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**Navigating Life**  
**“Giving Over Control”**  
(Part 3)

**Intro:** Many things in this life require us to give over control to someone else in order to experience the desired result. (Bus / Plane / Surgery) – complete strangers! Why then is it so difficult to embrace the idea that in order for us to navigate life successfully, we need to give God control over our lives? This is the next step in successfully navigating life. In order for us to give over the control of our lives to God, we must first be willing to give up the things that hinder the transfer of control. There are 3 key areas that we must give up before we will be able to give over control.

**I. We Must Be Willing To Give Up Our Rights**

**A. We need a personal title transfer**

*I Cor. 6:19-20 “... You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price...” (NLT)* (Referring to the price of the cross.)

*Rom. 12:1 “And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice – the kind He will accept. When you think of what He has done for you, is this too much to ask?” (NLT)*

(Once again the rationale for this decision is based on what God did for us.)

1. As long as we believe we hold the title to our lives, God is not ultimately in control. A title refers to ownership. If you hold the title to your car / your house / your boat / you are the owner.
2. Because you are the owner, you have the right to make decisions regarding what you own. Last weekend, I had 30 yards of gravel put down at my house. I didn't ask anyone's permission to do that. It's my house. I have a right to do what I want.
3. Let's say that you rent. Before you can do anything in a rental, you have to first call and ask permission of the owners. WHY? Because you don't hold the title to the house...it's not yours. You don't have the right to do whatever you want.

4. Many people treat Jesus as a tenant in their life rather than the owner of their life. He's in your house (your life), but He has to ask permission from you to do anything instead of the other way around.
5. A title transfer is recognizing that in order to give over control, I first must give over the ownership of my life to God. I acknowledge what the Bible says, "...you do not belong to yourself..." My life belongs to Him! I make a conscious decision to transfer the title and give up my right to call the shots in my life.
6. This is a radical concept in our Western, educated, liberated, free-spirited, do whatever you want, culture. It's all about our rights!
7. So often the reason we don't hear God giving us directions in life is because we haven't given Him the right to. People say, "Why doesn't God talk to me?" Answer: You're not willing to give up your rights to your life. You still hold the title. You're limiting His influence on your life.

B. We need a personal identity change

*Col. 1:7 "You learned it from Epaphras, our dear **fellow servant**..." (NIV)*

*Col. 4:7 "Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, faithful minister and a **fellow servant** in the Lord." (NIV)*

*Phil. 2:5 "Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had. (What was that? The Mindset / attitude of a servant.)*

1. What you believe about yourself will dictate how you live. Beliefs determine behavior. Thinking controls our actions.
2. When we gave our lives to Jesus Christ, our identities were forever changed. We were changed from sinners to saints / adopted into God's family as His children / but by far one of the most common terms used is SERVANT.
3. We are to identify ourselves as fellow servants of Jesus. We are to have the same attitude that Jesus had...that of a servant. We are to change our understanding of who we are from owner of our lives to using my life to serve God and His purposes.
4. Now, I realize the term servant may not excite you that much. Once again, it pretty counter-cultural. But in God's world, servants are loved / provided for / don't carry the stress of ownership / don't have to figure things out, just follow / they simply enjoy a loving Master who provides for all their needs.
5. Some of you just don't like that term servant. But the reality is, you're already a servant. Without God, you're a slave to your sin / desires / to this world / circumstances / emotions / to your wounding / to your job / Who would you rather be a servant to?
6. Unless we embrace this mindset, it's pretty tough to be willing to give up our rights. It's natural for a servant to understand that their life is to do the will of their Master.

7. Once again, how well can we hear God giving us life directions when we haven't yet embraced the identity of a servant? When we haven't yet told God, "Lord, I am Your servant. I'll do whatever You say."

If you really desire God to Navigate your life, you first must give up your right to dictate your life direction.

I believe this is a daily decision. Have you made this decision? Are you making it every day?

## II. We Must Be Willing To Give Up Our Pride

How do we do this?

### A. Admit you can't do it

- I don't like this one. I have a real problem admitting I can't do something. Self-sufficiency / independence is built into my flesh and DNA.
- Illustrate:
- A certain amount of this is good and healthy in life, but unfortunately, we carry it over into our relationship with God.

*Prov. 3:7 "Don't be impressed with your own wisdom..." (NLT)*

*Prov. 12:15 "The way of the fool is right in his own eyes..." (NASB)*

*James 4:6 "...God sets Himself against the proud..." (NLT)*

*Prov. 16:5 "Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord..." (NASB) – WHY? Why does God hate pride so much?*

1. Pride is what started the whole mess in the beginning. It's the original problem. At the root, pride is an independent spirit where we refuse to admit our need for God. (Garden of Eden story) Dependence Vs Independence.
2. It is our pride which takes us on a path away from God. It is THE lie that Satan uses to steer people from God.
  - / *Rom 1:25 "Exchanged the truth of God for the lie" – Worship and serve yourself rather than God! Do your own thing / Go your own way. You don't need God! Pride!*
3. Until we admit to God that we simply cannot navigate life successfully without Him our pride remains. Some of you are lost and you still have your hands firmly fixed on the steering wheel saying, "I can figure this out!"
4. Some people get so angry at God. "Why aren't You helping me?" God would answer back, "I can't...you won't let me. You won't give me the wheel." "You won't admit you can't".
5. Often, God allows painful situations to jar us out of our conviction that we can handle it. He lets us get to the end of our human resources / understanding. Often, we have to explore every option we can think of until God is the last one.
6. Maybe you're ready to admit you simply can't do it. Maybe you're finally ready to dump your pride. If so, there's one more thing to admit.

