

Who's In Control?

"Healing" series- Part 03

Use the next few minutes to connect and fellowship with other members of the group by discussing the following: Let's say that in this life, your professional work is no longer required. Your set of skills and knowledge have no function or value any longer. If you could choose another profession in life, what would it be? Why?

Let's get on the same page -

In the book of James, the author gives us these instructions:

"Look here, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit.' How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. What you ought to say is, 'If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that.' Otherwise you are boasting about your own plans, and all such boasting is evil."
-James 4:13-16

What lessons could you apply to your life based on these instructions?

For three and a half years, Jesus had directed his disciples in the ways of God and in the ministry of the gospel. Realizing that He must soon physically depart from them, He promises that the Holy Spirit would come and assist them. Today let's explore the truth that our lives are best served when we turn over control to the Holy Spirit.

Book: John 16:5-15

Joh 16:5 "But now I am going away to the one who sent Me, and not one of you is asking where I am going.

Joh 16:6 Instead, you grieve because of what I've told you.

Joh 16:7 But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send Him to you.

Joh 16:8 And when He comes, He will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment.

Joh 16:9 The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in Me.

Joh 16:10 Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see Me no more.

Joh 16:11 Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged.

Joh 16:12 "There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now.

Joh 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own but will tell you what He has heard. He will tell you about the future.

Joh 16:14 He will bring Me glory by telling you whatever He receives from Me.

Joh 16:15 All that belongs to the Father is Mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever He receives from Me.'

Let's get into the Word:

What does verses 5-6 say about the mindset of the disciples? Can you relate a time when your attention was drawn to something else that was really less important?

Read verse 7 again. Can you imagine why it might be far better for the world to have the presence of the Holy Spirit rather than the personal presence of the Son of God? How might the Holy Spirit be of more value?

List the job description of the Holy Spirit as described in verses 8-11.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Discuss how an unbeliever might try to control these aspects of life in his own understanding and power?

According to Jesus, there was much more for Him to teach His disciples, but they could not comprehend it in the moment. What would change later that they could understand?

Jesus says that the Holy Spirit will “guide us in all truth”. To what extent does the Spirit guide us through our thoughts, impressions, or feelings? Can you give biblical support or an example?

Within Christianity, there are various and sometimes divisive beliefs concerning the person and work of the Holy Spirit...His ministry, His control over us, etc. When you read verses 13-15, what do you know for certain about the relationship between Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit?

How can we know which biblical truths are essential and thus worth dividing over, and which doctrines should not divide us?

From your own experience, how do you turn control of the situations of your life over to God?

Let's get real (with self!)

What area of your life are you still trying to control within your own power?

What are the possibilities if you were to turn control over to God instead?

What work do you need to do to lessen the need to control others?