

# Giving God Control



Discovering God's Word  
Bible Study Series

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# Giving God Control

## Introduction

A. To be in control is to have power over something and have the right to direct the course of actions that will be taken. We often want control for ourselves and don't like the thought of not being in control.

B. While God has given us free will, the challenge we face is to give God control of our lives. Although this can be difficult, God promises that doing so will be rewarding!

C. Think about clay in a potter's hand. It is entirely up to the potter how to form the clay (Jeremiah 18:3-6). God wants to make you into something that is useful in His service and wants to use your talents, abilities, opportunities, etc. to His glory. So, you need to present your life entirely to God so He can mold you into whatever He desires and use you however He can in His service! For, it is not up to the clay to tell the potter what it wants to be!

D. Giving God control of your life is at the heart of the gospel's message. You must fully surrender your life to God in everything – your heart, your words, your conduct, your relationships, your emotions, your decisions, your religious practices, your habits, etc. There is no area you can keep for yourself and limit how God can work!

E. Purpose: To learn why you should give God control, what it means to give God control, and how you can accomplish this task.

## 1. Why Give God Control

A. Because of who He is

1. It is difficult to turn control of your life over to anyone. Even though you know you have flaws, at least you know you have your best interests at heart. However, recognize that there is a major difference between turning the potter's wheel of your life over to an inexperienced potter and turning it over to the Master Potter!

- When you turn your life over to God, you are not turning it over to one who is inexperienced, has no understanding about life,

or has no concern for your well-being! Actually, these things describe you better than they describe God!

2. God is the Almighty Creator. Read Genesis 1-2 to see that God is the one who was able to bring everything into existence. And, He is the one responsible for giving you life (Acts 17:28).

3. God possesses perfect knowledge. God is the one who “wrote the book” on life, not someone who is trying to figure it out as He goes along. He knows perfectly what it takes to be successful at life, and there is no comparison between your knowledge and God’s (Isaiah 55:8-9).

4. God cares about you. God cares about you more than anyone else does (1 Peter 5:7). He gave you life, created you as a spiritual being in His image, has given you every good thing you have, and gave His only Son to die for you so you can be saved from your sins.

#### B. Because of your insufficiencies

1. As you consider giving God control of your life, you must contrast who He is with your own insufficiencies. For, you will only give Him control if you recognize He is better qualified to control your life than you are!

2. You are incapable of directing your own steps. The Bible teaches that you are not capable of knowing what is in your best interest by yourself (Jeremiah 10:23). Even those things you often think you should be doing will lead you down paths that will not please God and will result in serious consequences (Proverbs 14:12).

3. You are a sinner deserving of death. We have all tried to direct our own steps and maintain control over our lives, thereby committing sin (Romans 3:23). You have, no doubt, been tempted to please yourself rather than obey God and given in to those desires (James 1:14-15). This has resulted in deserving spiritual death and eternity in Hell (Romans 6:23).

4. God has the words of eternal life. Since you have sinned and earned spiritual death, you cannot save yourself from your sin. Instead, you are dependent on the love, grace, and mercy of God (Romans 6:23). Only Jesus Christ has the words of eternal life (John 6:68) that can set you free from sin (John 8:32)!

#### C. Because you will be judged

1. As you recognize that God has full authority over all things and that you are insufficient to direct your own path in life, recognize all this matters because you will be judged by God one Day – and this Judgment will impact your eternity.

2. God has promised that you will stand before Jesus and answer for how you lived on this earth (2 Corinthians 5:10). Everything you do, think, and say will be judged by Him.

3. The standard (criteria) God will use to judge your life will be His words. Your life will be evaluated by what is written in the books that contain Jesus's words (the New Testament, John 12:48; Revelation 20:12).

4. Your eternity will be revealed at this Judgment. Based on whether Jesus judges you to have been faithful or unfaithful to Him, you will either spend eternal life with God in Heaven or be sentenced to eternal punishment in Hell (Matthew 25:31-46).

D. Because Jesus Christ sacrificed His life for you

1. Thanks be to God that you are not helplessly lost in your sins and doomed for everlasting punishment! Through Jesus, you have the opportunity to have your sins forgiven. And, because of this sacrifice, you should desire to give God control of your life.

