

Be Still and Know That I am God
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The song, "Ball of Confusion" by the Temptations was great commentary on my childhood years in Detroit, Michigan. The refrain, "Round and round and around we go, where the world's headed nobody knows. Great googaloo, can't you hear me talkin' to you, just a Ball of Confusion, that's what the world is today (yeah, yeah)" sums up the events of the 1960's and 1970's quite well.

Sometimes the noise of the devil, the world, and our own sinful nature creates a spiritual "Ball of Confusion." A powerful reminder of this was the sudden death of my sister several years ago. Unbeknownst to me she had been suffering from cancer. This truly was a "Ball of Confusion" event for me. My pastor at the time directed me to search the Scriptures for the answer to the many questions swirling around my mind. After hours which seemed like days, I came across Psalm 46:10. Even though I didn't receive the answers to the many questions I had, I immediately felt at peace.

As we journey through this world, we will experience events that will inevitably throw us into a "Ball of Confusion." In Psalm 46:10, God invites us, "**Be still and know that I am God.**" Jesus Himself is the source of this stillness. He defeated sin, death and the devil through His life, death and resurrection. The disciples' greatest "Ball of Confusion" moment may have been Jesus' crucifixion. Yet Jesus brings stillness to them when He greets them after the resurrection in John 20:19 with these words, "**Peace be with you.**" Mathew 28:20 records Jesus' last words to His disciples, "**And behold I am with you always, to the end of the earth.**" This promise is for us also. Jesus' very presence allows us to be 'still' when we face those "Ball of Confusion" events.

In "Powerful Listening, Powerful Influence" Tim Hast writes, "Next time you pray, the moment you close your eyes – or whatever you do to begin your time of prayer - just be still in God's presence. Don't ask Him for anything. Don't tell Him anything. Instead, just 'be' and be silent in His presence. Then, just focus on Him and wait patiently for Him to speak to you."

Being still in God's presence may make you a better listener to others. More importantly, the Psalmist gives us another reason to be still. "**Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted on the earth!**"