

WHEN THE FIRE DOESN'T FIX IT

BY RONNIE GLASS



When The Fire Doesn't Fix It

About the Author

▯ *Introduction: When the Fire Doesn't Fix It*

A Devotional Invitation by Minister Ronnie Glass

There are moments when God feels close—undeniably close. The fire falls, the Spirit moves, the tears flow. And yet... the ache doesn't leave.

This devotional began as a whisper in one of those moments. After the fire. After the worship. After the prayer meeting. When the outward noise quieted and I realized something inside was still aching—still unsure if healing had come.

Maybe you've been there too.

This series, *When the Fire Doesn't Fix It*, is for those who've experienced the presence of God but are still walking through silence. It's for the believer who's served faithfully but now finds their soul tired. It's for the leader who encourages others but secretly wonders if they've lost their way. And it's for the one who longs for God—not just in power, but in quiet presence.

Over the next five chapters, I'll walk with you through stories of Scripture, seasons of silence, and sacred spaces of stillness. We'll sit with Elijah in the wilderness. We'll listen for God's whisper. We'll open our hearts to healing—not from loud miracles, but from the gentle nearness of a God who still sees, still speaks, and still restores.

This isn't a book of easy answers—it's a companion for the hard questions. And I pray that as you journey through these devotionals, you'll find one steady truth: **God is still here. Even when the fire doesn't fix it.**

— *Minister Ronnie Glass*

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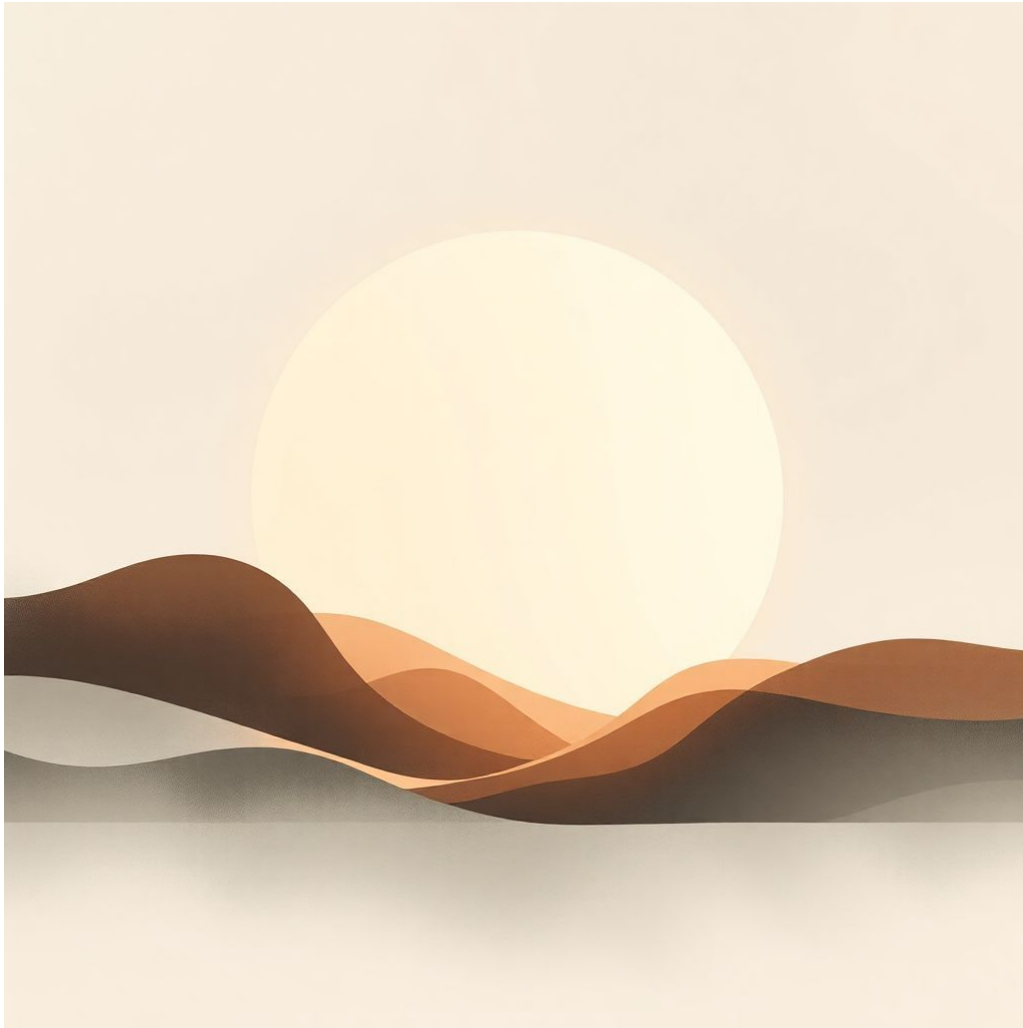
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Embracing Divine Silence



Biblical Foundations of Divine Silence

Silence is not God's absence. It's often His strategy.

