



Self-CONTROL
VS
Holy Spirit
CONTROL

Is Jesus *Just* Your
Co-Pilot?

Who's Really in Control?

- ✦ In today's society, we hear a lot about things like:
 - Self-improvement/ Self-help
 - “the practice of bettering oneself without relying on the assistance of others.” (wiktionary)
 - Self-actualization
 - “the desire for self-fulfillment... to become everything that one is capable of becoming.”
“(Maslow)

Who's Really in Control?

✦ Self-reliance

- “the capacity to rely on one's own capabilities, and to manage one's own affairs; independence” (wiktionary)

✦ Self-Control

- “The ability to control human behavior through the exertion of will.” (Wikipedia)

Who's Really in Control?

- ✦ What do all of these things have in common?
 - What is really at the root of each one?
 - SELF



Who's Really in Control?

- ✦ Each of these are sly deceptions of the enemy.
 - His Goal:
 - To get us to “Take Control” of our lives.
 - But, are we *really* supposed to be the ones in control?

Who's Really in Control?

- ✦ As long as we are trying to gain some kind of control over our own lives, we will always come up short.
 - Even if we are trying to force our lives to line up with God's Word...
 - If we are trying to do it on our own, we will always fail.

Who's Really in Control?

- ✦ This is a large part of why the enemy tries to infiltrate the church with the self-reliance that has polluted the world.
 - He wants to make sure you try to stay in control of your own life...

Don't Get Stuck in the Rut!

If he can keep you
from coming to God,
He can keep you in control of your life...

If he can keep you in control
he can keep you failing...

The Self-Reliance Cycle

If he can keep you feeling guilty,
he can keep you from coming
to God for help...

If he can keep you failing
he can keep you feeling guilty..

But, I Have Free Will!

- ✦ Yes, God has given each of us free will.
 - But, as a love offering for all He has done for us, He longs for us to willingly surrender control of our lives back over to Him...

But, I Have Free Will!

And so, dear brothers and sisters,
I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you.
Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—
the kind he will find acceptable.

This is truly the way to worship him.

Don't copy the behavior
and customs of this world,
but let God transform you into a new
person by changing the way you think.

Then you will learn to
know God's will for you,
which is good and pleasing and perfect.

~Romans 12:1-2 NLT

But, I Have Free Will!

- ✦ Romans 12:1-2 teaches us two things about who should be controlling our lives:
 1. We are urged to give God our lives as a “a living and holy sacrifice.”
 2. It is not you or I who possesses the power to change ourselves.
 - You are supposed to “let God transform you into a new person.”

But How?

- ✦ How does God transform us?
- ✦ He uses His Holy Spirit.
 - “Let the **Spirit renew** your thoughts and attitudes.” Ephesians 4:23 NLT
- ✦ Once we have truly decided to become a living sacrifice for Him, just as He has for us,
 - The Holy Spirit can truly begin His Work...

But How...

- ✦ Completely handing ourselves over to God isn't something we do once when we accept Christ...
 - Do we really want to change and become the person we were pre-destined to be?
 - We have make taking our entire selves to God a daily habit.

Creating a Habit of Surrender

*But I say, walk and live
[**habitually**] in the [Holy] Spirit
**[responsive to and controlled
and guided by the Spirit];**
then you will certainly not
gratify the cravings
and desires of the flesh
(of human nature without God).*

~Galatians 5:16AMP

Holy Spirit-Control

- ✦ If you are longing to break free of your human imperfections, there is only one way to do it...
 - Not through self-help.
 - Not through self-control.
 - But through Holy Spirit-Control!

Holy Spirit-Control

If we live by the [Holy] Spirit,
let us also walk by the Spirit.

[If by the Holy Spirit
we have our life in God,

let us go forward

walking in line,

our conduct

controlled by the Spirit.

~Galatians 5:25 AMP

Holy Spirit-Control

- ✦ Many of us say that we are filled with the Holy Spirit, but we have not truly handed over the reigns.
 - If we have truly laid down our life at the throne, then there should be evidence of the **Holy Spirit's control** in our daily lives.
 - What evidence does the Holy Spirit leave in our lives?

