

Learning to Take Control

God is good, and there is nothing bad in Him. Many Christians have a default mode of thinking that God uses bad things to accomplish good purposes, but this is simply bad doctrine. Bad is not good in disguise. God isn't playing games with us or doing hurtful things to bring about good in our lives.

Is God Using Bad Things for Good?

While God can turn what the enemy means for evil into something that works for our good when we trust Him, this doesn't mean God is the author of those bad things. God isn't involved in things that afflict, oppress, break people down, or cause terror.

In the beginning, when God created everything, it was all good. There was no evil. Bad came into the picture through the free will of an angelic being who invented rebellion against God. Eventually, when humans were created, the devil was able to infiltrate the human race because man opened the door and allowed it.

Who's Really in Control?

Many Christians say, "God allowed it" when bad things happen. But we need to renew our minds in this area. If something is bad, evil, oppressive, or depressing, it's not from God. God didn't create evil or the devil. God created an angel who had free will and chose to rebel.

God gives everyone a free will to choose whom they will serve. You're not a puppet with strings being controlled by God. Even in the story of Pinocchio, the puppet wanted to be a real boy with freedom to make his own choices.

The Myth of "God is in Control"

People often say "God is in control," but you won't find that phrase in the Bible. When God created man, He gave him dominion and authority over the earth. God doesn't want to micromanage us. He didn't make us to be robots or puppets. He made us to have free will to make decisions, and He allows us to make mistakes.

Sin isn't just making a mistake—it's rebellion against God. It's not believing Him or trusting Him. Adam and Eve rebelled against God and brought death into the human race. They made a decision they didn't have to make.

How God Trains Us to Use Our Authority

God is training us like parents train their children. When children are young, parents have to micromanage them. But as they grow, parents give them more freedom and responsibility. Similarly, God wants us to mature spiritually so He doesn't have to micromanage us.

The Holy Spirit is referred to as the Helper, not the dictator. He helps us make the right decisions, but He doesn't do everything for us. God wants us to grow up and learn to do things like our Father would do them.

Learning to Make Decisions Like Jesus

Jesus said, "I always do those things that please Him." There were many things Jesus didn't have to pray about because He knew the heart of the Father. Yet Jesus had His own will, which is why in the Garden of Gethsemane He said, "Not My will, but Yours be done."

We're being trained to be sons and daughters of the Most High God, to walk like Him and think more like Him. God wants us to grow up and liberate Him from having to tell us everything He's already told us.

What Happens When We Sin?

When we do transgress and trespass, that's not just making an innocent mistake—that's rebellion. We need to repent and take responsibility for our actions and attitudes. If we confess our sin, our Father is so good that He will wash us, cleanse us, and forgive us.

God removes our sin as far as the east is from the west and remembers it no more. No matter how many times we mess up, God's mercy is so good. If He's willing to forgive us, cleanse us, and reinstate us, we should get up and do better than we did before.

The Confidence We Have in God

In 1 John 5:14-15, we read: "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."

We can know God's will. We might not know all things concerning His will for our lives, but we should do what we know to do. Then we'll know what we need to know when we need to know it. As we grow, the will of God will become less mysterious to us.

Life Application

God has given you authority and dominion in your life. He's not controlling every aspect of your existence—He's empowering you to make godly decisions and live victoriously. This week, challenge yourself to:

Take responsibility for your decisions instead of saying "God is in control" or "God allowed it."

When facing challenges, ask yourself: "What does God's Word say about this situation?" rather than waiting for God to do everything for you.

Recognize areas where you've been spiritually immature, expecting God to micromanage your life, and commit to growing in those areas.

Practice making decisions based on God's Word and principles, trusting that He's given you the authority to act.

Ask yourself: Am I living as a mature child of God who understands my authority, or am I still expecting God to control everything? How can I better exercise the authority God has given me this week? What areas of my life do I need to take more responsibility for instead of waiting for God to do everything?

Remember, God is good, and He's given you everything you need to overcome and live the God kind of life. You have the authority—now use it!

Quotes

1. God is good, and there's nothing bad in Him.
2. Bad is bad—it's not secretly good in disguise, nor is it God working behind the scenes by doing bad things to bring about good.

3. God doesn't like pollution. He loves what is pure, clean, holy, crystal clear, and uncorrupted. He's never for corruption in any form, on any level.
4. God didn't make you a puppet. Even Pinocchio wanted to be free—not a puppet, but a real boy, his own person. God made you a free moral agent.
5. People say, "God is in control," but the Bible never says that.
6. It's time to turn God loose—let Him be free to be God in your life.
7. God created His creation to be free. What a gift! He entrusted us, knowing we might mess it up, muddy the waters, and pollute what He made.
8. The Holy Spirit is called the Helper—not the Dictator.
9. Jesus said, "I always do those things that please Him." There were many things He didn't have to pray about—He knew His Father's heart.
10. You're here being trained as sons and daughters of the Most High God—to walk like Him, think like Him, and grow up so God doesn't have to keep repeating what He's already told you.
11. If God is willing to forgive me, cleanse me, reinstate me, and authorize me to go back out again, then I'm going to do it.
12. We want to liberate God from having to micromanage us.
13. God looking to do things through you, not for you.
14. God is working with us. He's got one hand on the seat, the other on the handlebars—like a father teaching His child to ride a bike without training wheels.
15. God is good. He is so good to give us eternal life—an unceasing, overflowing, absolute fullness of life.

Verses

1. 2 Corinthians 4:4

2. 1 John 3:1

3. 1 John 5:11

4. 1 John 5:13

5. 1 John 5:14

Summary

God is entirely good, with no bad in Him. He doesn't use evil to accomplish good purposes, though He can turn what the enemy means for evil into something beneficial when we trust Him. Many Christians mistakenly say 'God is in control' or 'God allowed it' when bad things happen, but God has actually given humans dominion and authority on earth. Like parents training children toward independence, God is training us to mature spiritually so we can make decisions that align with His character without being micromanaged. We have the confidence that God hears us when we pray according to His will, and as we grow, His will becomes less mysterious to us.