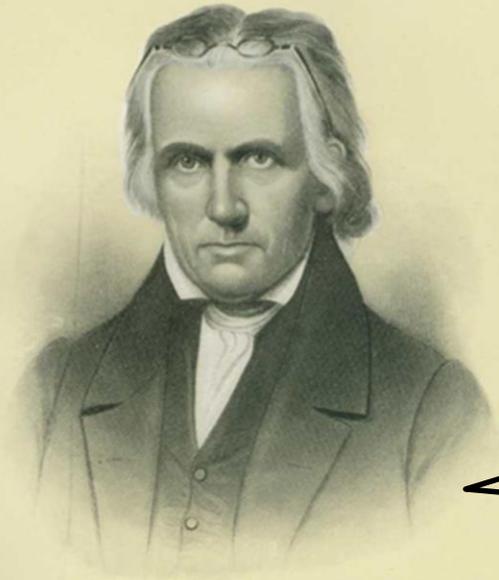




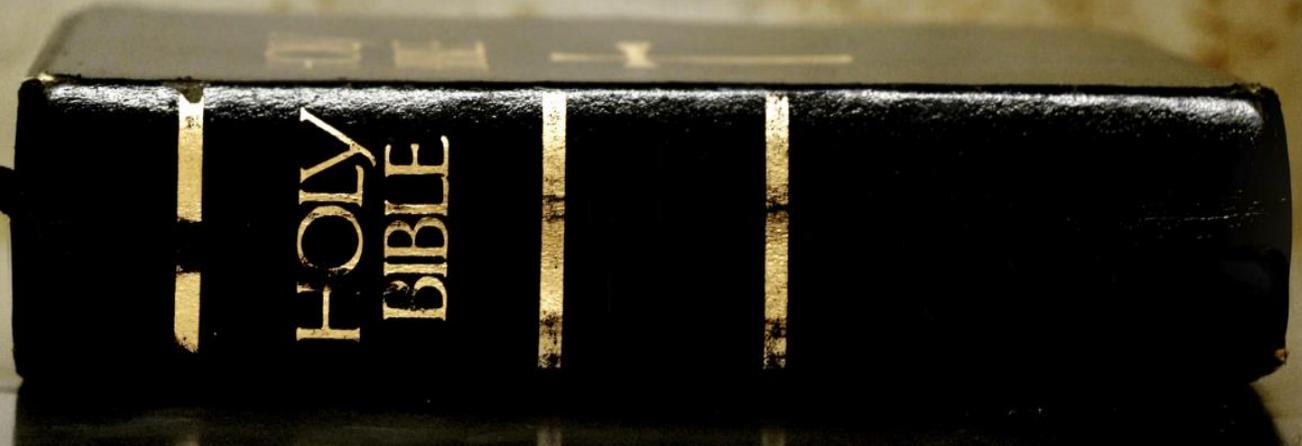
When God is Silent



Thomas Campbell
1763-1854

**“Where the
Scriptures speak,
we speak; where
the Scriptures are
silent, we are
silent.”**

1 Peter 4:11



“Within Churches of Christ, the traditional understanding of silence is that it is prohibitive . . . We have conveniently ignored a number of examples that would complicate our simplistic approach . . . I have no personal problems with trying to adhere, however inconsistently, to our ‘Law of Silence’ concept. But when we condemn other people to eternal damnation for not following it, I fear we are *‘teaching for doctrine the commandments of men.’*”

➤ “This is ultimately a discussion immersed in legalism, I believe. God gave us both his word and our brains. I think he expects us to use both, and not necessarily to wind up with the same conclusions. Think and go, God will bless us.”

Silence of Scripture

➤ “I’m back to think and go . . . If you look at some examples in the biblical narrative then you’ll begin to see that ‘think and go’ is pretty much normative for God's people. God will bless us, I believe. He's surely blessed me, even though I don't have specific word for most of what I do.”



What does it mean . . .
when God is silent?

