

30 Days of Prayer

Day 1

Isaiah 40.27-41.1

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
'My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God'?
²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall
renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

41 Listen to me in silence, O coastlands;
let the peoples renew their strength;
let them approach, then let them speak;
let us together draw near for judgment.

Holy God,

I have been lacking in your call to communicate with you; to speak and to listen. Your voice has been crying out to me, "Listen to me!" But I have kept a wall between us, a wall that silences your voice and mutes my own. I have allowed myself to be distracted by so many things... (*take all the time you need to lift up your stresses, worries, complaints here*).

Remove the distractions from me, Lord, so that I may sit in your presence in silence with a quiet mind and a quiet heart. Give me the patience and peace to come to you daily in prayer to speak and to listen. You have been faithful to me, Lord. Help me be faithful to you as I approach you daily with humility and a heart willing to listen and learn. In the name of Christ,

Amen.

Sometimes when a person or a community experiences a crisis, through it we can hear God calling us into prayer. The current financial situation of the country and our congregation has brought us to our knees... literally, as we bend our knees in prayer!

It's easy to allow the busyness and distractions of our lives to interfere with our prayer lives. So our first prayer gives us the opportunity to lay all our cares and concerns before God so that God can clear our minds and our hearts and prepare us to speak and to listen. Take time to unburden yourself of your worries, and then take time to "Listen to [God] in silence."