Throughout Scripture, silence precedes some of the most profound moves of God. Before creation began, the Spirit hovered in stillness (Genesis 1:2). Before Jesus' public ministry launched, He spent 40 quiet days in the wilderness (Luke 4:1–2). And on the cross, when heaven seemed mute, redemption was being secured (Matthew 27:46).

God's silence isn't punishment. It's presence in a different form.

Just as a parent quietly watches a child take their first steps, God often pulls back the volume—not to withdraw—but to mature us. Silence invites listening. And listening

deepens relationship.

Recognizing God's Hidden Presence During Personal Seasons

You may not feel Him, but that doesn't mean He left.

In those seasons when prayers seem unanswered, doors remain shut, or emotional fog lingers, it's tempting to assume God has stepped away. But silence is where God often shifts from *showing* to *shaping*.

Think of Elijah in the cave (1 Kings 19). Wind, earthquake, and fire passed before him—but God wasn't in any of those. Then came a gentle whisper. A breath. A still, small voice. That's where God was. And that's where Elijah met Him.

We must learn to recognize the whisper. It may come through:

A verse that won't let go.

A quiet prompting.

A moment of unexplainable peace.

Adjusting Expectations in Spiritual Dryness

When the spectacular stops, the steady starts.

Dry seasons aren't always signs of sin or failure—they may be signs of God trusting us with deeper growth. Like a plant forced to extend its roots during drought, our souls often stretch toward deeper waters when the surface feels dry.

What if the goal isn't to escape silence—but to engage it?

Instead of praying, “Lord, speak loudly,” we might ask, “Lord, help me listen deeply.” The Spirit's whisper is gentle, but it changes everything.

□ Reflection Prompt:

Have you ever misread God's silence as absence? What might He be inviting you to discover about His character in this quiet stretch of your life?

Navigating Burnout and Grief with Faith



Signs of Emotional and Spiritual Exhaustion

Burnout doesn't always look like collapse. Sometimes it shows up in silence.

You're still serving. Still smiling. Still showing up. But inside, something feels hollow. The flame hasn't gone out—it's just flickering under the weight of weariness. The spiritual term for this is *soul fatigue*. You're doing godly things... but running on fumes.

Warning signs?

Prayer feels like a chore.

Scripture doesn't stir you like it once did.

You're more irritable, numb, or disengaged—even with people you love.

Elijah felt it. After calling down fire from heaven, he collapsed under a broom tree and begged God to let him die (1 Kings 19:4). His ministry was fruitful. But his soul? Bone-tired.

And God didn't rebuke him. He fed him.

Healing Through Scripture and Prayer

Before God sent Elijah back into the fight, He met him with food, rest, and a whisper (1 Kings 19:5–8).

God's prescription for burnout isn't always "Do more." It's often "Let Me do more in you." That's the grace of Scripture and prayer—not performance, but presence.

Try this:

Read a Psalm slowly, aloud. Let the words wash over you.

Don't rush to "do" prayer. Just sit with God. Say nothing if you need to.

Meditate on Jesus' words: "*Come to Me, all who are weary...*" (Matthew 11:28–30). Not "work harder." Just... come.

Healing happens when we stop striving long enough to let God tend the places we've ignored.

Trusting God's Comfort in Times of Loss

Grief isn't just for funerals. We grieve lost friendships, unfulfilled dreams, or the version of ourselves we thought we'd be by now.

And God is *very much* near the brokenhearted (Psalm 34:18). Not rushing us to “move on,” but holding space for us to be honest, undone, and slowly healed.

The cross proves this: Jesus entered our suffering, didn't bypass it. His resurrection didn't erase the wounds—it transformed them.

So if you're grieving, know this:

You don't have to hide it.

You don't have to hurry it.

And you never go through it alone.

□ Reflection Prompt:

What area of your life feels burnt out or grieving? What would it look like to let God *nourish* you in that place instead of pushing yourself harder?