1. It could

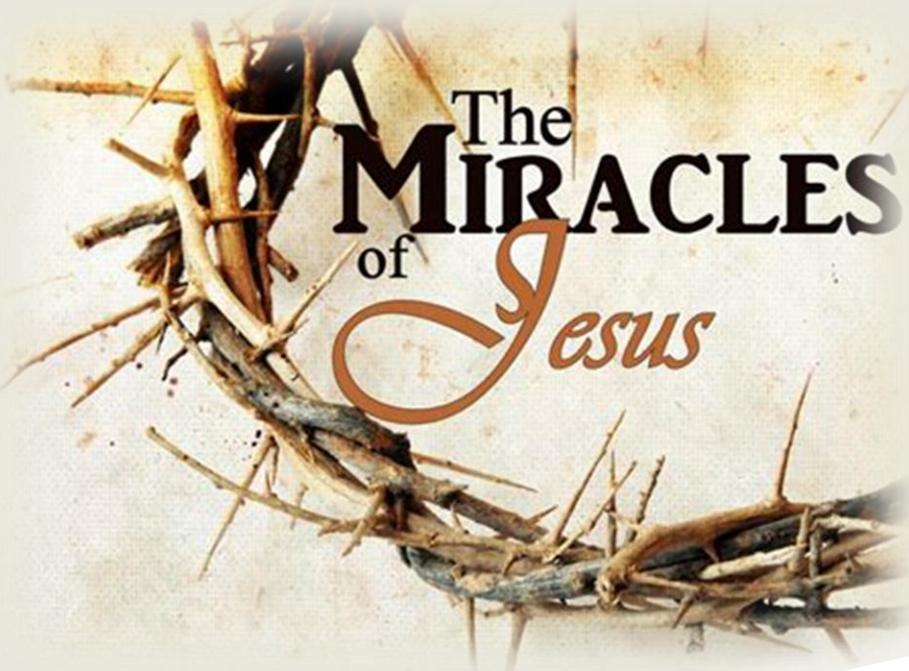
Silence: "Making no Utterance"

"The Absence of information"

approval.

communicate disapproval.

It could mean nothing at all.



The
MIRACLES
of
Jesus

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that

and that believe in His name,
We don't know because they are unrevealed (1 Cor 2:10-13)

also many other things that Jesus which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written, (John 21:25).

The law of the LORD is perfect . . .

These are NOT Revealed
The testimony of the LORD is sure . . .

The statutes of the LORD are right . . .

The commandment of the LORD is pure . . .

The judgments of the LORD are true . . .

And in keeping them there is great reward. . .

(Psalm 19:7-11)

Did some of these
unexplained
miracles happen?



Keep back Your servant
from the dead?

also from presumptuous
sins; let them not have
dominion over me.

Zeno?
Then I shall be
blameless,

And I shall be innocent
of great transgression.

(Psalm 19:13)

Heal James after a deadly viper bite?

SOMETIMES
I WONDER
WHY

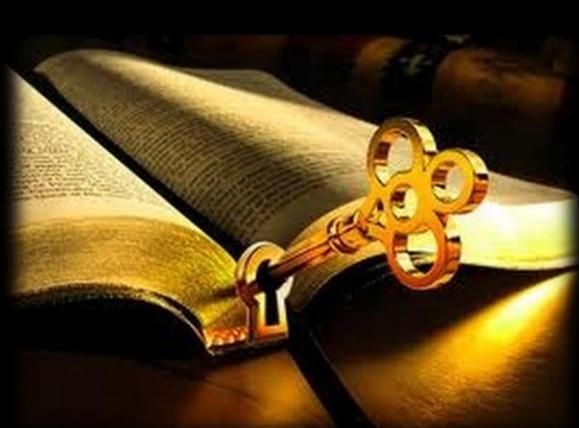
“If this so-called ‘law of silence’ were to be followed ‘religiously,’ then our PA systems, PowerPoint usage, song books, and other things which we commonly use in worship would all be outlawed. It really is time to apply some common sense to this ‘law,’ and the way it is applied by so many...”





... does silence
permit a pew
but prohibit a
piano?





