

As I contemplated the topic of this article, a particular concern came up twice in one day; one that invited more reflection. The first time was during my sermon preparation for our Wednesday night sermon series titled, "Call Stories in the Bible". This particular sermon was on the call of Gideon from Judges 6:11-16. When the angel of the Lord showed up and greeted Gideon with the words, "The Lord is with you", Gideon said, ***"Please, my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian."*** And so, the concern is the apparent silence and inactivity of God.

The second time this came up was in Bible study, later that day, when someone was talking about how God appears not to be as active today as He was in the Bible, especially the Old Testament. I then reflected on a confirmation lesson recently when I asked the kids if God still does miracles today. They struggled to think of anything. But this observation on God's apparent silence and inactivity is not an isolated one. Have you ever thought about this?

Granted, I have not heard of God parting any waters for people to cross or calling anyone out of a sealed tomb, but God is alive and well (and always will be) and very active today. God speaks. God calls. God is doing stuff.

Did you just say, "doing stuff"? That doesn't sound too theological.

Granted, but God is still "doing stuff". I see God's handiwork in the beautiful Iowa sunrises and sunsets. We will see God's handiwork in creation as Spring (hopefully) springs soon. We see God's handiwork in each and every person we meet, for He formed each of us and knit us together in our mother's womb (Psalm 139). I see God active in healing people (I can tell you a few stories here). I see God doing amazing things in people here in this community. God is not absent or silent. God is not taking a break or being lazy. All you need to do is open your eyes and pay attention.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, including you and me. And therefore, God is never to going abandon His creation or ever be done with you. God is never going to ghost your prayers or leave you wondering indefinitely. God is faithful and true, and through faith in Jesus, He will be your God forever. God doing stuff? YES! Everyday, every hour, every minute and every second. God is for you. In Jesus' name, Amen.