

Central Pentecostal Ministries

From the Pulpit...

SILENCE

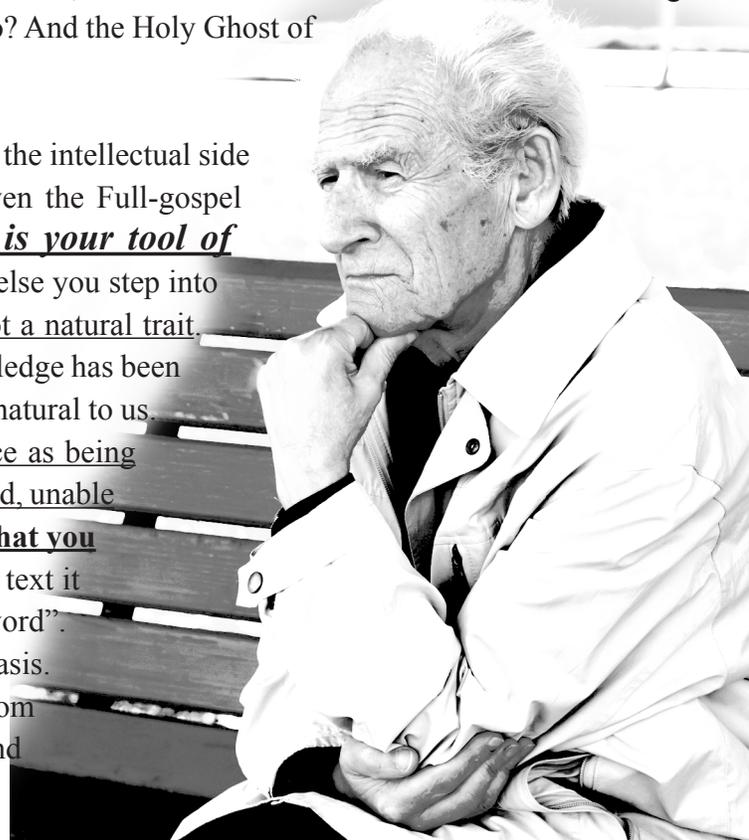
Pastor Donald Shoots

“And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee? And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marveled greatly.”

Matthew 27:12-14

If anybody had anything to say, Jesus could have flooded the room with discerning words of eternal value. *“The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us”* (John 1:14). The Lord Jesus Christ was full of knowledge, wisdom and counsel! He had something to say, BUT He didn't say it! We must know sometimes silence is our greatest answer! With the calamities, conflicts and wars of our present hour, silence can be the greatest tool of peace, victory, and what progresses us on into the Will of God. What should I do, Father? In the midst of this storm, the shifting of the times, the dilemma of contrary winds, what should I do? And the Holy Ghost of God says, **“be silent!”**

It is difficult in the posture of humanity, especially on the intellectual side of a free country, to press into the minds and hearts of even the Full-gospel believer that sometimes silence is your way out. **Silence is your tool of victory!** Silence is your act of wisdom that is necessary, or else you step into the sewer with the ignorant and the unlearned. Silence is not a natural trait. Most like to talk. Most like to express opinions or what knowledge has been acquired through time. It's human nature. Being silent is not natural to us. It's been often said that silence is golden. We look at silence as being impotent, ignorant, and naive. We look at silence as being timid, unable and unlearned. And yet silence can become the great tool that you possess in facing the dilemma in a very sick world. In our text it said “he answered nothing”, “he answered him to never a word”. Twice the Word of God screams at us with a double emphasis. Someone hear what the Spirit has to say. Jesus is hours from the complete plan of man's redemption. This delicate place and



time demanded silence. A lot of people don't know where they are so they don't know when to quit talking. Jesus knew where He was. He was standing before the Governor Pilot, about to be crucified. When the Holy Ghost lets you know where you are, what place you're in, that is where you start accepting the message and the Word of God to be silent! It was hours before the perfect sacrifice, Jesus would die on the cross. Pilot's hall was a place of authority, but not final authority, not supreme authority! If anyone in that room had authority, the supreme authority, it was Jesus Christ! **Jesus Christ had more authority than anybody in parliament, and yet the man with ultimate authority said nothing!** That is the Christ that cast out devils, that is the Christ that turned water into wine, the Christ that opened blinded eyes, the authority of authorities! People, even with your authority, sometimes it is still best to be silent! It is hard to make a man or woman with authority to be quiet. Just watch, be silent and let the Will of God unfold. Let the Lord expose to you what needs to be exposed. You will be a lot better off instead of conveying what you really don't know, and expressing an ignorance about spiritual and literal things of eternal proportions. To just be silent can be, at times, the most spiritual thing to do. It was the answer for Christ on the final stage as to why he came to earth.

**Pilot's hall was the place of authority,
yet the man with supreme authority still said nothing!**

How many times has the enemy spoken into your heart saying, "Hey, you have something to say, why don't you say it?" Have you ever noticed that it's hard for a person who has money not to flaunt it? It's hard for someone who has a title not to flaunt it? It's hard for someone who has a little knowledge, a little pedigree, a resume, not to flaunt it? It's hard for them to be quiet! But if they are spiritual people there will come a time that the only answer is to be silent. There is a time for all things, and if there is a time for all things, then there is a time to be silent. It was a place where something greater and more eternal was happening. At times we talk with little appreciation for the Works of God. We talk with little respect to what the Holy Ghost has on His agenda. It was a place where something greater and eternal was happening and Jesus knew it to such degree that it drove Him to His silence.

