



Postcards

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THE

Ledge

Out of Control

Introduction:

God chose to take away from me,
for a time, the single greatest
means of control and influence
that I possess — my ability to
speak and persuade.

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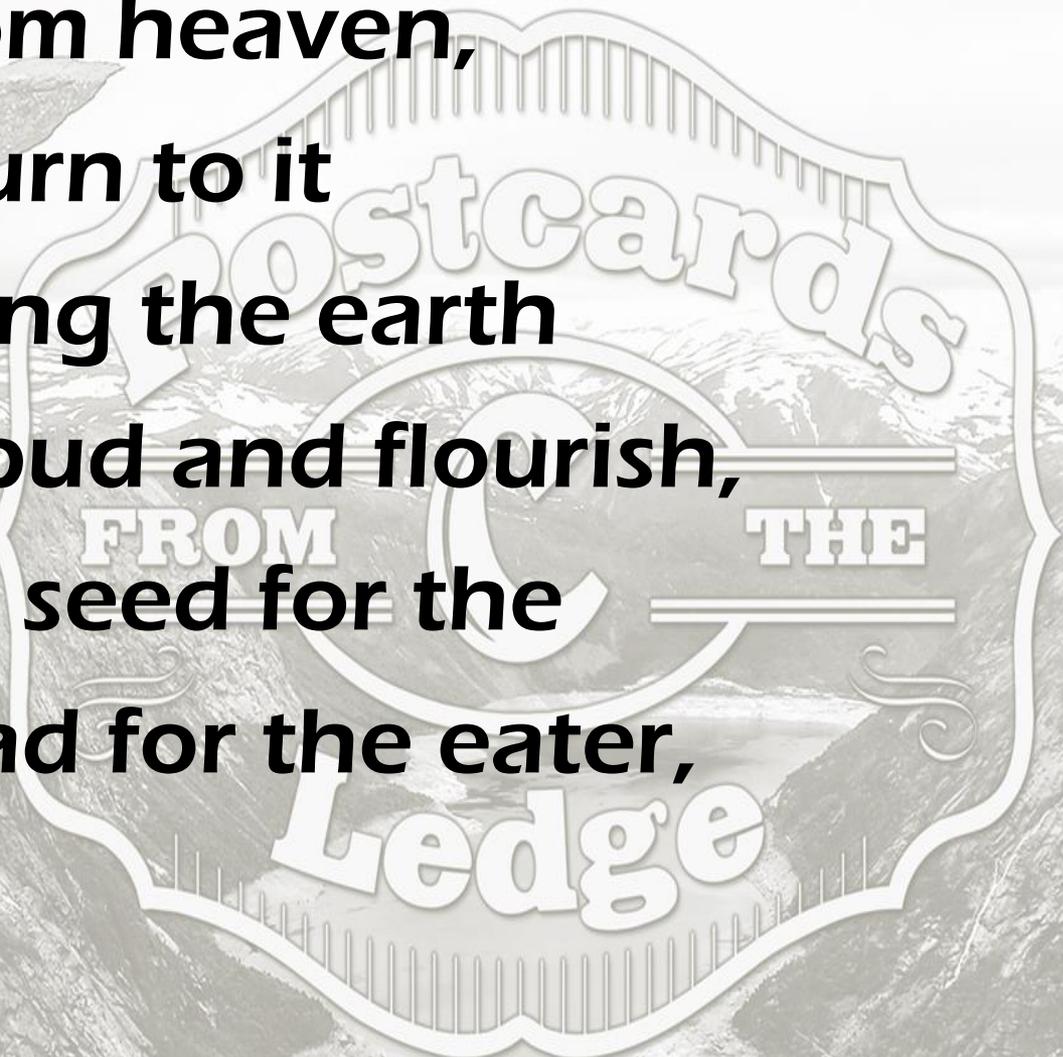
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Text: Isaiah 55:8-11

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD.

