

Giving God Control



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Study Number: 53

Learn why you should give God control over your life and what it means to do so

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My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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Why Give God Control?

Giving up control in any area of our lives can be very difficult. Giving up control of our entire lives, then, may seem nearly impossible and impractical. Therefore, I want you to consider why you should *want* to give God control over your life – no matter how difficult that task may be.

Because of who He is

Think back to the illustration I gave at the beginning of the lesson. There is difficulty in turning control of the car you are riding in over to anyone. However, consider that there is a difference in turning the wheel over to your 16-year-old daughter and turning it over to a professional driver!

Well, whenever you are giving control over your life to God, you are not giving control to someone who is inexperienced at making vital decisions, someone who has no understanding about life, or someone who has no concern for your well-being! Instead, these things describe *you* better than they describe God!

Take a few moments to consider some facts about who God is – and how these things ought to impact your willingness to give God control.

(1) He is the Almighty Creator. When you give control of your life to God, you give control to the one who is responsible for the creation of all things! Read Genesis 1 and 2 to be reminded of the great power God demonstrated in bringing the world (and everything therein) into existence. He is the one who was able to say, “Let there be light”; and there was light” (Genesis 1:3). But, not only has He brought all things into existence (generally speaking); but, He is the one who is responsible for giving *you* life on this earth. It is “in Him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28).

(2) He possesses perfect knowledge. When you give control of your life to God, you give control to the one who “wrote the book” on life! He is not someone who is trying to figure out life as He goes along. Rather, He is the one who created everything about it – and knows perfectly what it will take to be successful at life. Romans 11:33-36 expresses the realization of God’s perfect knowledge: “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His

“Control.” To be in control is to have the power over something and to be in the place of authority to direct the course of actions that will be taken.

It is often very difficult for those who feel like they are in control of something to give up that control to someone else. Think about driving a car. While you are driving, you feel a sense of control. You control the speed. You control the direction. You control the response to any dangers that may come up on the trip. Now, think about when you turn the wheel over to someone else. Regardless of whether that individual is an experienced driver or not, you still are giving control over to another. As you sit in the passenger seat, you may watch nervously as someone else is in control over and makes decisions that will impact your safety (and perhaps the safety of your family). Again, it is very difficult to give up control.

However, we all need to give up control of our lives. This is at the heart of the gospel’s message. Consider one passage from the Old Testament to see how we must give up control of our lives and give them entirely to God: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6). Please notice that this is not just referencing a small portion of control over our lives that must be surrendered to God – but, control over *every* area of our lives!

In this lesson, we want to explore the subject of “Giving God Control.” We want to learn about why we should give God control, what this means, and how we can accomplish this task.

judgments and His ways past finding out! ‘For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?’ ‘Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?’ For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.”

(3) He cares about you. When you give control of your life to God, you give control to the one who cares more about you than anyone else does! He is the one who gave you physical life (Acts 17:28). He is the one who created you with a soul (Genesis 1:26-27). He is the one who gives you every good thing you have on this earth (James 1:17). He is the one who gave His only begotten Son to die so that you could be saved from the consequences of your sins (John 3:16). After all, God is the one who “desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4).

Because of your insufficiencies

While we could discuss even more wonderful characteristics of God, understand that they all would continue to demonstrate the authority He possesses over all things. Then, as you contemplate that you should give God control over your life because of who He is, contrast who God is with your own insufficiencies. You see, you will only give God control over your life if you recognize that He is better qualified to control your life than you are!

(1) You are incapable of directing your own steps. In order to maintain control over your life, you should make certain that you are capable of making decisions that will be in your best interest. However, the Bible teaches that you are not capable of living in a way that will please God – without giving Him control! Jeremiah 10:23 says, “O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.” Mankind simply does not possess perfect knowledge. Therefore, he is unqualified to make his own determinations about the best way to live on this earth. Proverbs 14:12 says, “There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.” So, those things which we often think we should be doing will lead us down paths that will not please God and result in serious consequences!

(2) You are a sinner deserving of death. The Bible teaches that we have all attempted to direct our own steps by maintaining control over our lives – and we have all committed sin! Romans 3:23 says,

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” James 1:14-15 describes how this happens. James says that you are tempted when you are drawn away from God’s ways and enticed by your own physical desires. Then, when you act to fulfill your own physical desires rather than listening to God’s instructions, you sin. And, sin will eventually result in your eternal punishment in Hell fire (the second death, Revelation 21:8). Therefore, Paul wrote to say that the “wages of sin is death” (spiritual separation from God) in Romans 6:23. This is what you earned/deserved by following your own ways rather than following God’s ways.

