

Title: The Comforting Voice

Text: Psalm 71:14: *“But I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more”*

Target: The loudest echo of God’s voice often comes from within the hallways of hurt, pain, and anguish. According to C.S. Lewis: “God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, and shouts in our pain.” Today, we learn ***How to Recognize God’s Voice in Pain.***

Teaching Principles: No Pain, No Gain, but in Pain you Gain the following:

1. **The Gift of Pain:** *“Learning is a gift. Even when pain is your teacher” -Maya Watson*

a. **Gain Perspective:** *“It was good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.”* Psalm 119:71

b. **Gain Peace:** *“The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.”* Psalm 34:18

c. **Gain Promise:** *“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”* Psalm 147:3

2. **The Growth in Pain:** *“Growth is painful, change is painful. But nothing is as painful as staying stuck somewhere where you don’t belong.” - Mandy Hale*

a. **Gain Patience:** *“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”* Romans 12:12

b. **Gain Purification:** *“We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope...”* Romans 5:3-4

c. **Gain Perseverance:** *“for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”* James 1:3-4

3. **The Grace through Pain:** *“The Problem of Pain Meets its Match in the Scandal of Grace” -Philip Yancey*

a. **Gain Purpose:** *“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”* 2 Corinthians 12:9

b. **Gain a Platform:** *“who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”* 2 Corinthians 1:4

c. **Gain Praise:** *“We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed...”* 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

Take Away: God is shouting in your pain through the process of which He is transforming you into a person that sees every obstacle as an opportunity for God to be glorified through you.