

Surrender over Control

Gregg Brenes

The choices you make and the steps you take today will determine the *you in five years*.

Choose *surrender over control*.

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

Control gone bad...

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; 2 so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said. 3 So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. 4 He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. Gen 16:1-4

What are you trying to control? _____

When is it the right time to choose surrender over control?

- Is it *really* worth my concern?
- Is it mine to control?
- Is it for God alone?

God is in control.

In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, "So shall your descendants be."

19 Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; 20 yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. Romans 4:18-21 NASB

Connect

If you could have full control over something, what would it be?

Word and Reflection

Who we become in five years and beyond will be determined by the choices we make and the steps we take today. One intentional choice you can make today is to choose surrender over control. Surrender your need for control by doing what you can do and trusting God with what you cannot or should not do. Ultimately, our trust is in God and He is in control.

Proverbs 3:5-6; Genesis 16:1-4; Romans 4:18-21

- Which part of the message made an impact, caught your attention or challenged you?
- Read Proverbs 3:5-6 like you're reading it for the first time. How is this Scripture inconsistent with culture? Why do you think we tend to choose control instead of surrender?
- Read Genesis 16:1-4 and reflect on Abram and Sarai's situation. Have you ever tried taking God's plans into your own hands? How did that turn out for you?
- Share a past or present experience where you've given God your trust. How are you practically doing this? What does it look like to surrender to God?
- Read Romans 4:18-21. What are you trying to control? How can you surrender this to God? What is your next step this week?

Moving forward

- Write down the thing you're trying to control on paper. Put this paper somewhere you spend time every day and repeatedly give it to God in prayer.
- Determine what step you will take to choose surrender over control in this area.

Prayer

- Memorize Proverbs 3:5-6 this week. Ask God to loosen your grip on control. Surrender to God in prayer any area you're tempted to control.
- Pray for the needs of those in your Grace Group and the people you're reaching out to.