

Control of Our Self!



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The title has us asking—who is in control of us—is it our *self*-nature in control or the *divine*-nature in control—that is the vital question to be answered. *Self*-control must be deleted and *divine*-control installed in its place if we want to be in the center of the will of God.

Not many who *profess* faith in Christ understand what self-control really is or how it works—nor do they realize that this *doing* things, *deciding* on issues, and *responding* to situations cannot be done from the control of self. We have to *know* what self-control *means* and *how* it is eliminated.

The first humans were right in the sight of God in every possible way. Genesis 1:27 “*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*” God created them to have the same *divine love*; the same *inner peace*; the same *faith*; and the same *spiritual wisdom* that *He* had.

From the beginning God was to *live* in us and *control* us—spirit, soul, and body. He was to be our *Physician*; our *Protector*; our *Teacher*, and our *Supplier* of anything we could need. He was all those things to Adam—prior to his *fall from grace* by disobeying the *Word of instruction* from God.

Because Adam *trusted* God, he was able to *receive* from God all that was needed. It was as

natural for Adam to trust God as it was to breathe. These first two in Eden had no worries about food; no aches or pains, and they felt perfectly safe because God provided everything for comfort, peace, protection, happiness, and health. Life was good!

People today try to live *longer* and look more *youthful* by every means, medicine, or method possible—but generally achieving little success. In Eden, there was no hard labor for eight or more hours, but just pleasant landscaping tasks. God did not plan for humans to wear themselves out trying to make ends meet. It was refusing to follow His plan that shortened life on earth.

Until humans *rebelled* against God, conditions were *ideal* for them, but when they disobeyed God, life became much different. With that rebellious attitude, man started to manage, control, and plan his *own* life according to his *own* wisdom. *That* is the center of *self's* control—and it is worse *today* than ever.

Religious people generally live a fairly moral life, but so many do not know they *still* have a *carnal* mind with *self* in control. They could be honest, decent, sincere, and hard-working, but still have self in control of their life.

Everything they say, do, and decide is done by their own power and plan, but apart from God's divine power and plan—a plan that is clearly explained in Scripture. And that plan—encompassing every aspect of life—*eliminates* self.

This brings us back to *God* and to where the first *humans* were—totally dependent on God's love, mercy, and power. Returning to that position of total trust on God results in our being healthy, contented, blessed, protected, and righteous.

God *wants* us to have a good life. Matthew 11:28 “*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and*

lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” When we learn to *trust* God through our *faith* in His Son our life *will* be pleasant and be at rest.

Since Adam fell from God's *grace* by disobeying God's *Word*, everyone is born with an *inborn self-confidence*—and having *no confidence* in God. Praying to God for answers seems *foolish* to the world. Self cannot trust God for the smallest thing. Everyone begins life with *self* in control and unable to trust God for anything.

If we had to describe *who* God is and *what* He is like—with self *still* in control—our description would be flawed and incorrect—*opposite* really to what God is actually like. This is because the *sin* nature knows nothing about the *divine* nature. Self wants *nothing* to do with God!

Romans 8:6 “*For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*” We are all born with a *fallen* nature with *self* in control.

Jesus said *self* must *die* in us—and not be just polished up to *look* good; it is *not* to be improved or try to make better—but *removed* completely. *Self* cannot *serve* God and self will not *trust* God. If self is *in* control, we cannot *love* our neighbor or anyone else, but when self is *out* of our heart, and the nature of Christ in its place, we *will* instinctively *love* our neighbor; *pray* for others—even enemies—and will *trust* God in faith for everything.

With His Spirit in control, we will *love* God supremely; *forgive* our enemies; *bless* those who curse us; and *pray* for those who use us spitefully. Our attitude will be right toward God and everyone else. We will *trust* Him in *faith* for all things. Romans 8:9 “*Ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if*

any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”

Self must be out of our heart, because it is the cause of all the trouble in our life. *Self* and its resulting attitudes are the basic cause of the horrible condition the world is in today—a world of trouble, illness, poverty, tragedies, calamities, accidents, malice, cruelty, disease, wickedness, and hatred toward groups and individuals. The cause is that *self* is in control of their life. That evil nature lies deep in the human heart from birth.

If anyone finds themselves in the lake of fire, they can be sure it was *self* that took them there. What is not commonly known is that *self* can still be in control—whether robbing a bank or preaching a sermon—*self* is just as evil in one place as the other—just as wicked dressed in casual clothes or in a wool suit. *Self* will destroy our soul, regardless of our appearance. Whether from the pulpit or the pew, *self* can still take someone to the Lake of Fire.

Many people say Jesus is their Savior; millions are members of a church: and tens of millions believe they will go to Heaven when they die. In the meantime, however, they think it would not matter if they cheat, lie, steal, and commit adultery—they will still go to Heaven because they once professed faith in Christ—that is the wrong and deadly teaching of OSAS eternal security doctrine.

The truth is that *self* can and will cheat, lie, steal, and commit adultery—because there has been no genuine conversion of heart. Millions of people professing to follow Jesus, are doing just that every day, and they will shockingly land in Hell—if there is no true repentance, because *self* can still be in control—deep in their heart.

Self must die in us and Christ must live in us before we could enter Heaven. Romans 8:10 “If Christ be in you, the body [self] is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.”

John 12:24 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.”

Jesus then speaks on *self* that can still be in control. John 12:25 “He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.” Those who hold on to their worldly life—no matter what disguise or outward appearance it has—will not only eventually lose it here but will also lose their soul for an eternity.

He that hateth his life in this world, are those who hate the *self-life* in their heart. *Self* is a desperately wicked attitude, so we are to hate the *self-life* that constantly wants to control us. Not many ever realize that their hope for eternity is for the death of *self* to take place in their heart. *Self* is totally against God’s plan for this life, so if it is not eliminated will eventually lead us to the flames with the devil.

God has a plan to remove and eradicate *self*—we must follow it. Step one Isaiah 55:7 “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon”—forsake and return and have mercy. We must remain in God’s school and not drop out.

If *self* meets with an employment problem; some unjust treatment; being falsely accused; or getting no increase in wage, *self* will quit and seek another job. We are not to quit a job, but to remain in that position so that God can help us overcome by faith. He will correct any problem in His way.

God’s plan for the workshop is clearly explained. 1 Peter 2:18 “[Employees], be submissive [subject] to your masters [with all fear], and show them the utmost respect—not only if they are kind and thoughtful, but also if they are

unreasonable. 19 For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.”

As believers in Christ, we are called to endure mean treatment in God’s way and scripturally. Jesus did not threaten; did not insult back, but left every wrong in His Father’s hands. He Philippians 2:7 “Made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

If we will humble ourselves and submit to the boss whom God has placed over us, we will be blessed in many ways. What He gave His Son, He promises to give us, because we are equal-heirs with Him. Since Jesus humbled Himself Philippians 2:9 “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth.”

The Father exalted the Son to His throne, because He met the wrongs on earth in the right way—according to God’s plan—*self* never controlled. And God has a throne for us, too if we will walk in the light and way of His Truth—Jesus is the light—and if we will meet things which do not please us in His way—then *self* is gone, and God is in control of our life. We can look for the return of Jesus—suddenly!

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