace and joy you have now. Learning to give your testimony is the first step to becoming a soul-winner. Just tell people what it was like in your life BEFORE what it's like NOW and how you received your help from Jesus.

2. DON'T KEEP SILENT WHEN SOMEONE DOES SOMETHING NICE FOR YOU.

Always say, “thank-you” when someone does something nice for you. This is so simple but it makes you a STAND OUT with both God and men. Jesus healed ten lepers at one time but only one returned to give thanks. The book, YOU, INC. has a tremendous chapter about marketing yourself by being a grateful person. The author said to say thank you in an unforgettable way and you would always be remembered and appreciated.

3. DON'T KEEP SILENT WHEN YOU COULD COMPLIMENT SOMEONE.

When I see someone doing something kind to someone else I often say, “That was really nice of you.” Once in a bank, I watched a teller patiently communicating with a very handicapped person whose body was twisted and whose speech was almost completely unintelligible. She was so patient and kind. I observed her graciousness and before I left the bank I told her, “I really admire the way you kindly helped that handicapped person.” **Heb. 3:13 Encourage one another daily.**

4. DON'T KEEP SILENT WHEN YOU SHOULD SPEAK UP FOR THE OPPRESSED.

Prov. 31:8-9 “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

I hope to have many wonderful quiet times with the Lord when I will get ideas and directions and when my planning times will be blessed by His inspiration. Coming out of that, I hope to be used of God to speak up for the orphans, widows, and native pastors around the world who need so much help.

Let me close this sermon with an example. Pastor John Namavarapu, from Southern India has a brother who is a Christian, but not a pastor. His wife was bitten by a cobra, but lived. To save her life through medical intervention he had to sell both of his milk cows. They were his little dairy, his only way of making a living. So I will speak up for a man like that and ask if anyone would like to buy a poor brother in India a new milk cow, or two? How they would praise the Lord if someone would help them.

CLOSING: My prayer for you: Father in heaven, please help all of us to be silent when we should be and to speak up when we should. Help us to value silence more so that we can receive Your guidance, plan with Your inspiration, and find just the right words of faith to speak. Help us, in our times of silently seeking, to find confessions of faith that can be receptacles for Your blessings. So whether we are silent or whether we speak up, may we bring You glory in the proper way in each situation. May You use these thoughts to bless my dear partners so much that they each turn into a blessing and then bless the whole world through their lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.