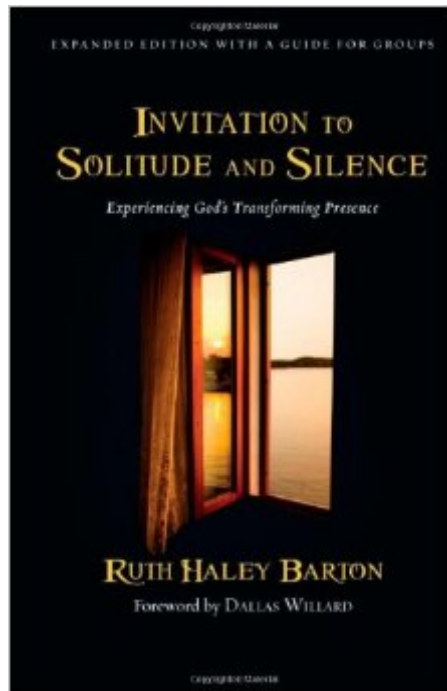


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# Invitation To Solitude And Silence: Experiencing God's Transforming Presence



## Synopsis

Winner of a Christianity Today Book Award! Much of our faith and practice is about wordsâ•preaching, teaching, talking with others. Yet all of these words are not enough to take us into the real presence of God where we can hear his voice. This book is an invitation to you to meet God deeply and fully outside the demands and noise of daily life. It is an invitation to solitude and silence. The beauty of a true invitation is that we really do have a choice about embarking on this adventure. God extends the invitation, but he honors our freedom and will not push himself where he is not wanted. Instead, he waits for us to respond from the depths of our desire. Will you say yes? This expanded edition includes a guide for groups to use both in discussing the book content and in learning to practice silence together.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ruth Haley Barton, founder of the Transforming Center, has given us a gift. She has written a book on the value of solitude and silence, and has given us practical instruction on how we might take up these disciplines and employ them to create space in our lives where God might transform our inner being. For this we should be thankful. Barton provides a helpful illustration in the early part of her work that could apply to all of us. She tells the story of an interaction with a spiritual director, who offered the image of a jar filled with river water as a metaphor for our lives. Cloudy, murky, and messy, the water will not become clear until it is allowed to sit long enough for the silt to settle at the bottom, providing a clear look at all the jar contains. Likewise, our lives are often so busy, so stirred

up, so messy, that we cannot account for all that is going on in our souls, and it is not until we sit long enough to allow God to bring light, clarity, and definition to our composition and consistency that we can discover our wounds, our heartaches, our insufficiencies, and our greatest areas for growth in Christlikeness. Once we are able to ascertain the state of our being through silence and solitude, God can then guide us toward healing, rest, sanctification, and holiness. It does seem as though many contemplative writings--particularly those that assist us in understanding a receptive posture in hearing from God--begin in 1 Kings 19. Alongside the prophet Elijah and the Lord's being in the silence, we are presented with the words of Pascal, who wrote, "all the unhappiness of men arises from one single fact, that they cannot stay quietly in their own room." The commonplace nature of these quotations does not detract from their meaning or their value.

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