

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)

2.) Thomas Brooks, an English preacher from the 1600's wrote a book entitled, Mute Christian, The Silent Soul with Sovereign Antidotes - 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 we see in David's response. Here are the types of silence he surfaces. Can you identify particular expressions of silence that are common in your 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)*

3.) Perhaps it is easy to respond in humble, submissive silence before the Lord when you are in the midst of short-term afflictions, but what about long-term, painful circumstances in which you do not see resolution, or relief? How do the following statements shed light on your ability to endure and remain in submission to God under your afflictions? Discuss them with your community 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*
- ☼ *Though your afflictions are great, yet they are not so great as your sins*
- ☼ *Your afflictions are actually not great, if compared with the afflictions and torments of many of the damned in hell, who when they were in this world, did not sin as much as you have.*
- ☼ *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)*

