

MY BEST LIFE NOW: Hear HIS Voice

Scripture used: [Matthew 11:29-30](#)

OVERVIEW

This week Pastor Hurmon continued our sermon series *My Best Life*. We are continuing to learn what it takes to apprentice ourselves to Jesus through pace and “unforced rhythms of grace.” Last week, we focused on how Jesus prioritized silence and being alone with the Father. Jesus didn’t practice solitude because it was a good religious ritual, Jesus often did this because it was vital to His soul. Solitude allows us to connect with God and welcome in internal peace, joy, and love. [NBCC’s website has resources based on this message series](#) with some of the best books written on this subject and helpful apps to navigate solitude and silence.

KEY POINTS

1. **Distinguish God’s voice in the silence.** If we can distinguish God’s voice, then we can also distinguish all of the false voices and deceptive messages. When God speaks to you, it will always be consistent with the love He has for you that is promised consistently in Scripture. If you hear a voice of self-harm, it is not the voice of God. Last week we reviewed two characteristics of the voice of God.
 - a. **A Gentle Whisper.** [1 Kings 19:12 \(NIV\)](#) is about God’s gentle whisper after a fire that came after an earthquake. In the Old Testament, natural disasters are a way that God exercised judgment, but judgment is never God’s ultimate goal or final word – redemption is!
 - b. **Unconditional Affirmation.** [Mark 1:10-11](#). In this Scripture, Jesus hears God’s unconditional affirmation which tells Jesus that He brings His Father great joy. The more you spend time with God and hear His voice, the more you will hear His unwavering affirmation and love for you.
2. **Relationship Advice.** This relationship advice applies to those who are single and in a relationship. In the spirit of love for February and Valentine’s Day, we must remember that God’s love overcomes all.
 - a. **Involve God in the dating process.** For those of you who are dating or single, this is the first tip! In order to apply hearing the gentle whisper of God, single people really need to involve God in the dating process which will cause a desire to connect with people for their internal character rather than their external qualities alone. If you’re single, prioritize first hearing the gentle whisper of God, and ask for God to speak and provide wisdom for your dating choices.
 - b. **Seek your primary affirmation first from God.** When people in your life at work, school, church, and other sectors of your life compliment you, thank God for it, but don’t chase the approval of other people. The moment you’re chasing somebody in your life in order to get affirmation from them, you’re giving this individual way too much power over you. Let God’s affirmation be the foundation for your identity. Reflect on [Zephaniah 3:17](#) and meditate on God’s unconditional affirmation in your life.
 - c. **Filled Up To Serve.** Pastor Hurmon directs this point to men in particular, though it can be helpful for all. His advice is to wake up each morning and tell your significant other “I love you” and “how can I best serve you today?” He also references Dr. Martin Luther King who said, “Everyone can be great because anyone can serve.” God is calling you to serve, starting with the people in your life and your greater community.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - What are sources of affirmation that you are most tempted to “chase”? Whose praise do you crave? Have you experienced a time when you were able to let go of the desire to be affirmed by another person, and instead be content with affirmation or assurance from God? What allowed that to happen?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Consider [Zephaniah 3:17](#). Pastor Hurmon shared the illustration that God’s love is like that of a new parent full of love for their infant child, before the child has even done anything to earn love. Have you experienced God’s love in this way? When Jesus experienced this kind of affirmation, He was filled with power to serve. The next step for this lesson is to spend 15 minutes of quiet time reading the Gospel of Mark each day this week. As you read, consider, “What does Jesus want to teach me about serving others?”
- 3) **DO** - In order to apply this message start with this: “I will make a fresh commitment to serve others at home, church, and the world.” Also, reflect on whether or not serving others is easy or difficult for you and why. See you next Sunday!