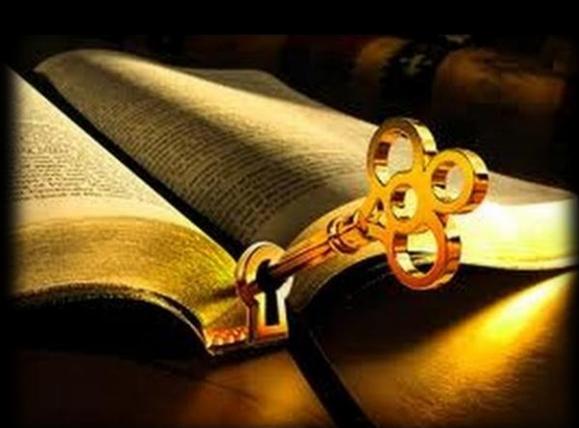
*Silence does not authorize,
only Revelation authorizes.*



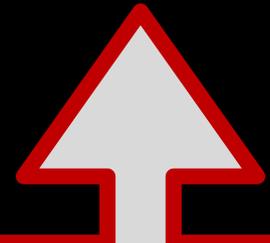
GOD IS NOT SILENT!

**Do you
respect
revelation?**

**“Speaking to one another
in psalms and hymns and
spiritual songs, singing
and making melody in
your heart to the Lord”
(Ephesians 5:19).**



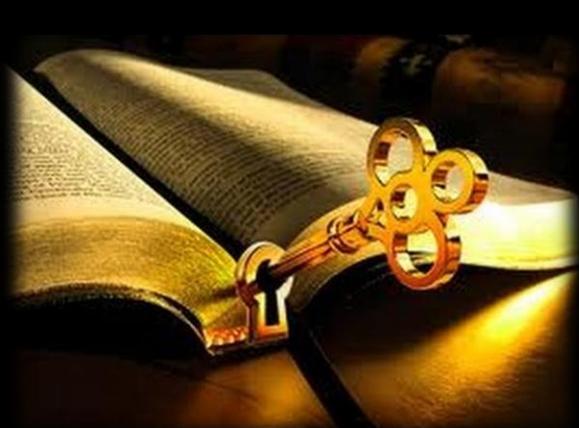
*Silence does not authorize,
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**Do you
respect
revelation?**

GOD IS NOT SILENT!

“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” (Rom 6:4)



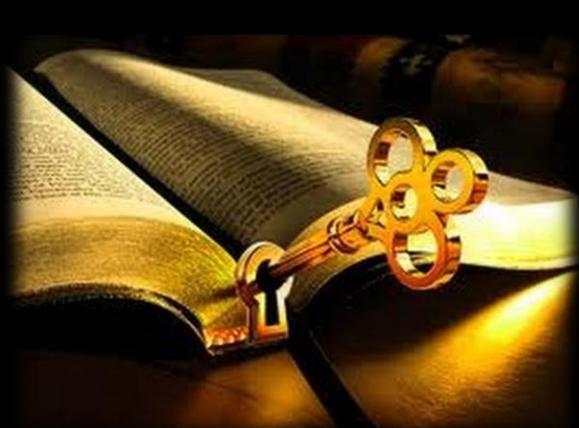
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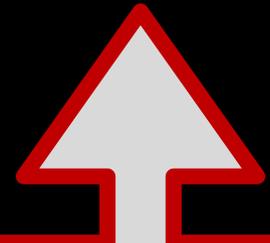
**Do you
respect
revelation?**

GOD IS NOT SILENT!

“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week . . .”
(1 Corinthians 16:1-2).



*Silence does not authorize,
only Revelation authorizes.*



**Do you
respect
revelation?**

GOD IS NOT SILENT!

“And He Himself gave some to be . . . , for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”
(Ephesians 4:11-12).



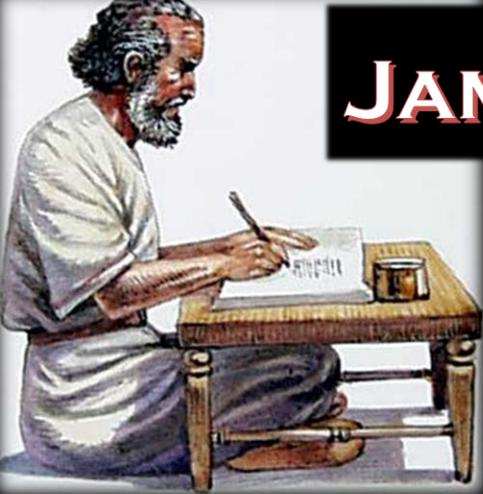
GOD, DAVID & SILENCE

¹ Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies all around, ² that the king said to Nathan the prophet, see now,

2 Samuel 7:1-7

Silence does not authorize, but the word of the LORD only Revelation authorizes.

curtains . . . ⁴ The LORD came to Nathan, saying, ⁵ go and tell My servant David, thus says the LORD: Would you build a house for Me to dwell in? . . . ⁷ Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, why have you not built Me a house of cedar?