(3) God has the words of eternal life. Now that we have sinned and earned spiritual death, we must recognize that we cannot save ourselves from our sins – by ourselves. Ephesians 2:8-9 demonstrates that we could not do enough good works to earn the forgiveness of our sins and the salvation of our souls. Instead, we were all dependent upon the love, grace, and mercy of God. Romans 6:23, therefore, says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Now, we must be obedient to the instructions of the “author of eternal salvation,” Jesus Christ (Hebrews 5:9). Of all the people and things you may permit to control your life, Jesus Christ (the author of eternal salvation) is the only one who has “the words of eternal life” (John 6:68). It is only God, through His word, that can set you free from your sin (John 8:32)!

Because you will be judged

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

(1) God will judge your life. God has promised that He will judge this world – and that you will stand before Him and give an answer for how you have lived your life. Acts 17:31 says that God has appointed a day on which He will “judge the world in righteousness” by Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:10 says, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” Therefore, everything you have done, thought, or said will be judged by God.

(2) The standard will be His word. The standard (or, criteria) that God will use to judge your life will be His revealed word. When the great judgment scene is pictured in Revelation 20:11-15, it is said that those standing before the throne of God will be “judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.” What books are these? They are the books that contain the written law of God (see John 12:48 and Romans 2:16).

(3) Your eternity will be revealed at this Judgment. Based upon whether Jesus Christ (using the standard of God’s word) judges you to be faithful to Him or unfaithful to Him, you will either spend eternal life with God in Heaven or be sentenced to eternal punishment in Hell. Read Matthew 25:31-46 to see the picture of this great Day of Judgment and learn about these two possible eternal destinations.

Because Jesus Christ sacrificed His life for you

Thanks be to God that you are not helplessly lost in your sins and doomed for everlasting punishment! Thanks be to God that He has given you the opportunity to have your sins forgiven through Jesus Christ! Certainly, this great sacrifice of Christ should impact your desire to give God control over your life.

(1) Jesus left Heaven to die on the cross. You need to fully appreciate the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made so that you can be saved eternally – and not experience the everlasting torment you deserve. 2 Corinthians 8:9 summarizes this when it says, “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.” Jesus Christ willingly left Heaven (the place where there is no evil, pain, sorrow, or death) in order to come to this earth, be mistreated by men, be beaten, be spat on, be mocked, and be put to death by crucifixion – in order that you could have the opportunity to have your sins forgiven!

(2) His love must control you. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 says, “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.” Jesus Christ provided the perfect sacrifice for us – so that we could be forgiven of our sins. Now, He requires that we sacrifice our lives entirely to Him! The love that

He has shown for you, therefore, must compel (control) your life. That is, whenever you truly realize His great love for you, you will determine that the only way you can live your life is according to how He wants you to live!

(3) God’s grace must teach you. Titus 2:11-14 says that the “grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.” Then, Paul says that this grace teaches us to deny ourselves of “ungodliness and worldly lusts” and it teaches us to “live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age” as we look for Jesus’ return. This Jesus is our Savior and has given Himself for us “that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.” Therefore, the great sacrifice God has made for you ought to cause you to give your life entirely to His service and to be on fire (spiritually) to accomplish good works.

What Does It Mean To Give God Control?

Now that we have seen some basic motivation for giving God control, let’s learn what giving God control of our lives really looks like.

Give Him complete control – of everything

As we consider what it means for God to control our lives, let’s first establish that God must be given complete control over everything in our lives.

(1) God requires complete control. God should not be riding “shotgun” in your life! He should not be given minimum input in your life (He should not be a “backseat driver”). You should not just give God control when you feel like it. Instead, He must be given full control over every aspect of your life! Jesus said that it must be this way. Matthew 6:24 says, “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” Therefore, Jesus says that there cannot be more than one master who has control over your life! Recall how Proverbs 3:5-6 said that you must trust in the Lord with *all* your heart and acknowledge Him in *all* your ways (nothing excluded).

