



PART 2: SURRENDER OVER CONTROL
PASTOR CRAIG GROESCHEL • October 8th & 9th, 2016

Proverbs 3:5 & 6

Genesis 16:1-4 Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; 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.”

1. IS IT WORTH MY CONCERN?

You can have control or growth, but you can't have both.

2. IS IT MINE TO CONTROL?

3. IS IT FOR GOD ALONE?

Prayer is NEVER a last resort.

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Got my toes stepped on quite a bit today...how about you? I don't think I'm at "freak" level when it comes to control, but in some areas I get pretty close. I guess you would need to ask my family, friends and coworkers for an accurate read on that. There are obvious take-aways from today's message. I have defined four for us.

TAKE IT WITH YOU...

1. OWN IT Because it is in our nature, nearly all of us need to recognize the "control" thing in our lives. Not only should we admit it, but make a decision to surrender it to God. Owing it is step one because we admit we need to grow and God steps right into that opening and begins to grow and equip us. We never stop growing and refining to become more equipped for His purpose in our life.

2. GET COUNSEL 4 BALANCE All of us need help to see our blind areas. If you're like me, once I recognize another weak area and decide to own it, the pendulum can swing too far the other way. If I am too controlling, fine – I won't take responsibility for anything. Help! That's just as bad or worse. Good friends who love God and you can help you zero in.

3. PRAY This isn't just a prayer to stop unhealthy control issues, it is prayer to place God in control. Trusting Him is connected to prayer for the relationships and situations that we would normally try to control on our own. Surrender these things to Him and look for His promptings for how we should appropriately be connected and directed.

4. WORK I love the powerful simplicity of this series title - I CHOOSE. As with all growing and equipping, changing behavior is still a choice. We can have all the knowledge – own it, hear it in the counsel of others, pray about it, but it still comes down to deciding to obey God – the ultimate surrender. Let's let God grow us and equip us in the area of control!

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