

Matters of the Heart

Orthodox reflections on faith and life



43 When God is Absent

One may have in place a regular prayer rule, endeavour to read the Bible daily, and attend church services regularly to partake of the life giving Eucharist – and yet feel that God is absent from it all, especially when calamities transpire.

Where is God to be found if not in the dialogue of prayer, in His Word or in the confines of His Holy house? A question we despairingly ask ourselves from time to time.

But God is never absent! He is always near, walking beside us, working within us. The Lord's silence must never be mistaken for absence. For the Saviour may for a time permit tribulations to come upon us and stand silently alongside us to watch us fight. Perhaps the Lord wants to test our love for Him or to teach us perseverance. Regardless of what may come, we must be of good cheer, because our faithful Saviour is always near.

✦ 'O God, do not keep
✦ silence; do not hold your
✦ peace or be still, O God!'
✦ Psalm 83:1

✦ See Also:
✦ Isaiah 41:10

✦ *My Lord, strengthen
✦ my faith in times of
✦ struggle and grant me
✦ the wisdom to know
✦ You are present in times
✦ when You are silent.*