

HANDLE WITH CARE - Part 4

Scripture used: [Psalm 16:1-2 \(NIV\)](#)

OVERVIEW

In the “Handle with Care” series, we have focused on a variety of important insights to strengthen and develop our relationships with other people. In this message, Pastor Hurmon focused on the ultimate relationship: the one we have with God. It is the foundation for everything else.

KEY POINTS

- 1) Our scripture calls us to make a decision, to take refuge in God, and trust God for the totality of our lives. Through all the challenges of life, the successes and failures, we continue to belong to God. God will not forsake us. How do we know that God is committed to us? Pastor Hurmon used the anecdote of how he met his wife. Although he felt deeply unworthy, she made the first move to start a conversation with him & get to know him. God’s commitment to us is to deploy the Holy Spirit to perform everyday miracles. [Ephesians 1:4-5 \(NLT\)](#) reminds us that God adopts us into His own family. Death and pain won’t have the last word.
- 2) We must cultivate “God-closeness” habits.
 - a. Look for the goodness of God and affirm it. [Psalm 16:2](#) and [James 1:19](#) reminds us that every gift comes from God. [Psalm 16:5-7](#) speaks of a “delightful inheritance.” We must tell God that we see His goodness, we celebrate it, and we demonstrate consistency of discipleship.
 - b. We must ask God first, inquire of Him ([2 Samuel 5:19](#)), including momentous life-and-death decisions. “Should I go out and fight the Philistines?”. We must stay connected with our faith community, keep our eye on the true heroes, and take pleasure in them. [Hebrews 10:24-25](#) asks us to practice dwelling in the presence of God, so that we are counseled by day or by night. When we keep our eyes on the Lord, we will not be shaken.
 - c. We must love others as a practice of being faithful to God. ([1 John 4:10-12](#)). This is true in marriage where opposites attract during courtship but “opposites attack” during the apprenticeship of life together. Patience, kindness, sacrifice, and focus under the benevolent provision and guidance of the Almighty will keep the marriage on a solid foundation and empower the couple to thrive as individuals and as partners.
 - d. We remember that God has the last word in our lives, and that nothing in creation (even suffering and death) separates us from God’s love. The good news of Jesus is that we have a confident hope even when we are facing the end of our lives or the loss of loved ones ([Psalm 16:9-11](#) and [2 Corinthians 5:1](#)). Because God will never leave or forsake us, He gives each one of us a story of His faithfulness that we are called to share with others, so that others can know the hope that we have! ([Psalm 34:1-8](#)).

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Discern your heart. Where does your relationship with God stand in your priorities? Is the way you interact with God truly a relationship? Do you talk with God and hear from God (this can happen in a variety of ways)? Do you find delight, encouragement, strength, hope, and purpose from your interaction with God?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Read and discuss [Psalm 16](#) together. What verses of this Psalm deeply resonate with you in this season of your life? Why? Reflect on the last year of your life, or this present season of your life. Share with your life group one or two examples of where you could have been more intentional and thoughtful in making your relationship with God the “ultimate” one. What is most difficult for you in making your relationship with God a priority (busy-ness, trust, doubt, etc.) What would taking a faith step to open your heart to deeper relationship look like?
- 3) **DO** - Practice three of the God-closeness habits this week: looking for the goodness of God and affirming it; asking God for guidance in things small and large; and loving others under the aegis of our Lord.