“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

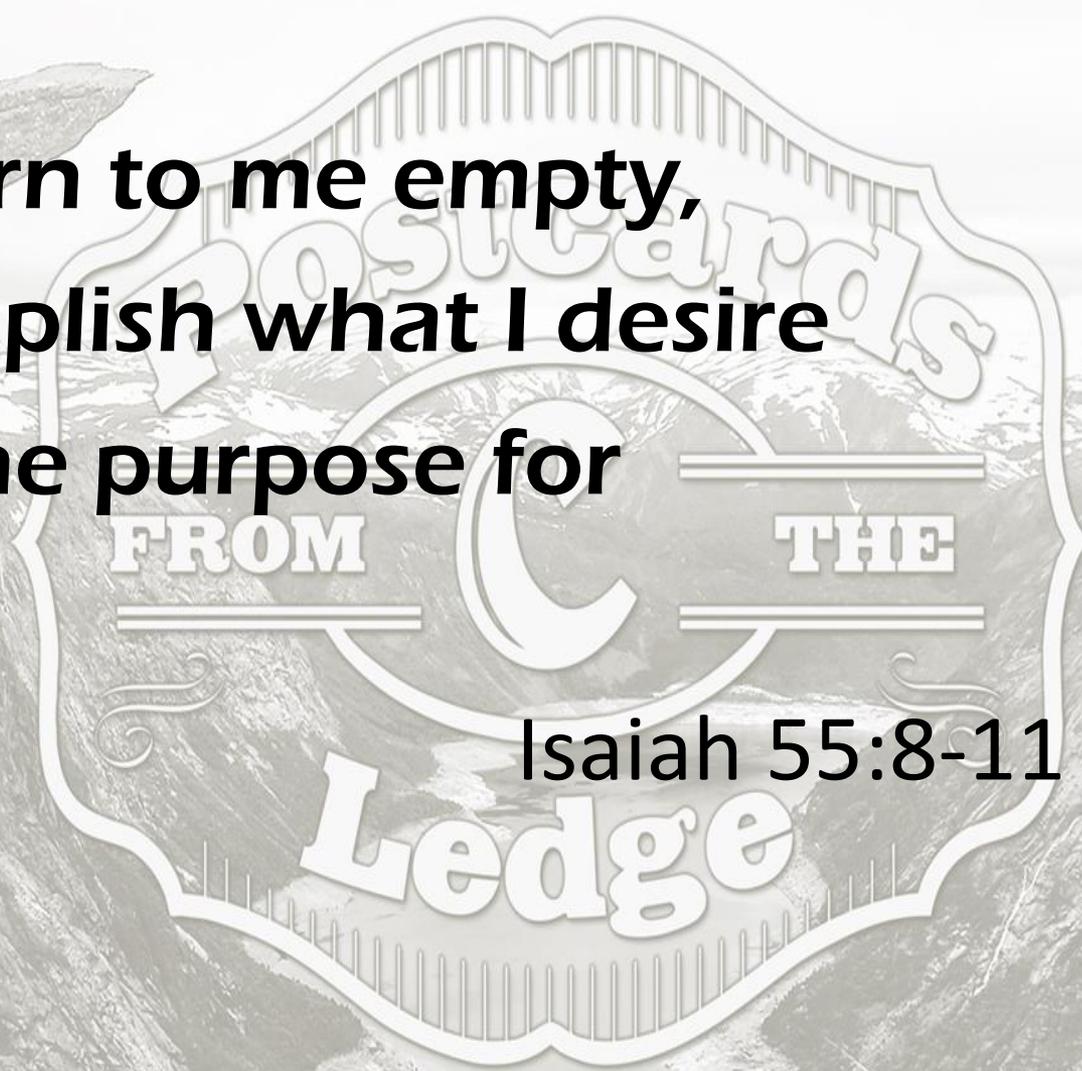
**As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the
sower and bread for the eater,**



**so is my word that goes out from my
mouth:**

**It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for
which I sent it.**

Isaiah 55:8-11



How many of these statements are true of you?

1. Most of the time, I don't give a lot of thought to who is in control. I only **CARE** about control when I'm **CONCERNED** about the results!

2. Generally, when I am **CONCERNED** about the results, I assume a greater level of control, because I **TRUST** myself more than I **TRUST** anyone else.

How many of these statements are true of you?