2. Appreciate the sacrifice Jesus made so you can be saved eternally – and not experience the everlasting torment you deserve (2 Corinthians 8:9). Jesus willingly left Heaven (where there is no evil, pain, sorrow, or death) to come to this earth and be mistreated, beaten, spat on, mocked, and put to death so you can have the opportunity to be saved!

3. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 teaches how Christ's love that has been demonstrated for you must compel (control) your life. That is, whenever you realize His great love for you, you will determine the only way you can live is according to how He wants you to live!

4. Titus 2:11-14 shows that God's saving grace should impact your life in multiple ways. It should: Instruct you to deny yourself of those things that work against God's will, instruct you to live in the way that pleases God as you look for Jesus's return, create zeal to live for Him!

## **2. What it Means To Give God Control**

## A. Give Him complete control of everything

1. It is not enough to just give God control when you feel like it or over certain areas of your life. Jesus made it clear that you cannot have more than one master (Matthew 6:24).

2. Many problems exist when you desire to give God some control, but not complete control. Although you may insist on having the final say or opportunity to veto God, serving God does not work like that (Luke 9:23)! Instead, you must follow Him wherever He leads!

3. You must present yourself as a living sacrifice to God. God does not accept for your life to be under the control and influence of this world. Instead, He requires that you sacrifice your life entirely to Him so He can use you in His service, according to His will (Romans 12:1-2).

## B. God will transform you by His word

1. Recognize that God has not created you as a mindless robot who will only ever listen to Him and can never disobey His will. In all the passages we've considered, recognize how God wants you to give Him control, but that the ultimate decision to do so belongs to you.

2. Although there are many different ideas about how God leads, guides, and takes control of your life, God actually uses His written word to do these things today (Ephesians 3:3-6). When you read the God-inspired message in the Bible, you can understand the will of God.

3. Reading this message will provide you with everything you need to live in the way that pleases God (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Studying God's word will teach you exactly what you must believe, expose the areas of your life that must be changed, and teach you everything that pertains to living to please God!

## C. Expressions of failing to give God control

1. "Everyone did whatever seemed right to him" (Judges 21:25). During the period of the Judges, Israel would often disobey God and be punished. This phrase is found at the end of the book of Judges and gives some insight into why this trouble was being experienced – as they all were doing what they wanted rather than obeying God.

2. "They would not listen" (Nehemiah 9:30). This passage speaks of the Israelites confessing past sins of the nation, who were

often disobedient to God. Yet, despite God’s warnings, they did not listen and did not conduct their lives according to His instructions.

3. “He went away grieving, because he had many possessions” (Matthew 19:22). This is said concerning a rich young ruler who came to Jesus, seeking to know what he must do to have eternal life. Although he was willing to do many things to serve God, He was not willing to give Jesus control over His wealth (v. 21).

4. “When I have an opportunity” (Acts 24:25). Governor Felix became afraid when he heard the gospel. However, rather than responding to the message in obedience, he delayed and did not give God immediate control over His life.

5. Do any of these expressions describe your attitude? Are you guilty of refusing to give God control in any of these ways? If so, God is not pleased with you!

#### D. Expressions of giving God control

1. “Abraham got up early in the morning...and set out to go to the place God had told him about” (Genesis 22:3). God tested Abraham by telling him to sacrifice his son (Isaac) on an altar. And, Abraham put so much trust in God’s promises that he did exactly what God commanded, concluding that God would work it out some way – even if it meant raising Isaac from the dead (Hebrews 11:17-19)!

2. “He did not turn to the right or the left” (2 Kings 22:2). In the midst of a history of wicked kings over God’s people who rebelled against God’s instructions, King Josiah set his heart to obey God. So, when he learned that God’s commandments had not been followed, he began making sweeping changes in the nation so they would be pleasing to God.

3. “You used to be like this” (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). The city of Corinth was notorious for its immorality (especially its sexual immorality). Yet, the gospel was received by some in this city (Acts 18:8). This resulted in great transformation for these individuals, who used to conduct themselves in many sinful ways, changing their lives to obey God!

