

SERMON NOTES:

Series: Rhythms of Grace | Part 1: Hear His Voice (Word)

Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG)

²⁸⁻³⁰ “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. **Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.** I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”

The Christian life, from start to finish, is utterly dependent on the grace of God.

- We come into spiritual life by sheer grace (Acts 18:27; Rom. 3:24; Eph. 2:5)
- It is by His divine grace we continue on (Acts 13:43)
- It is by God’s grace our souls survive through many trials (2 Cor. 2:9, Heb. 4:16)
- We are strengthened for everyday life (2 Tim. 2:1; Heb. 13:9)
- Grace is the very means by which we grow into greater maturity and health (2 Pet. 3:18)

To pursue grace is to pursue Jesus.

It is the grace of God which sanctifies us.

2 Peter 3:18a (NLT)

¹⁸ Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:14b (NLT)

¹⁴ ...no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God’s grace.

Romans 6:1 (NLT)

¹ Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace?

2 Corinthians 12:9a (NLT)

⁹ Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.”

Donald S. Whitney says, “Think of the Spiritual Disciplines as ways we can place ourselves in the path of God’s grace and seek him as Bartimaeus and Zacchaeus placed themselves in Jesus’s path and sought him.”

Jonathan Edwards put it, “endeavor to promote spiritual appetites *by laying yourself in the way of allurements.*”

Channels of Grace: His voice, His ear, and His body.

Author David Mathis (These channels are) “... *blessings – not mere disciplines, but channels through which God gives us spiritual food for our survival, growth, and flourishing in mission.*”

John 1:14 (NLT)

¹⁴ So the Word became human and made his home among us.

Jesus is the Word of God embodied.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)

¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

David Mathis *“The potential practices are limitless, but the principal beneath the practices is this: The fundamental means of God’s ongoing grace, through His Spirit, in the life of the Christian and the life of the Church is God’s self-expression in his Word, in the gospel, perfectly kept for us and on display in all its textures, riches, and hues in the external written word of the Scriptures”*

Word Principal #1: Read for breadth, study for depth.

1 Corinthians 2:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God’s deep secrets.

Word Principal #2: Warm yourself at the fire of meditation.

Donald S. Whitney defines meditation as, “deep thinking on truths and spiritual realities revealed in Scripture for the purposes of understanding, application, and prayer.”

Colossians 3:16 (NLT)

¹⁶ Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.

Joshua 1:8 (NLT)

⁸ Study this Book of Instruction continually. **Meditate** on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.

Psalms 1:1-2 (NLT)

¹ Oh, the joys of those who do not
follow the advice of the wicked,
or stand around with sinners,
or join in with mockers.

² But they delight in the law of the Lord,
meditating on it day and night.

Word Principal #3: Bring the Bible home to your heart.

James 1:22 (NLT)

²² But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

Colossians 1:9-10 (NLT)

⁹ So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰ Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

James 1:25 (NLT)

²⁵ But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

Word Principal #4: Memorize the Mind of God.

Ephesians 4:23 (NLT)

²³ Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.

Romans 12:2 (NLT)

² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Word Principal #5: Resolve to be a Lifelong Learner.

Job 32:8-9 (NLT)

⁸ But there is a spirit within people,
the breath of the Almighty within them,
that makes them intelligent.

⁹ Sometimes the elders are not wise.
Sometimes the aged do not understand justice.

Ephesians 3:17-19 (NLT)

¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. ¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. ¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.