3. Sometimes, when I've **TRUSTED** myself and assumed control of a situation, I've found that my **TRUST** was **MISPLACED** — someone else might have done better!

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Some people have a deeply-felt sense of need for personal control. The cause may be:

1. **FEAR**; sometimes the true issue is **INSECURITY**.

2. **ANGER**; sometimes the true issue is the desire to **DOMINATE** others.

3. **OVER-EXTENSION**;
sometimes the true issue is a lack of healthy margins of **TIME**, **MONEY**, or **ENERGY**.

There are far more people who feel the need for a high level of control in their lives than there are people who actually have it. The result of this is that many people live with a high degree of **FRUSTRATION**!

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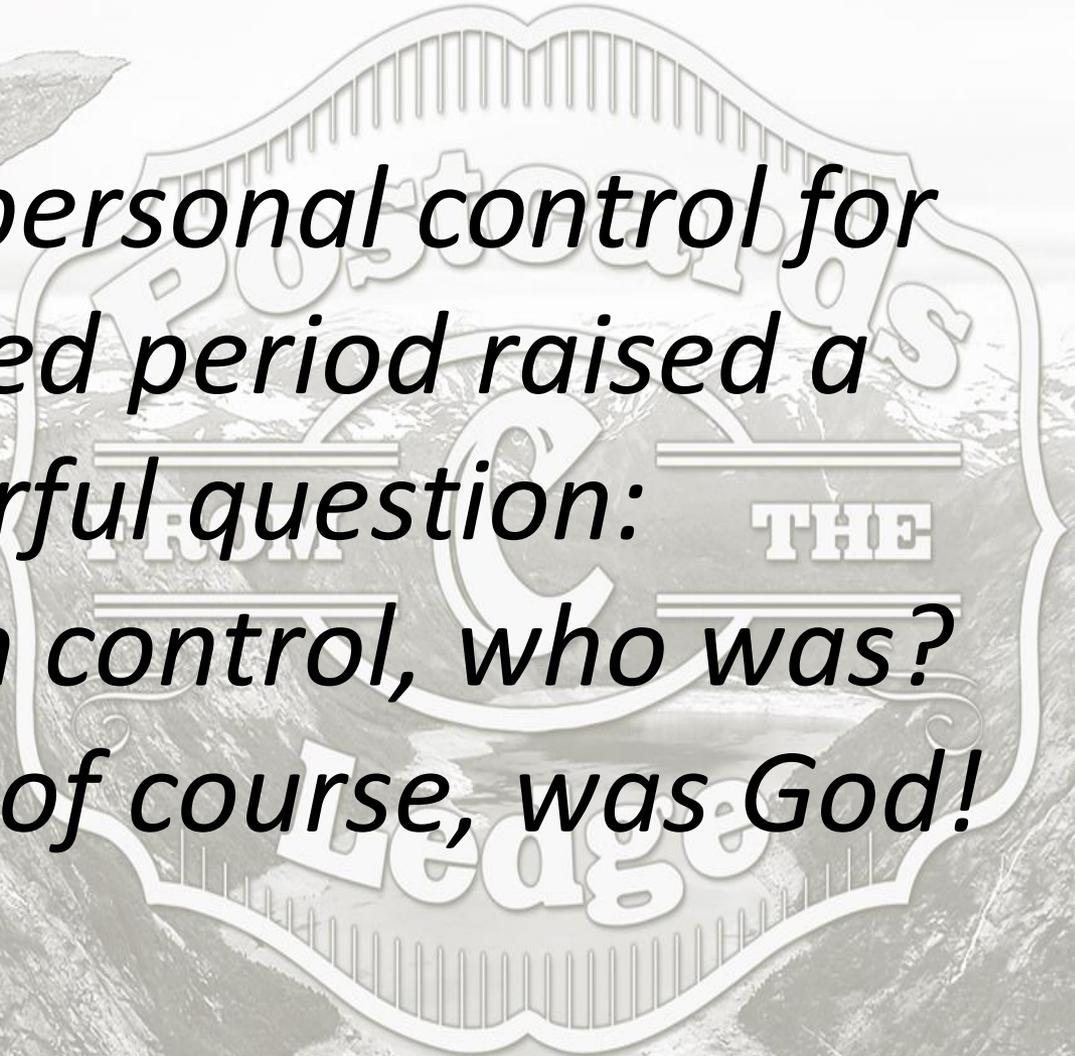
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*My loss of personal control for
an extended period raised a
powerful question:
If I wasn't in control, who was?
The answer, of course, was God!*

