

Silence #2

Context:
Prayer

Question:
Why might God be silent?

אני מאמין בשמש אפילו שאינה זורחת

אני מאמין באהבה אפילו כשאני לבד

אני מאמין באלוהים אפילו כשהוא שותק

I believe in the sun even when it isn't shining.

I believe in love even when I am alone.

I believe in God even when He is silent.

Foreword by **Brian McLaren**

GOD

Pete Greig

Engaging the Silence
of Unanswered Prayer

ON

MUTE

Common Sense

Maybe... some prayers aren't answered because they are just plain stupid!

**“Oh Lord, won't you buy me a Mercedes Benz?
My friends all drive Porsches, I must make amends”**

- Janis Joplin

Contradiction

Maybe... some prayers aren't answered because they contradict other prayers (and pray-ers).

The bride prays for fine weather on her wedding day and the farmer prays for rain so his crops can grow

The Laws of Nature

Maybe... some prayers aren't answered because they would be detrimental to the world and to the lives of others.

“God, we ask that this storm will not come and destroy our village...”

God's World

three reasons why prayers may not be answered

(absence of) Common Sense

Contradiction

The Laws of Nature

Motive

Maybe... some prayers (even spiritually-sounding ones) aren't answered because they are, in fact, selfishly motivated.

**“Do you ever wonder just what God requires?
You think that he’s an errand boy to satisfy your
wandering desires.”**

Bob Dylan

Relationship

Maybe... some prayers aren't answered because God Himself is a greater answer than the thing we are asking for and He wants to use our sense of need to draw us into a deeper relationship with Himself.

The Father's deepest desire for our lives is that we would "dwell in His courts" and so come into a more fulfilling relationship with Him.

Free Will

Maybe... some prayers aren't answered because God will not force a person to do something that he or she does not want to do.

God's word to Adam and Eve.

"You are free to eat from any tree in the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."

Genesis 2:16

God's Will

Motive

Relationship

Free Will

Satanic Opposition

Maybe... some prayers aren't answered because God's will is being directly contested by "the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury because he knows that his time is short.

Revelation 12:12

Perseverance

Maybe... some prayers just haven't been answered – yet! Whether your prayers are being resisted by mysterious spiritual forces, or by stubborn people, or even by God Himself – don't give up!

Don't give up. Don't give up. Don't give up. Don't give up.

Sin/Justice

Maybe... some prayers aren't answered because of areas of disobedience in our lives, or because of our disregard for the needs of others.

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

Psalm 66:18

God's War

Satanic Opposition

Perseverance

Sin/Justice

Why might God be silent when we pray?

God's World

(absence of)
Common Sense

Contradiction

Laws of Nature

God's Will

Motive

Relationship

Free Will

God's War

Satanic
Opposition

Perseverance

Sin/Justice

Poem #2 - ENGAGING THE SILENCE

first
there is
prayer
and where there is prayer
there may be
miracles
but where miracles may not be
there are
questions
and where there are questions
there may be
silence
but silence may be
more than
absence

silence
may be presence
muted

silence
may not be anything but
something
to explore
defy accuse
engage
and
this is
prayer
and where there is prayer
there may yet be
miracles...

