

**Advent: Engaging the Silence**  
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**Hebrews 11:1-2 TPT**

**Now faith brings our hopes into reality** and becomes the foundation needed to acquire the things we long for. It is all the evidence required to prove what is still unseen. This testimony of faith is what previous generations were commended for.

There is not just a PERIOD separating the Old and New Testaments; there is a PAUSE. There is extended, excruciating SILENCE!

**Psalms 13:1-6 NIV**

How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me? Look on me and answer, Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

Engaging the Silence

1. **Celebrate the Past**

**Deuteronomy 4:9 NIV**

Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely **so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart** as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

The tyranny of present pain is that it steals the joy of past pleasure.

"When you are happy, so happy that you have no sense of needing Him, so happy that you are tempted to feel His claims upon you as an interruption, if you remember yourself and turn to Him with gratitude and praise, you will be—or so it feels—welcomed with open arms. But go to Him when your need is desperate, when all other help is vain, and what do you find? A door slammed in your face, and a

sound of bolting and double bolting on the inside. After that, **silence**. You may as well turn away. The longer you wait, the more emphatic the silence will become. There are no lights in the windows. It might be an empty house. Was it ever inhabited? It seemed so once. And that seeming was as strong as this. What can this mean? Why is He so present a commander in our time of prosperity and so very absent a help in time of trouble?" – *C.S. Lewis*

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#### 2. **Anticipate the Future**

##### **Hebrews 6:16-19 NLT**

Now when people take an oath, they call on someone greater than themselves to hold them to it. And without any question that oath is binding. God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that **he would never change his mind**. So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because **it is impossible for God to lie**. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we **hold to the hope** that lies before us. This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls.

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#### 3. **Participate in the Present**

"Advent prepares not just for the first coming of Christ to Israel, or even the second at the end of time. There is a third coming between these two in which Jesus comes in spirit and power for our rest and consolation." – *Saint Bernard of Clairvaux*

Don't miss the miracle b/c of the mess.

"Christ has no body on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion for the world is to look out; yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good; and yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now." – *Saint Teresa of Avila*