

Jesus The One and Only
Jesus Before My Will

I Love Lucy clip I Love Lucy: A Colorized Celebration - "Job Switching" clip

"For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline."
2 Timothy 1:7

"Like a city that is broken into and without walls is a man who has no control over his spirit." Proverbs 25:28

"but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified." 1 Corinthians 9:27

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23

Self-control is a good thing! God has given us a spirit of self-control and the Holy Spirit bears that fruit in, through, and for us for the glory of God.

It ceases being a fruit of the Spirit when we form it into a sacred cow (melting away self-control to form control of time, people, our environment, and situations) and place it on the throne meant for Jesus and Jesus only.

The idol of control is a sneaky one. It cloaks itself as a parent's concern for their child, a desire to be safe, healthy, and able to pay bills or maybe even as a goal of being a good steward of what God has given. All of these things are good. However, when our heart seeks these above Jesus, it becomes idolatry.

Because the idol of control hides behind such good things, it can easily invade our hearts and plant deep roots that are difficult to dig up and destroy.

"Now Sarai, Abram's wife had borne him no children, and she had an Egyptian maid whose name was Hagar. So Sarai said to Abram, "Now behold, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Please go in to my maid; perhaps I will obtain children through her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. After Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Abram's wife Sarai took Hagar the Egyptian, her maid, and gave her to her husband Abram as his wife. He went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her sight." Genesis 16:1-4

Impatient and ignorant of how God would fulfill His promise, Sarai and Abram step into God's role and manipulate the situation to take control.

You might be struggling with the idol of control if you struggle with....

Inflexibility

Perfectionism

My way or the highway

Meticulousness

A critical attitude toward those in authority
Trouble with worry/anxiety
Complaining or grumbling
Helicopter parenting

”He went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her sight. And Sarai said to Abram, “May the wrong done me be upon you. I gave my maid into your arms, but when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her sight. May the Lord judge between you and me.” But Abram said to Sarai, “Behold, your maid is in your power; do to her what is good in your sight.” So Sarai treated her harshly, and she fled from her presence. He will be a wild donkey of a man, His hand will be against everyone, And everyone’s hand will be against him; And he will live to the east of all his brothers.”“ Genesis 16:4-6, 12

The result of Abram and Sarai’s controlling the situation is total chaos!

The result of our controlling is also chaos which is why we never rest from the pursuit of control.

Exhaustion... The never ending pursuit of “once I get this under control, everything will be better” leads to burnout. The idea that we need to be in control of the outcome is rooted in the original sin of desiring to be God.

Idol of control leads to lack of reliance on God which leads to Spiritual deafness.

We miss out on what God has planned for us.

Misdirected worship. We long for control so that we can have rest, peace, safety, and provision. All things that Jesus offers to those who lay down every thing at His feet.

”But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’“ Isaiah 14:13-14

Satan’s desire has always been to be in control - to be like God. He lies, kills, steals, and destroys in a vain attempt to obtain what he cannot have.

”For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”“ Genesis 3:5

Since the beginning of time, Satan has worked to convince us that we can and should be in control. In his craftiness, he manipulates us into lying, killing, stealing, and destroying all for the pursuit of control. The end result is our destruction.

"Samuel said to Saul, "You have acted foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you, for now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not endure. The Lord has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you." 1 Samuel 13:13-14

Fearful that he would lose his men and the battle, Saul was losing control of the situation and he grew impatient waiting. In an attempt to stay in control, he compromised and he justified. The end result was losing control of the entire kingdom.

"Then Jesus *came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and *said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed. Then He *said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me." And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will." He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done." And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more." Matthew 26:36-39, 42, 44

Not my will but yours.

It doesn't have to be the way you planned, imagined, or wanted. Let go and let God.

Not my will but yours.