



HOW TO LOOSEN THE GRIP OF CONTROL

True Identity - Pt 2
Pastor Craig Coulter

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

CONTROL GONE BAD

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had not been able to bear children for him. But she had an Egyptian servant named Hagar. So Sarai said to Abram, "The Lord has prevented me from having children. Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can build a family through her." And Abram agreed with Sarai's proposal. So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian maidservant Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. (Genesis 16:1-4)

What are you trying to control: _____

THREE QUESTIONS THAT WILL HELP YOU CHOOSE SURRENDER OVER CONTROL:

- **IS IT WORTH MY CONCERN?**

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:41-42)

- **IS IT MINE TO CONTROL?**

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." Why, **you do not even know what will happen tomorrow**... (James 4:13-14)

- **IS IT FOR GOD ALONE?**

*Do not be anxious about **anything**, but in **everything**, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, **present your requests to God**. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)*

*...(Abraham) went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the place **The Lord Will Provide**... (Genesis 22:13-14)*

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

TALKING IT OVER:

- If you could actually have full control over something, what would it be?
- Even if you've read Proverbs 3:5-6, read it again like you've never seen it before. How is this Scripture inconsistent with culture?
- What are you trying to control? How can you surrender this to God? What's your action step this week?