Listening for God's Voice in the Stillness



Cultivating Spiritual Sensitivity

God doesn't always shout. Sometimes, He *whispers*—not because He's distant, but because He's close enough to do so.

That's what Elijah discovered on the mountain. The wind shattered rocks. The earthquake shook the ground. The fire roared. But God? He wasn't in any of those. He was in the still, small voice (1 Kings 19:11–12).

So how do we cultivate ears that hear Him?

Simplify your space. Less noise externally helps clear clutter internally.

Practice holy pauses. Sit still for five minutes before reading the Word. Let your soul settle before the Spirit speaks.

Ask different questions. Instead of “What should I do?” try “What is God showing me about Himself here?”

Sensitivity doesn't come from spiritual perfection. It comes from quiet attention.

Practices for Quieting the Heart

Stillness isn't passive—it's a spiritual posture.

Try these gentle rhythms:

Breath prayers. Inhale: *"Lord Jesus,"* exhale: *"Have mercy."* Let your body slow your spirit.

Scripture meditation. Choose one verse (like Psalm 46:10—"Be still..."). Read it slowly. Let it repeat inside you like a sacred echo.

Listening journaling. Instead of asking God for answers, write down what you sense He's revealing. No filter, just faith.

These aren't formulas—they're invitations. God already wants to speak. Stillness helps us stop talking long enough to hear.

Recognizing God's Voice Amidst Noise

How do you know if it's really Him?

Here's what I've learned:

God's voice brings peace, not pressure. Conviction, yes. Condemnation, no.

God's whispers align with His Word. He never contradicts Scripture, only clarifies it.

God's guidance draws you closer. Even hard truths feel laced with love.

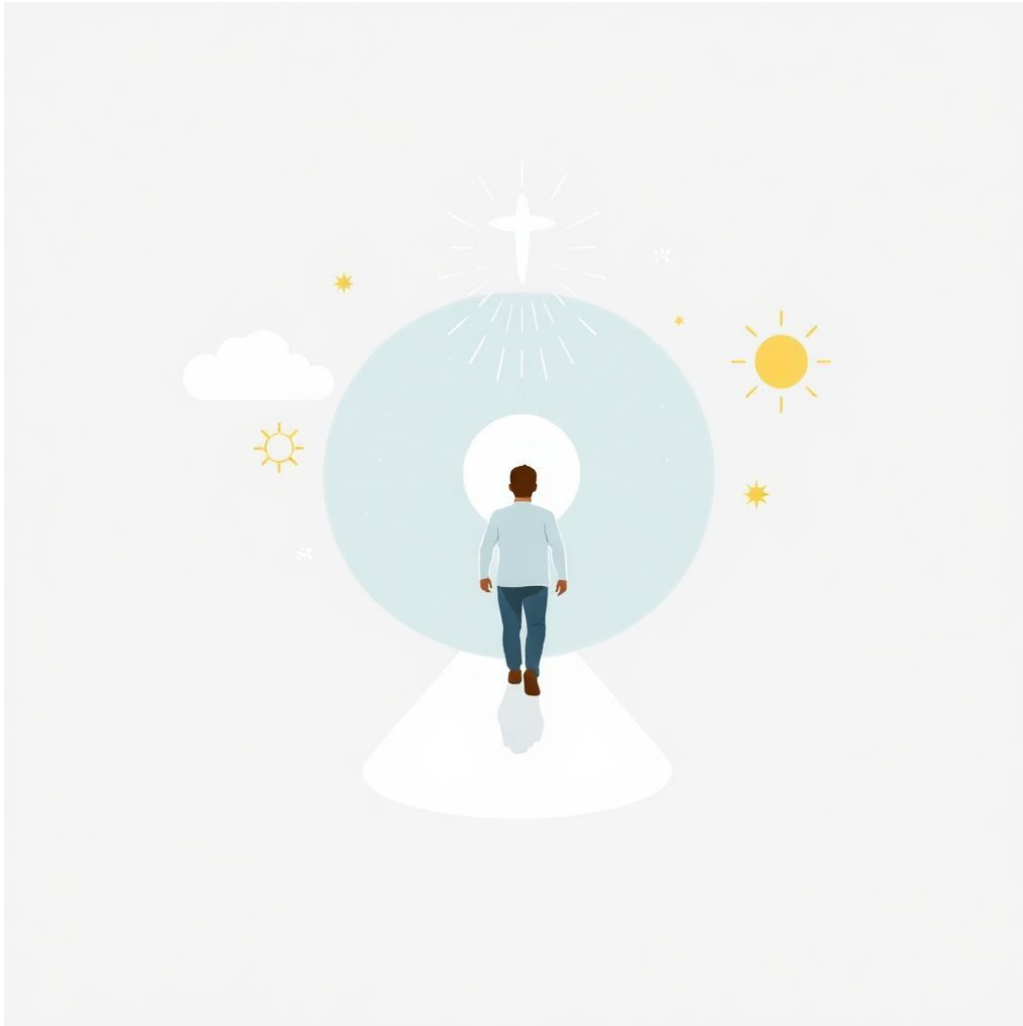
Sometimes, we want God's volume to go up. But often, He's waiting for our *distractions* to go down.

