

CONTROL Labeled – Part 2

ON TV: An altar was a place where Christ Followers would **sacrifice or lay something meaningful down** before God.

ON TV: Our **identity**. It is who we **think we are**, or who we **believe we are**.

ON TV: The need for **CONTROL**.

ON TV: “I’m **out of** control.”
“I’m a control **freak**”
“I’m **in control** of my life.”

ON TV: Being **in control** in our culture is the **positive** thing. Being **out of control** is a **negative** thing.

ON TV: **Picture** of “*Get Smart*” TV show.

ON TV: The **good guys** were “**Control.**” The **bad guys** were “**Chaos.**”

ON TV: Control Freaks

ON TV:

- A controlling person likes to drive the car. A **control freak** likes to drive the car **even when it’s not theirs**.
- A controlling person wants their house to be neat, clean, and organized. A **control freak wants to show you how to clean yours**.
- A controlling person wants to be correct and right about things. A **control freak** wants you to be correct and right and **will correct you when you’re not**.
- A controlling person wants people to do what they ask/tell them to do. A **control freak** doesn’t believe others are qualified enough to do what they ask, **so they do it themselves**.

ON TV: “Trust in the Lord with **some** of your heart and lean on **your own** understanding. In **some** of your ways, acknowledge God, and **you** will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6 CFV

ON TV/OUTLINE: “5 Trust in the Lord with **all** of your heart and **do not lean** on your own understanding. 6 In **all** of your ways, acknowledge God, and **He** will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6

ON TV:

- **First**, most people want **some level** of control.
- **Second**, most people **do not want to admit** that they want some level of control.

ON TV: We feel **insecure**.

ON TV: **You may be controlling because...**

- You’re afraid of **failure**
- You’re afraid of **intimacy**
- You’re trying to get others **to love you**
- You want to **feel powerful** because of how small others make you feel
- You **don’t trust others** because you’ve been hurt before
- You have a **large ego**
- **You had a controlling parent** when you were a child
- You’re **afraid of what other people think** of you.
- Your whole **life feels so out of control** that you’ve got to control something just so you feel some sense of security

ON TV: The more we control, the better we **think** we will feel.

ON TV/OUTLINE: Control replaces **FAITH**.

ON TV:

- **Friendships:** Do I try to control my friendships, or do I have faith that God is in control of them?
- **Single and dating:** Am I trying to control and manipulate the person I'm dating so that they'll see me as somebody I'm not, or am I being the person that God created me to be and have faith that God is in control?
- **Marriage:** Am I trying to restructure my spouse into what I want? Am I trying to manipulate or control my spouse so they're more like me or they will make me feel better? Or am I having faith that God is in control of them and that together with God's help we can have a marriage the way God wants it to be.
- **Children:** Am I controlling of them because I'm afraid they'll reflect poorly on me? Or do I trust that God sees them as an original masterpiece, and that He actually loves them more than I do?
- **Career, Work, School:** Am I trying to work the system, to manipulate, control or direct an outcome? Or do I have faith that if I live a life of integrity and work hard, that God will take care of the results?
- **Health, pain, illness:** Am I always trying to control my logging on WebMD or worrying? Or have I found peace through faith that God is ultimately in control of my health?
- **Finances:** Am I trying to control my money and always trying to get more and look for the next opportunity that will make me more comfortable financially? Or do I have faith in God's plan for my finances? Do I ultimately believe that money is on loan to me from God anyway, and I'm just supposed to be a good manager of it and follow his plan?

ON TV: Faith is needed in all these areas of our life, and **losing control** is actually a good thing.

ON TV: None of sets out to eliminate God from our lives, but in the pursuit to feel better, **it's always easier to control** friendships, relationships, family, work, illness, and finances, **than it is to have faith in God's character and plan**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: When controlling is our default response, we **LIMIT** God.

ON TV/OUTLINE: *"1 Jesus left that part of the country and returned with His disciples to Nazareth, His hometown. 2 The next Sabbath, He began teaching in the synagogue, and many who heard him were **amazed**. They asked, 'Where did He get all the wisdom and the power to perform such miracles. 3 **He's just the carpenter**, the son of Mary, the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters live right here among us.' And they were **deeply offended and refused to believe in Him**." Mark 6:1-3*

ON TV: They were **controlling their reaction** so they could support their lack of faith.

ON TV/OUTLINE: *"And **He was amazed** at their **unbelief**." Mark 6:6*

ON TV/OUTLINE: **NO** faith.

ON TV/OUTLINE: *"5 When Jesus arrived at Capernaum, a Roman officer came and pleaded with Him, 6 'Lord, my young servant lies in bed, paralyzed, and wracked with pain. 7 Jesus said to Him, 'I will go and heal him,' 8 The centurion replied, '**Lord, I'm not worthy to have you come into my home**. But just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I know because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, 'go' and they go, or 'come' and they come. If I say to my slave, 'Do this or that,' they do it.' 10 When Jesus heard this, **He was amazed**. Turning to the crowd, He said, 'I tell you the truth. **I haven't seen faith like this in all the land of Israel**.'" Matthew 8:5-10*

ON TV/OUTLINE: **INCREDIBLE** faith.

ON TV/OUTLINE: Faith is trusting God with **CONTROL** of our lives and our circumstances.

ON TV: How does faith **impact** you?

ON TV/OUTLINE: *"So you see, **it is impossible to please God without faith**, because anyone who wants to come to Him **must believe** that He exists and that **He rewards** those who sincerely seek Him." Hebrews 11:6*

ON TV: What are we **trying to control**, and where are we **trusting, in faith**, that God is sovereign?

ON TV: “The disciples said to Him, ‘We need **more faith**.’” Luke 17:5

ON TV: Faith has to be **developed**.

ON TV: The first step of faith is **acknowledging** Jesus.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “Everyone who **acknowledges me** publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in Heaven.” Matthew 10:32

ON TV: The second step of faith is **following** Jesus.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “‘Come, **follow me**,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will send you out to fish for people.’” Matthew 4:19

ON TV: The third step of faith is getting to **know** Jesus.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “Christ is the **visible image** of the invisible God...” Colossians 1:15a

ON TV: The fourth step of faith is **sacrifice**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “25 If you try to hang on to your life, **you will lose it**. But if you **give up your life** for my sake, **you will save it**.
26 What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?” Matthew 16:25-26

ON TV: The fifth step of faith is to **obey** what Jesus taught.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “If you **obey my commands**, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in His love.” John 15:10

ON TV: **Acknowledging** Jesus, **Following** Jesus, **Knowing** Jesus, **Sacrificing** for Jesus, **Obeying** Jesus... which one would you say, “That’s my **next step**.”

ON TV: Just **imagine what faith, instead of control** might look like in all areas of your life.

ON TV: We **never win** in our relationships or in our circumstances when we’re controlling.

ON TV: Whatever it is that is causing you pain or hurting your life; or the areas you struggle in that just won’t get better...the truth is that **it will never get better until you give up control**.

ON TV: “13 Now listen, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow, we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.’ 14 Why, **you do not even know what will happen tomorrow...**” James 4:13-14a

ON TV: “6 **Don’t be anxious** about anything, but **in everything**, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the **peace of God**, which transcends all understanding, will **guard** your hearts and minds **in Christ Jesus**.”
Philippians 4:6-7