

Out of Control

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Text: Isaiah 55:8-11

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.

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 _____ about control when I'm _____ about the results!

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

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

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

1. _____; sometimes the true issue is _____.

2. _____; sometimes the true issue is the desire to _____ others.

3. _____; sometimes the true issue is a lack of healthy margins of _____, _____, or _____.

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 _____!

*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 _____.
2. God is _____ in control, even when He seems to be _____.
3. God has the _____ and _____ to take direct control of my life at any time and for any reason that He wishes.
4. God doesn't hold me _____ for the control that I don't have, but for the _____ that I do have.

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

Conclusion:

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