And once they do? His voice won't sound like thunder. It'll feel like home.

□ Reflection Prompt:

What daily noise—externally or internally—could you begin to quiet this week to better listen for God's voice?

Transitioning with Faith



Surrendering Control and Embracing Change

Transitions are holy ground. Not because they feel good—but because God meets us in the unraveling.

Think of Abraham, called to leave everything familiar (Genesis 12:1). Or Ruth, walking into a foreign land with only hope in her heart. Surrender isn't just about letting go—it's about *letting God lead* where we can't see.

When life shifts unexpectedly, ask:

“What part of me is struggling to surrender?”

“What might God be forming in this discomfort?”

Faith isn't always a loud yes. Sometimes it's a trembling “Okay, Lord.”

Trusting God's Purpose in Uncertain Seasons

If you're walking through a foggy season right now, hear this: God is not improvising. He's *orchestrating*.

Joseph didn't see the purpose in prison—but God was positioning him to preserve a nation (Genesis 50:20). You don't have to see the whole plan to trust the Planner.

Remember:

God's delays are not His denials.

Closed doors can be protective, not punitive.

Uncertainty doesn't mean God is uncertain—it means He's teaching you to walk by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Lean into what you *do* know: God is faithful. That's more than enough to take the next step.

Finding Hope During Seasons of Transition

Hope doesn't deny difficulty—it defies despair.

Isaiah 43:19 says, “*Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?*” But notice—God's new things often begin underground. Quiet. Hidden. Gestating in the soil of surrender.

Here's how hope grows:

Through *reminders*—write down past faithfulness.

Through *relationships*—stay connected to people who speak truth and encouragement.

Through *renewal*—let Scripture reframe your vision. Let worship re-center your soul.

Transitions may feel like loss—but with God, they're also the birthplace of renewal.

▮ Reflection Prompt:

What transition are you facing that feels especially uncertain right now? What would surrender look like—not in theory, but in practice?

Flourishing in God's Presence Beyond the Silence



Rekindling Passion for God Through Intimate Encounters

Sometimes, the deepest renewal happens *after* the dryness.

In John 21, Peter—ashamed and unsure after denying Jesus—encounters Christ over breakfast. Not a sermon. Not a miracle. Just bread, fish... and grace. That quiet morning lit a fire that would shape the rest of Peter's life.

Likewise, your return to spiritual passion may not be dramatic. It might begin with:

A whispered prayer.

A morning walk with worship music.

A single verse that softens your heart again.

Don't chase a feeling. Chase God. Passion follows presence.

Living Out Faith with Confidence and Joy

Faith after the silence is more grounded. It's not naive—it's *tested*.

The storms didn't break you; they refined you. And now, your joy isn't rooted in your circumstances but in the One who carried you through.

This kind of joy is:

Confident—because it's not about your grip on God, but His grip on you (John 10:28).

Resilient—because you've seen that even silence isn't abandonment.

Contagious—because others see your quiet strength and want to know the Source.

Joy doesn't erase sorrow. But it *outlasts* it.

Sharing God's Voice in a Broken World

You've walked through silence. You've found God in the stillness. Now... it's time to pass it on.

This world is hungry for real, raw, Spirit-breathed encouragement. And you carry that within you.

Speak gently to the one in burnout.

Write what you wish someone had said to you.

Serve from your scars, not just your strengths.

Isaiah 50:4 says, *"The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary."* That's your calling now.

□ Reflection Prompt:

Who needs your story right now? Who might be encouraged by the healing you've found? Write down one name—and pray for courage to share, serve, or speak life this week.

