



I. INTRO

- A. The guard of our heart is the peace of God

Philippians 4:6-7 (KJV) ⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep (*guard*) your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- B. The Stockdale Paradox

"Stockdale Paradox:" You must maintain unwavering faith that you can and will prevail in the end, regardless of the difficulties, and at the same time, have the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be.

II. HERE OR THERE?

- A. When troubles come

James 1:2 (NLT) Dear Brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.

- B. When testing and trials come, we want to get out of “here”
- John Maxwell – someday syndrome
 - This is a deceitful trap
- C. It will be better when I get “there”
- God wasn’t satisfied with only getting Israel out of Egypt, He wanted to get Egypt out of Israel
- D. It’s what you “know” in the trial that counts!

James 1:3-4 (NLT) ³ For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

III. EMBARCE THE PLACE OF “HERE”

- A. The problem isn’t “Here” ... It’s “Hear”

Romans 10:17 (NKJV) So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- B. The 5 physical senses – sight, sound, taste, touch and smell



Illus — According to Google, once you're born, your most valuable sense is your eyes

- C. The earth places a more value on what we see than what we hear
 - On earth light travels faster than sound, but the kingdom of God doesn't work that way

- D. God doesn't give instructions by charades
 - You don't have to see God to hear God, or obey God

2 Corinthians 5:7 (KJV) For we walk by faith, not by sight.

IV. I'M OK HERE, BECAUSE I AM LOVED HERE.

- A. I'm not loved when I get "there," I'm loved "here"

Romans 8:35-39 (NLT) ³⁵ Can anything ever separate us from Christ's Love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁶ (As scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") ³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. ³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. ³⁹ No power from the sky above or the earth below—indeed, nothing and all creation nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."