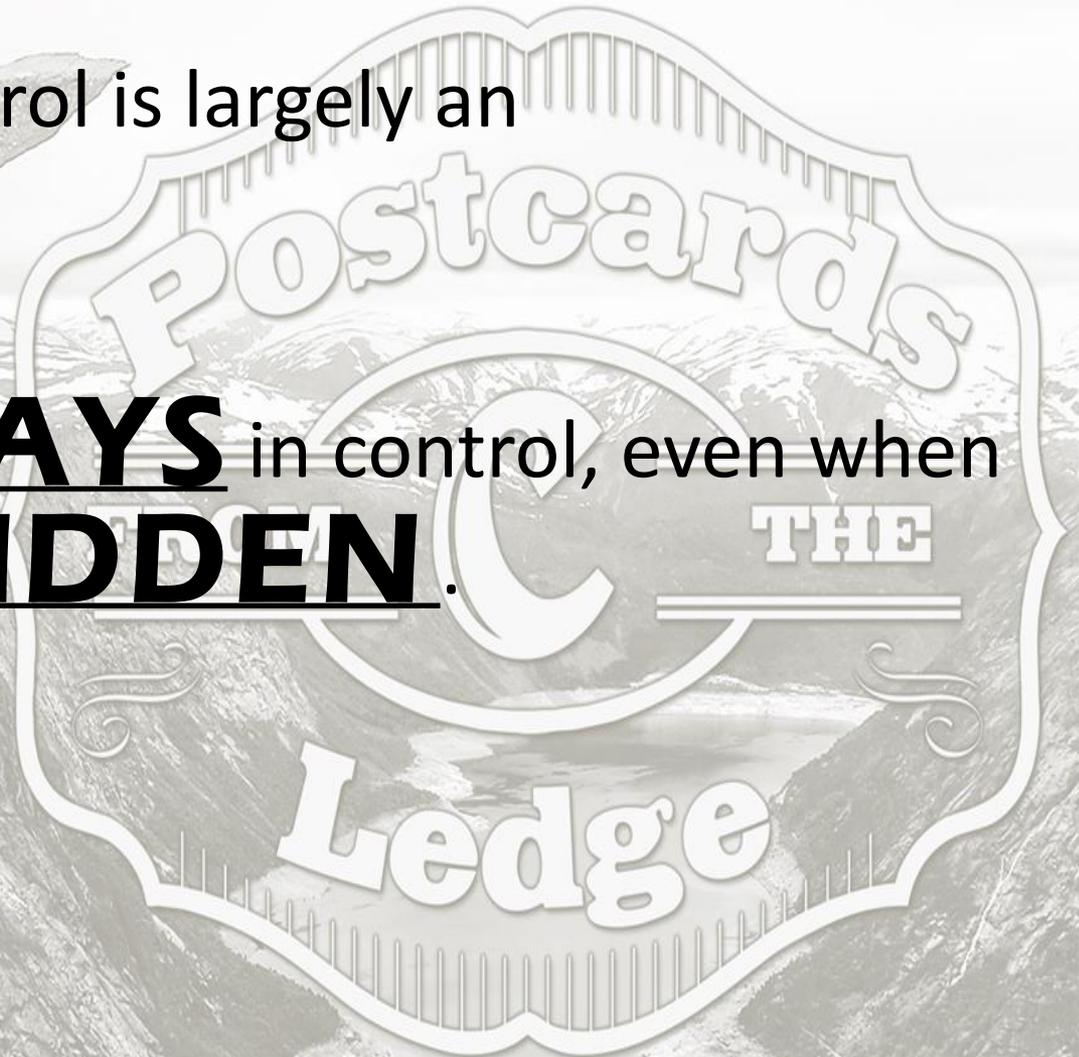


Reality Check:



1. My sense of control is largely an **ILLUSION**.

2. God is **ALWAYS** in control, even when He seems to be **HIDDEN**.

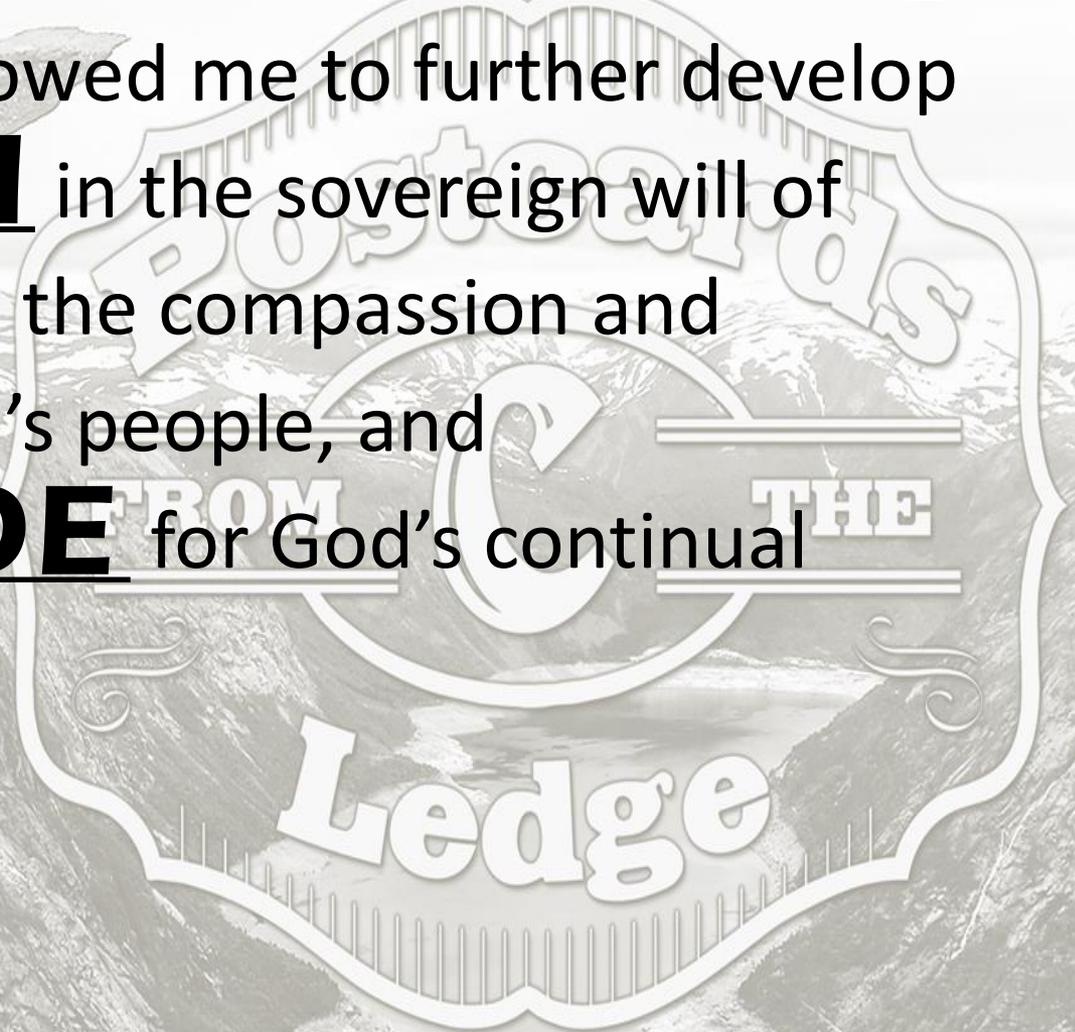


Reality Check:

3. God has the **POWER** and **AUTHORITY** to take direct control of my life at any time and for any reason that He wishes.