## B. Admit that only God can

*James 4:10* “When you bow down before the Lord and **admit your dependence on Him**, He will lift you up and give you honor.” (NLT)

*Prov. 3:5-6* Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will direct your paths.” (NLT)

Check out God’s formula for life. Trust + Dependence + Humility = A God directed life!

*Prov. 16:20* “...blessed is he who trusts in the Lord.” (NASB) This is the blessed way of life!

1. The second part of giving up our pride is admitting that only God is capable of accurately / successfully navigating my life. Admitting that He is my only option not one of the many options to consider.
2. I love how AA and 12 steps words this: Step 2&3: Came to believe that only a power greater than ourselves (GOD) could restore us to sanity. (I can’t do it! I need someone else.) Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God. (Only God can! I must give up control!)
3. I thought God helps those who help themselves. I don’t know who was the first to coin that phrase, but it is a lie! It’s not in the Bible. It doesn’t come from the heart of God. This comes from the heart of independent man.
4. Truth: God helps those who give up their pride and depend on Him. God helps those who admit they’re helpless! God helps those who humble themselves before Him.
5. The opposite of pride is humility. Humility is admitting your need for God and choosing to depend on Him instead of yourself.

Is your pride keeping you from God’s resources / From Him navigating your life? Are you ready to give up your pride?

Once again, I believe this is something that we choose every day...admitting I can’t and admitting only He can.

## III. We Must Be Willing To Give Up Our Fear

- Giving up control creates fear. As a parent, if you’ve ever taught your kids how to drive, you know exactly what I’m talking about. As a parent, sitting in the passenger side is a terrifying experience. You know they don’t have a clue what they’re doing and they could kill you at any moment! They are in control. No brake on my side.
- Giving control to our teenagers is scary, but why is giving over control of our lives to God so fearful? Let me give you some ways to move past this.

### A. Identify what paralyzes you

*Ps. 91:5* “Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night, nor fear the dangers of the day.” (NLT)

*Prov. 3:25-26 “You need not be afraid of disaster...for the Lord is your security...” (NLT)*

1. What terror / what danger / what disaster are you afraid of if you give up the control of your life to God and let Him navigate your life? C’mon...what are you afraid of? You are afraid of something or you would have already done it!
2. Are you afraid of missing out on some fun? / are you afraid of where God may take you? / Are you afraid of the unknown? / Are you afraid of what He may require of you? / Are you afraid if He really knows best? / afraid He’s going to change your plans?
3. I used to be afraid of where God might take me. I was sure God would take my life in a direction I didn’t want to go. Being a pastor wasn’t very appealing. (My experience with pastors wasn’t very positive – conflict / moving / hard on families / I didn’t fit the mold either “I don’t want to do that God!”)
4. Be brutally honest...what fear is paralyzing you from giving up control?

B. Take steps in the direction of your fear

- Are you crazy?

*Ps. 37:3 “Trust in the Lord and do good...” (NLT)*

*Josh. 1:9 “I command you – be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid...” (NLT)*

*Ps. 37:5 Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust Him and He will help you.” (NLT)*

*Ps. 118:6 “The Lord is for me, so I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?” (NLT)*

*Prov. 3:26 “”For the Lord will be your confidence...” (NASB)* Therefore...Move out!!! Stop being paralyzed by your fear.

1. The only way for you to discover that your fears are unfounded is to experience the Lord directing your life. Actually navigating by His coordinates, following His plans for your life and seeing them work in real life.
2. The Lord will become your confidence only as you experience how trustworthy He is. You will never experience how trustworthy He is until you trust Him in the area of your fear.
3. When I was a youth pastor, I used to try to help kids move past their fears and develop faith by taking them to a ropes course. They had a series of activities that took place 40ft. in the air. (explain) My favorite one was the telephone pole - share
4. The point of these activities is to move past your fears and trust the one holding the rope. You will never experience God holding the rope unless you jump!
5. Some of you won’t follow what God says in His word because of fear / won’t get involved in serving / won’t go to a class / won’t give financially / Your fear is keeping you from God navigating your life.

6. Now, it's time to look your fear in the face and walk right at it! It's time to experience the Lord being your confidence in life NOT yourself.

Sometimes our lives just seem so far off course that it feels impossible to ever dream of getting back on God's path. That's because we're looking at our life from our limited resources. If we're willing to give the control of our lives to Him, He can undo anything. He can undo what we've become and where we're at. That's the hope He offers every person.

Video: Rush of Fools