PSALM 39 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

PRAYER FOR PERSPECTIVE IN AFFLICTION - (SERMON MP3)

1.) Read Psalm 39:1-3 How do you respond in the midst of your affliction? David purposed to keep his mouth shut in the midst of his
affliction. Do you believe it is good to keep silent? Why or Why not? (Hab. 2:20)

Antidot we see	mas Brooks, an English preacher from the 1600's wrote a book entitled, Mute Christian, The Silent Soul with Sovereign tes - in it he describes seven types of silence that are expressed in the face of affliction and he sheds light on the type of silence in David's response. Here are the types of silence he surfaces. Can you identify particular expressions of silence that are common life? Discuss with your community group the significance of developing the response of godly silence in your life.
**	A Stoical Silence (Proud and Insensitive)
*	A Political Silence (Born out of the fear of men)
*	A Foolish Silence (Even a fool is counted wise when he shuts his mouth)
*	A Sullen Silence (Dumb Silence)
*	A Forced Silence (Comes from the fear of an enemy)
*	A Despairing Silence (Sees oneself as Condemned)
**	A Godly Silence - (it is prudent, humble and submissive, which includes with it a sight of God, and an acknowledgement of God as the author of all the afflictions which come upon us)
affliction statement	naps it is easy to respond in humble, submissive silence before the Lord when you are in the midst of short-term ons, but what about long-term, painful circumstances in which you do not see resolution, or relief? How do the following ents shed light on your ability to endure and remain in submission to God under your afflictions? Discuss them with your nity group.
**	Your afflictions are not so long as the afflictions of other saint
**	The longer your affliction has been, the sweeter will heaven be to you at last

* They are not long—but short—if compared to that eternity of glory that is reserved for the saints (Read II Cor. 4:16-18)

Your afflictions are actually not great, if compared with the afflictions and torments of many of the damned in hell, who when they

Though your afflictions are great, yet they are not so great as your sins

were in this world, did not sin as much as you have.

4.) Times of affliction are special times of supplication (James 5:13 and Psalm 50:15) David finally breaks his silence and when he does he directs his speech Godward. Read Psalm 39:4-7. How do you respond in the midst of affliction? To whom do you vent? (God or Others) Where do you vent? (i.e. Facebook, Friends, In private to God?)				
	tion (God) he is overwhelmed by the reality of the breviss of your days. How does the reality of the brevity and th			
6.) After being overwhelmed by the brevity and vanity of his life without God - David asks the question in verse 7: "What am I waiting for? My hope is in You." Personalize this question: What are you waiting for to find your hope in God? Have you found yourself trying to make deals with God? Afflictions are really kind gifts from the Lord because they awaken our souls to our need to find our hope in God. Life is short. Eternity is long. Find your hope in him today!				
	v in my life, then I will hope in you.			
	, then I will hope in you.			
God, when I am years old, or when I get married, have a family, when I get established in my career, when I retire, then I will hope in you.				
7.) How do we find our hope in God?		PRAYER REQUESTS		
	accumulation of possessions or self-centered security in k 8:36) What is to be gained or lost by receiving or rejectin or you?	g		