JAMES, GENTILES & SILENCE

¹ And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.

Acts 15: 1, 6

⁶ Now the apostles and elders came

Silence does not authorize, only Revelation authorizes.

They wrote the brethren, to the church, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings. Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, you must be circumcised and keep the law—to whom we gave no such commandment—

(Acts 15:23-24)

JESUS, PRIESTHOOD & SILENCE



Hebrews 7:11-14

Numbers
Behold, I My
taken your k
the Levites from
among the children
of Israel; they are a
gift to you, given by
the LORD, to do the
work of the
tabernacle of meeting

Silence does not authorize, only Revelation authorizes.

¹¹ Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not according to the order of Aaron, and not according to the order of the law, for the law being changed, the priesthood is also a change of the law. ¹³ For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. ¹⁴ For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.

BUT DIDN'T SILENCE AUTHORIZE?



³ or if a woman makes a vow to the LORD,
and binds herself by some agreement
while in her father's house in her youth,
⁴ and her father hears her vow and the

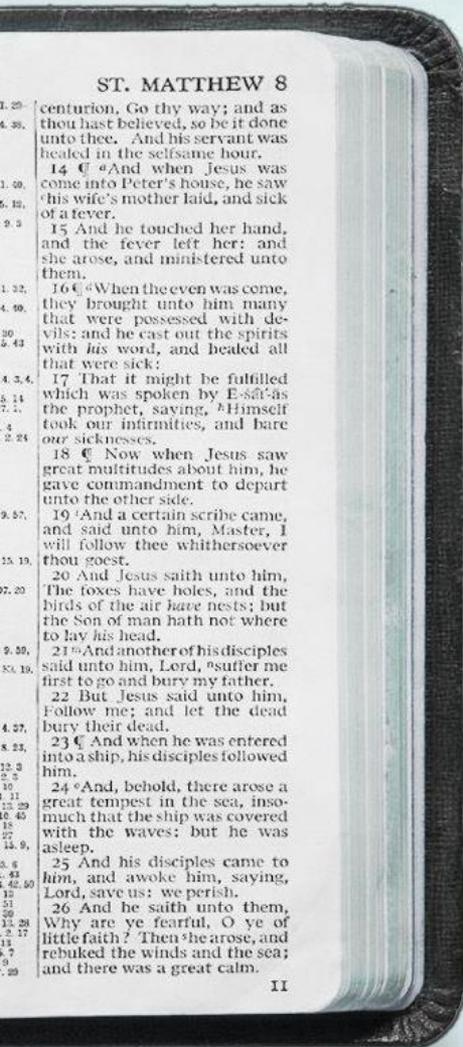
Numbers 30:3-7

agreement by which she has bound
herself, and her father

then all her vows shall stand,
which she has bound

God was NOT silent

⁶ If in silence, while bound by her vows
or by some agreement from her lips by which she bound
herself, and her husband hears it, and makes no response
to her on the day that he hears, then her vows shall stand,
and her agreements by which she bound herself shall
stand.



- The revealed Word of God serves as our boundary (Rev 22:18-19; 2 Jn 9).
- Acting on Silence = Acting on Ignorance (1 Cor 2:12).
- Acting on Silence = Seeking Our Own Will (Matt 6:10).
- Acting on Silence = Legalism (establishing our own righteousness, Rom 10:3).

~~And that these things, about the people, shall have a rebuke
 fig of a vine, by the way of the sea, and in the midst of the faith of our
 Apollon for your stakes, that you may see 30:6
 learn in us not to think beyond what is written . . .
 1 Corinthians 4:6~~

