



*“In quietness and confidence shall be your strength...” Isaiah 30:15*

Isaiah’s word for “quiet” means ceasing activity, rather than the cessation of noise. That is the message of Isaiah 30 – God wanted His people to stop their frantic activity by which they were trying to solve their own problems. The whole chapter is filled with people’s strivings, running here and there trying to get help, and building alliances with pagan neighbors. You can feel the stress and tension escalating as you read the chapter.

As our own challenges mount, our fatal tendency is to exert more strength and get busier. But God says the way we gain strength is by retreating into the quietness of His presence and waiting on Him. After we slow down, we need to get quiet.

Our lives are filled with noise. In doctors’ offices we have to put up with the game shows shouting from the wall. In the city, the sound of jackhammers, car horns, and sirens are unending. At home our televisions, laptops, tablets, and smartphones are constantly playing, beeping, and pinging alerts at us. All that noise increases the tension inside us, and makes us feel weak, discouraged, uncertain, overwhelmed.

If you want to strengthen your soul by attuning yourself to the voice of God through His Word and in prayers, learn to get quiet. In his time of greatest weakness, the prophet Elijah looked for God in the midst of a powerful wind, a great earthquake, and a flaming fire. But God’s voice was not heard in any of those dramatic displays of noise. It was only after the fireworks were over and the world got quiet that Elijah heard God’s “still, small voice” – the voice that gave him the strength and courage he needed.

Find a quiet place. Open God’s Word. Hear His still small voice again. Renew your strength and resolve to listen and obey that voice. One of the best places to do that is in Worship. Let’s make Worship an ongoing priority – both personal worship, and here in the Sanctuary together.

Pastor Godfrey