(2) Follow wherever Christ leads. Many problems exist whenever we desire to give God control of our lives – but not complete control. We sometimes insist on having a “final say” or opportunity to “veto” what God wants us to do. However, serving God and giving Him control just does not work like that! Instead, Jesus said, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” (Luke 9:23). So, if you truly desire to follow the Lord, you must completely dedicate yourself to Him. You must deny yourself of everything that is opposed to what God desires from you, be willing to suffer and endure hardships for His cause (even if it means dying for Him), and follow Him wherever He leads you! There are no acceptable exceptions.

(3) Present yourself as a living sacrifice to God. Romans 12:1-2 tells us more about what our commitment to the Lord must look like. “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Therefore, God does not accept for you to live your life under the control and influence of this world (i.e. the world’s standards of morality and righteousness). Instead, He requires that you sacrifice your life entirely to Him so that He can use you in His service, according to His will.

(4) Consider yourself as clay in the Potter’s hand. In Jeremiah 18, the Lord told Jeremiah to go down to the potter’s house and Jeremiah would hear the words of the Lord (verses 1-2). Then, notice what transpired (in verses 3-6): “Then I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make. Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: ‘O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?’ says the Lord. ‘Look, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!’”

Just as God wanted his people in the Old Testament (the Israelites) to consider themselves as clay in His hand, God wants the same from His people today. 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. Certainly, it is not the role of the clay to tell the potter what kind of vessel to make it. Instead, this is the discretion of the potter. Therefore, you need to present your life entirely to God so that He can mold you and make you into whatever He wants you to be – and use you however He can use you in His service! Give Him complete control over your life in this way!

God will transform by His word

Now, as we have seen the kind of commitment God wants from you and the kind of control He wants to have over you, let’s consider how He will control your life.

(1) God gives you the freedom to choose. God wants you to give Him full control over your life. But, He gives you the freedom to choose. He has not created you to be a mindless robot who will only listen to Him and can never disobey His will. Just go back and consider the passages we have considered about giving God complete control over your life. In all of them, you should notice how God wants to take complete control – but, the ultimate decision to give Him that control belongs to you!

(2) God’s mind is revealed in His written word. There are certainly many different false ideas about how God leads, guides, and takes control over your life. Some say that God’s Spirit directs them. Some say that God directly communicates with them. Now, in the past, God has revealed His will to mankind through various methods. However, today, He only reveals His will to mankind through His written word. 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 reveals that it was the work of God’s Holy Spirit to reveal the mind of God to mankind. Then, Ephesians 3:3-5 says that He has accomplished this by the Spirit guiding the apostles and prophets to write. And, whenever you read this God-inspired message, you can understand what the will of God is!

(3) God’s word is powerful to transform. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” Notice carefully, then, that whenever you read the message that was given by God’s Holy Spirit to the apostles and prophets (contained in the pages of the Bible), it will provide you with all of the information you need

to conduct your life in a way that is pleasing to God. And, Hebrews 4:12 says, “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

When you will dedicate yourself to doing whatever God wants you to do and you are diligent in searching the Scriptures to learn the will of God, God will transform your life through it! He will expose the areas of your life which must be changed. He will teach you your responsibilities. He will teach you how to overcome your struggles. He will teach you everything that pertains (is applicable) to “life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3)!

Expressions of failing to give God control

Having seen that God wants to have complete control over your life and that He will transform your life through His powerful and living word, let’s continue making application of these things by considering some Biblical expressions of failing to give God control.

(1) “Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” The period of the Judges was a very troubling time for the nation of Israel because of their frequent failure to obey God. During this time, Israel would repeatedly disobey God, God would deliver them to their enemies for oppression, Israel would cry out for deliverance, God would deliver them, and then they would rebel against God and start the cycle again. The sad testimony at the end of the book of Judges gives some insight into why this was happening: “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25). So, rather than submitting to the instructions God had given them, they pursued their own ways and rebelled against God!

(2) “They would not listen.” Nehemiah 9:30 comes in the middle of a passage in which some of the Israelites were confessing the past sins of the nation of Israel. They spoke concerning the failure of the Israelites on many occasions to be obedient to God – even though God was warning them by His prophets. Yet, despite the warnings, “they would not listen” to God – and God brought consequences upon them for rebelling against Him. They failed to give God control. They would not conduct their lives according to His instructions.

(3) “He went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.” Matthew 19:16-22 gives an account of a rich young ruler. This man came to Jesus and wanted to know what he needed to do to have eternal life. He had been keeping the commandments Jesus identified. Then, Jesus said, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me” (verse 21). Then, verse 22 says, “But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.” This man was willing to do many good things in serving God. But, he was *not* willing to give God complete control over his life (i.e. over his wealth).