The law of Nature has silence as one of its main ingredients. You walk into any forest making much noise and you will disrupt everything in that forest. If you sit down and be quiet everything comes back out and begins to reveal itself. Only the silent people hear sounds of activity.

**It's only in silence that things are revealed and
display what they really are.**

Jesus answered "never a word". Words would be replaced by the revelation of man. Christ was about to go to the cross and there was nothing else to say until He got there. Jesus had fulfilled perfectly the Will of the Father. He had yielded Himself as the spotless sacrifice. He yielded Himself



as the Son of God to be offered. It's God's time now to accept the sacrifice of His son. A time **for the fullness of men's hearts to be revealed.** Silence is a valuable tool, but as long as the tongue is free from the bridle, men become more ignorant and careless as **the production of eternal things suffer because men don't learn to be silent.** Let me say it again: it was a time for men's hearts to be revealed. You will be surprised what you learn by being silent. If you want to walk in the wisdom of God, sometimes just sit still. It's a hard thing for knowledgeable people to do. A man of authority often times can't restrain his own authority, his power. All the while the Holy Ghost is screaming, "If you'll be quiet I will reveal men's hearts to you!" In verse 11 of chapter 27, Pilate asked Jesus, "Art thou the King of the Jews?" Jesus replies, "**thou sayest.**" Here Christ left men to their own words. "**THOU sayest**"...not me. Think what you want to think. I am not talking any more. I have raised the dead and cast out devils. I have nothing else to say. I am going to leave you now to your own propaganda. I am going to leave you now to what you think, or want to think. I'm not going to correct you anymore. I will let you believe what you want to believe. **People and Pilate are now left to believe what they want to believe.**

In Acts chapter 19 there is a clash over the worship of the great goddess Diana and the image of Jupiter. "And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre." These men had come to preach Christ. They had denounced Dianna, the great goddess, and the image of Jupiter, and whole city was filled with confusion. "Some therefore cried one thing, and some another...and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together." (verse 32) **The whole city was filled with confusion!** They were so confused they didn't even know why they were having a meeting. The town clerk (not the reverend or the evangelist) said this (verse 36) "seeing then that these things cannot

be spoken against, **ye ought to be quiet,** and to do nothing rashly." Now this is the town clerk, not the one who has a Bible under both arms. It's the town clerk who says the best thing to do is just stay quiet. Well, let's see if that was good advice or not. (verse 41) "And when he had thus spoken he dismissed the assembly." Confusion began to subside because the town clerk, who I am convinced was not a follower of Christ, had enough wisdom to tell those people that the smartest thing you can do is be quiet.

The time was God's time. A time when action would speak much louder than words. He left them to their own words. Clearly Christ's silence was saying, "I'll not challenge you anymore or attempt to correct the propaganda, I have nothing else to say. I will give you to what you believe, and what you want to think. If you can't see everything of yesterday and are motivated by something else, then that choice is yours." Pilate and the people are now left to believe what they want to believe and yet a town clerk had enough wisdom to tell the citizens of the city to be quiet and confusion will settle itself! Without silence as an active ingredient in our lives, nothing comes back to normal and little is settled.

No man will learn the complete act of waiting on the Lord if he never learns to be silent. Waiting on the Lord is



more than a religious or biblical phraseology. **To be silent is to wait upon the Lord, to wait upon the Lord is to be silent.** To wait on the Lord and silence go hand-in-hand, and for most of us neither is easy. At times we think we know what we don't know. We want to say the battle is the Lord's, but then we get in His way while He is trying to fight it for us. We ask for wisdom from heaven, then can't wait to speak our own.

Silence on our part is not silence on God's part.

Often to be silent is to open a door for a greater manifestation of a Holy God to occur. It's not that we have nothing to say, but it is a time of necessary silence! Men say they want to obey God but fail with heaven's simple instructions when He says be silent! You will find it to be a victory. Jesus had something to say, but it was a holy silence to such degree that the Bible says that "the governor marveled greatly". The brilliant man marveled that Jesus said nothing! Satan the liar is after your soul, and wants you to talk! He wants you to speak something out, and promote confusion. At various fronts he wants you to be a part of a distraction. He doesn't want you to connect to anything that is eternal. There's always a mob, but only an army knows when to be silent. We claim to be soldiers, yet ignore necessary silence on Satan's turf. Then we wonder why we are upside down in the realities of religious things. It's not that we have nothing to say, but there is a time for a Holy obedience.

I want to leave this scripture on your heart:

"The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace."

(Exodus 14:14)

We want the Lord to fight for us, but we don't always like the part that tells us to hold our peace. There are times that silence will be your greatest tool of victory. Be silent! Hold your peace, and let the Lord fight for you!

Central

Pentecostal Ministries

Worshipping God in the Spirit of Pentecost

The purpose of this publication is to benefit those truly seeking to follow Jesus Christ. If you or someone you know would be encouraged and strengthened by receiving these Full-Gospel messages, please contact us at:

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