4. “I have been crucified with Christ” (Galatians 2:20). When Paul learned the gospel, he was transformed so as to go from a persecutor to a preacher who would often be persecuted himself. As he

realized the great sacrifice Jesus made to save him, he willingly turned his entire life over to serve Jesus – not holding anything back.

5. Do these expressions describe your attitude? Are you willing to give God full control over your life – as these passages demonstrate? If so, you are on your way to pleasing God!

### **3. How To Give God Control (Proverbs 3:5-7)**

#### **A. Have complete trust in God**

1. You will never give God full control over your life until you are absolutely convinced that you can fully trust God. So, you must learn to trust Him with your whole heart!

2. If you want to trust in God with all your heart, you must remember who He is and trust that He is holy and cannot lie (Titus 1:2). Therefore, trust that whatever God says is entirely true (John 17:17)!

3. Then, you must trust in God's promises. Namely, you can know that if you will be faithful to God throughout your life and let Him have control, He will reward you with eternal life in Heaven (Hebrews 11:6).

#### **B. Recognize God's authority**

1. Recognize that whatever God says is right. Recognize His authority above your own opinions, thoughts, and feelings! Authority involves two elements: Power and right. Therefore, you must recognize that only God possesses power and right over all things.

2. God has power over all things. God has clearly demonstrated this by creating everything. He is the only one capable of such a creation. Therefore, you need to recognize that you are entirely incapable of possessing the same kind of authority He has!

3. God has the right to control all things. God created all things. He is the Maker and Designer. He knows how everything ought to function. He knows how He wants mankind to live to please Him. With God possessing the right to control all things, this leaves you with no authority that can supersede God's authority!

#### **C. Humble yourself**

1. When you put all your trust in God and recognize His authority over all things, you will then need to humble yourself to know and fear Him in all your ways.



2. You must keep yourself in the proper perspective. It is easy to get caught up in yourself and think you are more important than you really are. So, you can believe you are better than you are, know more than you do, and are not dependent on anyone else. However, if you develop this kind of arrogant attitude, you will not give God control because you will be deceived by your own ability to control your life (1 Peter 5:5-6)!

3. You must recognize God's ways as best. Rather than taking yourself too seriously, you must learn to take God seriously and learn that His way is always the best way. Therefore, rather than making decisions based on your own understanding and wisdom, you will make decisions based on a humble commitment to obey God in every area (Colossians 3:17)!

#### D. Submit to God

1. You must determine to submit yourself entirely to God's will. Just recognizing God's will as the right way is not enough to give God control. Instead, you must let Him make your paths straight by following wherever He leads!

2. You must be a doer of God's word. It is not enough to believe in God, believe that God's word is truth, and learn God's word. Instead, you must obey God's word (James 1:22). If you don't, you may deceive yourself into thinking that God is in control, when you have actually kept control for yourself and have settled for a form of religion.

3. You must yield to God's will by obeying His word. God expects you to submit/yield to Him (James 4:7). Although there will be times when your desires are not the same as God's desires, you must yield to God regardless of what the issue is and what God instructs of you!

### **Conclusion**

A. Have you given God control of your life? You must be obedient to God and allow Him to transform your life through His word.

B. If you will give God control over your life, He will transform you into what He wants you to be so that you will please Him and have eternal life in Heaven!

## **Study Questions**

What does it mean to be in control? Do you find it difficult to give up control? Why or why not?

### **1. Why Give God Control?**

How should God's nature impact your decision to give God control?

How should your insufficiencies impact your decision to give God control?

How should the coming Judgment Day impact your decision to give God control?

How should Jesus's sacrifice impact your decision to give God control?

### **2. What Does It Mean To Give God Control?**

How much control of your life should you give to God?

How will God transform your life?

List some Biblical expressions that demonstrate a failure to give God control.

List some Biblical expressions that demonstrate giving God control.

### **3. How Do You Give God Control?**

Why is faith necessary to giving God control?

Why is recognizing God's authority necessary to giving God control?

Why is humility necessary to giving God control?

Why is submission necessary to giving God control?

