



How Do You Give God Control Of Your Life?

DISCOVERING GOD'S WORD BIBLE STUDY SERIES

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How do you give God control of your life? God desires complete control over your life so as to direct you in the right ways always. If you give Him this control, you will be cleansed from your past sins through the blood of Jesus Christ and have everlasting life in Heaven. But, as you seek to give God full control, your flesh will try to fight against God's control. You see, the flesh desires to enjoy the things of this world – even when they go against God's will. Therefore, you should consider how it is that you can give God full control and overcome the desires of the flesh. And, as you do, consider 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. Let's consider these at this time.

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! You see, nearly everything that God promises consists of things that are not yet visible. So, your flesh will desire that you place your trust in the things that you can see, feel, and enjoy now. But, trusting in God requires that you put things that you cannot yet see, feel, and now enjoy *before* all of these physical desires. Still, Proverbs 3:5 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart.”

Trusting in things that are not yet seen does *not* mean that God expects you to have an unreasonable or blind faith in Him. In fact, it is quite to the contrary. God wants you to be fully convinced that He does exist and that He will reward those who seek Him. This is what true faith is and, without it, you cannot please God (Hebrews 11:6). Hebrews 11:1 says, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

God gives you all of the evidence for His existence all around you, every single day. Romans 1:19-20 explains that “what may be known of God is manifest [made known, plainly

visible] in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.” If you will simply lift up your eyes and be observant, you can see evidence for God’s existence in everything!

If you want to trust in God with all your heart, you must also recognize who God is. For instance, you must 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)!

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. Ultimately, you must recognize that *someone* or *something* will have the “final say” in matters pertaining to your life. Now, you must determine who or what will be recognized as having that authority. The fact of the matter is that you and all others fail to have complete authority in *any* matter. So, Proverbs 3:5 says that you must “lean not on your own understanding.”

You must 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.

First, 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 by virtue of the fact that you do not have nearly the kind of power God has.

Second, 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!

The way God speaks to you today is through His written word. 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.” Specifically, God expects you to be obedient to His word that has been revealed in the pages of the New Testament, as He will judge you by these words one Day (see John 12:48; Revelation 20:11-15).

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. You will have to recognize that if God has *all* authority, then I have *no* authority unless it comes from Him. So, rather than choosing to listen to your fleshly desires (that often pull against the will of God), Proverbs 3:6 says, “In all your ways acknowledge Him.”

You must keep yourself in the proper perspective. It is all-too-easy to get caught up in yourself and think that you are more significant than you really are. You can easily begin to believe that you are better than you are, know more than you do, and are not dependent on anyone else. Yet, whenever you develop this kind of an arrogant and prideful attitude, you will not be able to give God control – because you are too deceived by your own ability to control your life! 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!

Rather than taking yourself too seriously, you must learn to take God completely serious and learn that His way is *always* the best way. Therefore, you must not make decisions based upon your own understanding and “wisdom”; but, must 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!

In every question and decision in life, your foremost concern must be: What does God grant me authority to do? So, you must understand how to establish Bible authority. Bible authority is only established whenever there is a direct command/statement, an approved example, or a necessary inference (forced conclusion). Without one of these three, there can be no Bible authority. But, whenever you do have one of these three, you can act with the full knowledge that what you are doing is pleasing to God!

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."

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 you have actually never truly given Him control over your life and have just settled for a form of religion.

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!

This necessarily involves exercising self-discipline. In order to please God and give Him complete control over your life, you must be able and willing to tell yourself "no"! Although the devil will try to lure you away from doing the will of God through your own fleshly desires (see James 1:14-15), you must deny yourself of these physical pleasures and treasures in order to be devoted to God's will. The apostle Paul, who had given God complete control of his life (Galatians 2:20), said, "But I discipline my body and bring it under subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified" (1 Corinthians 9:27).

Conclusion

If you do these four things, you will give God control of your life. But, you must recognize that these are not just things that you do at one point in your life. They are things that you must do every single day!

Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

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