4. God doesn't hold me **ACCOUNTABLE** for the control that I don't have, but for the **INFLUENCE** that I do have.

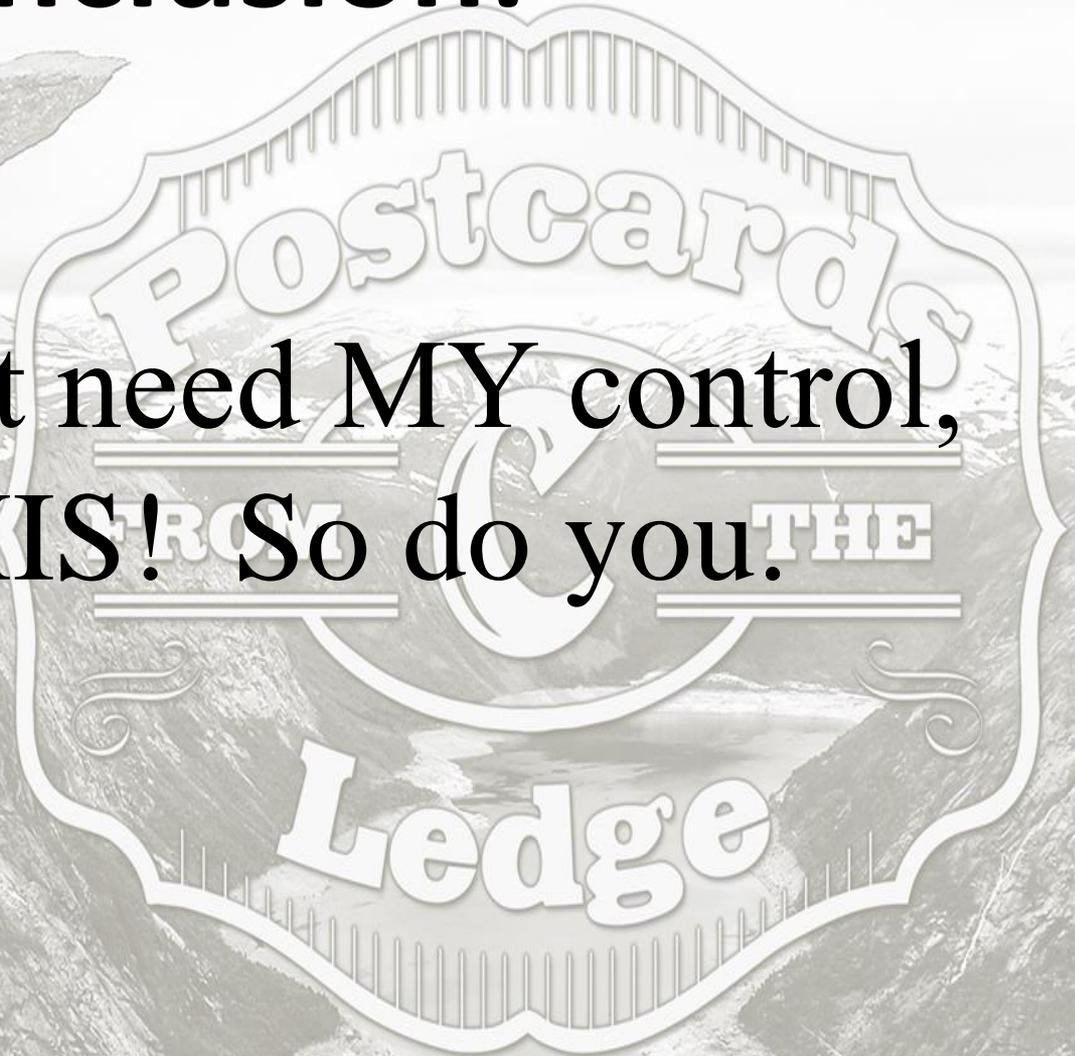
My loss of control allowed other people to further develop their own **SPIRITUAL GIFTS** and allowed me to further develop my own **FAITH** in the sovereign will of God, **TRUST** in the compassion and competence of God's people, and **GRATITUDE** for God's continual blessings.



A small silhouette of a person walking on a narrow, overhanging rock ledge. The background is a grayscale photograph of a rugged, rocky coastline with a sea stack and waves.

Conclusion:

God doesn't need MY control,
I need HIS! So do you.





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