

“Surrender over Control”

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
do not depend on your own understanding.
Seek his will in all you do,
and he will show you which path to take.*

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

Control Gone Bad:

Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had not been able to bear children for him. But she had an Egyptian servant named Hagar. ² So Sarai said to Abram, “The Lord has prevented me from having children. Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have children through her.” And Abram agreed with Sarai’s proposal. ³ So Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar the Egyptian servant and gave her to Abram as a wife. (This happened ten years after Abram had settled in the land of Canaan.)

⁴ So Abram had sexual relations with Hagar, and she became pregnant. But when Hagar knew she was pregnant, she began to treat her mistress, Sarai, with contempt.

Genesis 16:1-4 (NLT)

What are you trying to Control?

3 Questions to Ask:

Is it worth my concern?

If it isn’t, let it go.

Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

Matthew 6:27 (NLT)

Is it mine to control?

If it is, Do something.

So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

¹⁸ Now someone may argue, “Some people have faith; others have good deeds.” But I say, “How can you show me your faith if you don’t have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds.”

James 2:17-18 (NLT)

Is it for God alone?

Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷ Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

Pray.

So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

Hebrews 14:6 (NLT)

SO WHAT?

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Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

When you choose to follow Jesus,

You aren’t in control.

Growth Group Questions

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Who is in control of the TV remote in your home? Why?

2. What area of your life are you most controlling? (family, work, money, friendships, something else?)

Tell of a time you felt completely out of control? What did you learn from that situation?

3. Re-read Proverbs 3:5-6. How is this scripture inconsistent with our culture?

4. Re-read Genesis 16:1-4. Have you ever tired taking God's plans into your own hands? How did that turn out?

5. Re-read Philippians 4:6-7. Tell of a time you were out of control but had Gods peace anyways?

Why do you think sometimes we can give things to God and other times we tend to hold onto our worries?

6. Share a past or present circumstance where you have given God control of the situation. How did you practically do this?

What does it look like to give things to God?

7. Start praying together. BE BOLD and pray with power for the things that only God alone can change.