(4) “You always resist the Holy Spirit.” As Stephen was preaching to a Jewish audience in Acts 7, he taught them that the history of the Jewish people had often been a lesson about rebellion against God. In Acts 7:51, he told them, “You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.” They had been guilty of resisting the will of God!

(5) “When I have a convenient time.” As Paul preached to a man named Felix, he reasoned with him concerning “righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come” (Acts 24:25). Then, as Felix contemplated these things, he responded, “Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you” (Acts 24:25). He was not willing to give God immediate control over his life. And, it is unclear whether Felix ever found that “convenient time” to give God control over His life!

(6) “You almost persuade me to become a Christian.” As Paul asked King Agrippa whether he believed the things written in the Old Testament concerning Jesus Christ, Paul was convinced that Agrippa did believe. However, Agrippa responded, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian” (Acts 26:28). He was not fully convinced to give God control over His life at that moment.

Do any of these expressions describe your attitude? Are you guilty of refusing to give God control in any of these ways?

Expressions of giving God control

In contrast to those expressions, now consider some expressions that demonstrate the desire to truly give God full control over your life.

(1) “Abraham rose early in the morning.”

God promised to give Abraham a son and that He would make a great nation from his descendants. Then, when Abraham and his wife were well advanced in years, God gave them this son of promise (Isaac). However, God proceeded to test Abraham’s faith. He commanded Abraham to take his only son and go to the land of Moriah and offer him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains. Then, the very next verse says, “So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him” (Genesis 22:3). What a wonderful example of a man who was truly willing to put all of his trust in God and give God complete control. He was absolutely convinced that God would accomplish His promises – even if it meant raising Isaac from the dead (see Hebrews 11:17-19).

(2) “How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” After Joseph was sold into slavery and arrived in Egypt, he found favor in the sight of his master (Potiphar). He was given authority over everything that was in his master’s house. However, whenever Potiphar’s wife tried to force Joseph to commit adultery with her, Joseph was steadfast in serving God. He asked, “How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” (Genesis 39:9) – and ran away from her. Therefore, he was willing to give God control – even to the point of sacrificing his own physical desires.

(3) “He did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.” 2 Kings 22:2 presents a wonderful testimony to the life of King Josiah: “And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.” In the midst of a history of wicked kings over God’s people who rebelled against God’s instructions, Josiah set his heart to obey God. In fact, whenever Josiah learned that the commandments of God had not been followed, he began making sweeping changes in the nation so that they would be pleasing to God.

(4) “And such were some of you.” The city of Corinth was notorious for its wickedness. It was particularly known for the sexual sins which were common there. However, when Paul arrived in Corinth to preach the gospel in Acts 18, he found

some folks who were willing to be transformed by the gospel – as they heard the gospel preached, believed, and obeyed it by being baptized for the remission of their sins (Acts 18:8). Later, when Paul wrote the book of 1 Corinthians, he said, “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). Therefore, even though they had been guilty of many sinful activities, they were willing to obey God and be transformed by His word!

(5) “I have been crucified with Christ.”

Paul had been guilty of persecuting and killing Christians. However, when he learned the gospel, his life was transformed! He went from being a persecutor to a preacher. And, as a preacher of the gospel, he would often be severely persecuted. When he wrote the book of Galatians, he identified his commitment to the Lord: “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). In recognition of the sacrifice Jesus Christ made for him, Paul was willing to sacrifice everything and give God full control over his life!

Do these expressions describe your attitude? Are you willing to give God full control over your life – as these passages demonstrate?

How Do You Give God Control?

Now that we have seen why you should give God control over your life and what it means to do that, let’s consider how you can give God control. And, as we do, let’s revisit Proverbs 3:5-6: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” This passage demonstrates four steps to giving God complete control of your life.

Have complete trust in God

You will never give God full control over your life until you are absolutely convinced that you can trust in God! Proverbs 3:5 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart.”

(1) Trust in God because of who He is. If you want to trust in God with all your heart, you must remember who God is (as we briefly considered at the beginning of the lesson). Recognize that God is the Almighty Creator of the world. Then, trust in Him because God is entirely holy and because He cannot lie (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18). Therefore, every word God speaks is entirely true (John 17:17)!

(2) Trust in God’s promises. Because of who God is and because His word is truth, you can be fully confident in the promises He has made. Consider the fact that Paul was willing to suffer for Christ and give God complete control over his life because of His unwavering trust in God: “For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day” (2 Timothy 1:12).