Holy Spirit-Control

But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit
[the work which
His presence within accomplishes]
is love, joy (gladness), peace,
patience (an even temper, forbearance),
kindness, goodness (benevolence),
faithfulness, Gentleness (meekness, humility),
self-control (self-restraint, continence)...

~Galatians 5:22 & 23

Holy Spirit-Control

- ✦ What are the Fruits of the Spirit really?
 - Are they things that we can force ourselves to exhibit?
 - NO!
 - They are “**the work which His presence within accomplishes**” (Galatians 5:22)
 - Proving once more:
 - It is God’s Spirit that transforms us into His image, not us who transform ourselves.

How can God transform your life through His Holy Spirit?

Our Problems...

God's Solutions...

Depression

HIS Joy and Peace

Shame

HIS Peace and Goodness

Anxiety

HIS Peace and Joy

Fear

HIS Faith and Love

Anger

HIS Patience, Love and Gentleness

Unforgiveness

HIS Patience, Love and Gentleness

Impatience

HIS Patience and Peace

Lust

HIS Self-Control, Faithfulness, and Goodness

Addictions

HIS Self-Control and Goodness

The Key to True Surrender...

Release Fear

- ✦ The 2 fears that block surrender:
 - The fear of handing over control of your life to someone else
 - Will you fail me? I've been hurt before..
 - The fear of acting on God's leadings...and being wrong.

Release Fear!

For [the Spirit which]
you have now received
[is] not a spirit of slavery
to put you once more
in bondage to fear,
but you have received
the Spirit of adoption
[the Spirit producing sonship]
in [the bliss of] which we cry,
Abba (Father)! Father!

-Romans 8:15

Release Fear!

- ✦ Relationships are built on Trust.
- ✦ As Christians, fear and worry are our enemy!
 - They are trust thieves.
- ✦ Our relationship with God is built on our ability to truly trust Him.

Release Fear!

For whoever would
come near to God
must [necessarily]
believe that God exists and that
He is the rewarder
of those who earnestly and
diligently seek Him [out]

-Hebrews 11:6 AMP

Release Fear!

- ✦ Those are the foundational beliefs that your trust in God must be built on.
 - The more you step out on faith, totally surrendering to the leading of the Holy Spirit...
 - The more your relationship with Him will grow.
 - You will trust Him more.
 - You will receive more of His love.
 - You will love Him more.
 - And He will draw you even closer.

It Takes Time

- ✦ Developing an intimate relationship with God is not an overnight process.
 - Just like any relationship that you build...
 - The more time you spend alone seeking the Lord, the more you are *“progressively becoming more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him”* (Philippians 3:8 AMP).

It Takes Time

- ✦ The more intimately you get to know Him:
 - The more He will reveal to you about the areas in your own life that He wants to transform and restore.
 - The Holy Spirit will guide you through your own personal journey into the deeper things of God.
 - Your journey of surrender will not look like anyone else's, and it is between you and the Lord.

It Takes Time

- ✦ What is our part in all of this?
 - To keep pressing closer to Him.

**But if from there you will seek
(inquire for and require as necessity)
the Lord your God,
you will find Him
if you [truly] seek Him
with all your heart [and mind]
and soul and life.**

-Deuteronomy 4:29 AMP

What's Stopping You?

- ✦ We've said fear is the biggest surrender blocker...
 - Many times we have past experiences that we blame God for.
 - We wonder... "Why God? Why did You let that happen?"
- ✦ These open wounds in our hearts stop us from totally surrendering to Him.

What's Stopping You?

I have told you these things,
so that in Me you may have
[perfect] peace *and* confidence.

In the world you have tribulation
and trials *and* distress *and* frustration;

but be of good cheer

[take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]!

For I have overcome the world.

[I have deprived it of power to harm you
and have conquered it for you.]

– John 16:33 AMP

What's Stopping You?

- ✦ Like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego we may feel tossed in the fiery furnace.
 - But Jesus promises when we come out, we won't even smell like smoke: "I have deprived it of power to harm you".

So, What's Been Stopping You?

- ✦ The enemy uses pains from our past to make us distrust God.
 - Pray and ask God if there are any pains from your past that have been stunting your relationship with Him.
 - Make a list .
 - Find a prayer partner, and pray for God to heal those open wounds so that you can fully release yourself to Him.