

Listening to God Through Our Struggles

- My personal struggle with this
- Giving him control
- Remembering his promises
- Laying our struggles at his feet
- Knowing that he will get us through all seasons even the really hard ones
- Being in tune with Him

I'm sure most of us, if not all, have had somewhat of a hard time adapting to a new environment here away from everything we have known for the past eighteen years. I know I have had my hard days here and I have truly had to lean on God like never before in my life. In the midst of a hard season, it is really easy to get caught up in the rollercoaster of emotions and trials we face, and at times it seems that God is somewhere out of our reach- because of things like sadness or anxiety get in the way of our sight of Him. Speaking from experience, I know that it can be a real challenge to just let go and let God take care of it because we want so badly to be in control. But here's what God's word says about releasing control.

"Come to me all who are weary and are heavy burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me. For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

God wants us to lay all of our burdens, worries, fears, and doubts at his feet. As followers of Christ, we should learn to listen to this truth in the middle of our tough seasons, and even in our good days, too. What helps me is when I get into a snowball

of worrying, I call back this verse into my mind and remember God's voice is saying to me, "Take my yoke. You don't have to do this alone."

Do y'all remember that story from the Bible where Samuel kept hearing a voice calling to him as he was falling asleep? This story comes from 1 Samuel 3. He thought it was Eli saying his name, so he went to him saying "here I am". Eli of course wasn't calling him, so Samuel just went back to bed. This happened two more times and finally Eli realized it was God speaking to Samuel, so he said, "Look, go back to bed, and if you hear it again, say 'Speak Lord, for your servant is listening'." And so God's voice did call out to Samuel again, and he did as he was instructed and exclaimed "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." God then revealed his will to Samuel. What we can learn from this message is that unless we choose to say, "Lord, here I am. I am listening", we won't be in tune with what God has to speak to us. We have to show our willingness to listen and be present like Samuel did when he said that he was actively listening.

Like I said before, it is hard to be in tune with God's voice when we get so wound up in the hard times of our life. It's hard to see His goodness when all we can focus on is a hard test or where you're gonna live next year. But that is why it is so important to turn our eyes and ears towards God's voice and word. Keeping his scripture on our hearts helps us to tune into His voice and to focus on His promises and what he wants us to remember daily. I'm gonna read some verses you can keep on your heart to help turn your face towards Jesus and the purposeful and abundant life that He gives us.

“And we know that all things work together for the good of those who love God”.

Romans 8:28

“ ‘For I know the plans I have for you’, declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’ ”.

Jeremiah 29:11

“Do not fear, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. For I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand”.

Isaiah 41:10

Today and everyday, I hope you all will choose to continue to keep God’s word in your heart and to know that God has worked everything out already for your good and most importantly for the glory of His kingdom. Choose to actively listen to Him and exclaim “Here I am God. I am listening. Send me where you want me to go”, because when we do, we experience the peace that can only come from His promises and tuning into His voice.