Recognize God’s authority

Once you have put all your trust in God, you must recognize His complete authority. Proverbs 3:5 says that you must “lean not on your own understanding.” Recognize that whatever God says is right. Recognize that your own thoughts and opinions are not equal to the teachings and instructions of God! Now, authority involves two essential elements: Power and right. Therefore, you need to recognize that it is only God who possesses power and right over all things.

(1) God has power over all things. God has clearly demonstrated His power over all things by the fact that He has created all things. He is the only one who is capable of such a creation! Therefore, you need to recognize that you are entirely incapable of possessing the same kind of authority God has.

(2) God has the right to control all things. By creating all things, God is the only one who has the right to control all things. He is the Maker and Designer. He knows how everything ought to function. He knows how He wants mankind to live in order to please Him. With God possessing the right to control all things, this leaves you with no authority that can supersede God’s authority!

Humble yourself

When you put all of your trust in God and recognize His authority over all things, you will then need to humble yourself. Proverbs 3:6 says, “In all your ways acknowledge Him.”

(1) Keep yourself in the proper perspective. It is all-too-easy to get caught up in ourselves and think that we are more significant than we really are. We can easily begin to believe that we are better than we are, know more than we do, and are not dependent upon anyone else. However, whenever we develop this kind of an arrogant and prideful attitude, we will not be able to give God control – because we are too deceived by our own ability to control our lives! Luke 18:9-14 records a wonderful example of this.

In this parable Jesus taught to some “who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others,” He taught concerning two men who went to the temple to pray. One man could not get himself out of the way in order to recognize his true need for God. He prayed, “God, I thank You that I am not like other men — extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.” However, the other man “would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’” Jesus said that it was this second man who went down to his house justified rather than the first man!

(2) Recognize God’s ways as best. Rather than taking yourself too seriously, you must learn to take God completely seriously and learn that His way is *always* the best way. Therefore, you must not make decisions based upon your own understanding and wisdom; but, to be humble before God and learn what His will is for you! Colossians 3:17 says, “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” Determine that you will follow God’s instructions (according to His authority) in every area of your life!

Submit to God

Finally, when you develop a full trust in God, when you recognize His authority, and when you humble yourself before God, you must determine to submit yourself entirely to His will. You see, simply recognizing God’s will as always being the right way

and trusting it as the right way is not enough to give God control of your life. Proverbs 3:6 says that God will “direct your paths.”

(1) You must be a “doer” of God’s word. James 1:22 says, “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” It is simply not enough to believe in God, believe that God’s word is truth, and learn God’s word. You must make diligent application of God’s word in order to please Him. If you do not, you may deceive yourself into thinking that God is in control – when, actually, you have never truly given Him control over your life and you have just settled for a form of religion.

(2) You must “yield” to God’s will by obeying His word. James 4:7 says, “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” To “submit” is to “yield.” There will be many times in your life when your desires and God’s desires are not the same. Many people (who do not give God control) will do whatever they want to do at these times. However, if you desire to give God control of your life, you will always yield your will to God’s will by being obedient to His instructions – no matter what the issue is!

Conclusion

Have you given God control over your life? In order to give Him control of your life, you must submit yourself to God’s plan of salvation. God has required that you hear His word (Romans 10:17), believe (John 8:24), repent of your sins (Acts 17:30), confess Christ (Romans 10:9-10), be baptized (Acts 2:38), and remain faithful to the Lord (Revelation 2:10). If you obey these commandments, you will be given everlasting life in Heaven!

The gospel of Jesus Christ is “the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16). However, you must be obedient to God and allow Him to transform your life through His word. If you will give God control over your life, He will transform you into what He wants you to be. He will transform your relationships, your emotions, your character, your speech, your physical activities, your habits, your addictions, your religious practices, and every area of your life so that you will be pleasing to Him (2 Timothy 3:16-17)! Give God control over every area of your life today!

Study Questions

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

What do you learn from Proverbs 3:5-6?

1. Why Give God Control?

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

Why are you insufficient to control your own life?

Will you be judged? What will be the standard for this judgment?

What did Jesus Christ do for you? How should this impact your life?

2. What Does It Mean To Give God Control?

How much control over your life should you give God?

Why is submission necessary to giving God control?

How will God transform your life?

***Have you given God control over your life – completely? Why or why not?**

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?