

Study Guide for 5-27-2018 - "In Control - Us or God?"

Key Scriptures:

"The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's; But the earth He has given to the children of men." - Psalm 115:16

- 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 "But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."
- Ephesians 2:1-3 "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others."
- John 3:8 "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."
- Isaiah 40:30-31 "Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint."

Start Talking:

- Before you heard this message, how did you consider life's challenges regarding whether God is in control; or, that he only helps those who help themselves? Which has been your predominant position? Discuss.
- In any given situation, how do you know whether to do something or to just wait and see what God allows to happen? Do you always feel like you have the luxury to wait? What do you do?
- Did it surprise you that Jesus did not disagree with Satan when he said this to Him in Luke 4:7, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish."

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- In Matthew 28:18, Jesus said, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” Why do you think some people lead their lives as if Satan still has authority over them, rather than Jesus?

Start Thinking:

- How can it make us irresponsible by believing that God is simply in control of everything? Do you know anyone who lives like this? How’s that working out?
- Pastor Bobby said, “It’s not about our ability. It’s about our availability.” Are you available to those you love when you need to be?

Start Sharing:

- Pastor Bobby said, “It’s not about our will power. It’s about submitting our will to His power.” Think about Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-42). Some people have more ability and emergency than others. Is it equally easy for everyone to submit his or her will to God? Discuss.
- Pastor Bobby explained that the Holy Spirit is not our handy man, and that a handy man does it for us, but a helper does it with us. How does God want you to lean in to partnering with the Holy Spirit more?
- In the issues of life, how much time do you spend asking God to reveal how His Spirit can help and guide you? Be specific. Can you improve on this?

Start Praying:

“Lord, thank you for giving us Your Holy Spirit. We are ready to consciously include Him (You) when the issues of life challenge us. Help us to know when and how to partner with you. In the Name of Jesus we ask. Amen.”

Start Doing:

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- Pastor Bobby said, “Relying on self-exertion is a desertion from God.” How can you remember that jumping in to something with your own skill and energy is a way of deserting the God Who is just waiting to help you?
- How will understanding the difference between chickens and eagles cause you to depend more on God’s Wind (Spirit)? Which do you tend to be?
- What are God’s plans for you to look for His direction before burning out in your own efforts? Specifically, how will you hone this skill of waiting and watching?