

OUT OF CONTROL TAKEAWAY

Key Point

There is never a moment when God is not in control or is surprised by what is happening.

- 1) When tragedy strikes, how can you combat that initial feeling that tells you God is not in control?

- 2) What is a verse(s) you can have in your arsenal to remind you that He can be trusted? A few to consider are: Genesis 50:20, Psalm 27:13-14, Psalm 29:10-11, Psalm 103:19, and Proverbs 3:5-6.

- 3) In this season, does anything have you on a roller coaster of up-and-down emotions? Note below.

- 4) Do you fight for control in an out-of-control world? Give an example of how you are now trying or have previously tried to control outcomes.

Key Point:

Sometimes God, as Lord of your life, answers your pleas with no or not now.

- 5) Do you have an ongoing prayer before the Lord about an out-of-control circumstance in your life? How long have you been crying out to Him?

- 6) How can your history with God deepen your trust in Him as Lord over your life and its storms?

- 7) When praying for others, why is it so easy to lose sight of the fact that God knows them, loves them, and wants their best even more than you do?

Key Point:

When circumstances are out of your control, trust Jesus as Lord over your storm. Be still. Be real. Believe.

Be Still until you know how He would have you proceed.

- 8) When you don't know what to do in a situation, why is it vital to be still until you "know" how to proceed? What are the dangers of moving forward when you don't have clarity from the Lord?

- 9) When have you sensed you should be still but acted anyway? Do you have an example of when you took the reins from the Lord Jesus and drove yourself over a cliff? What was the outcome?

Be Real in your prayer life.

- 10) God knows your heart and what you're feeling, so pretense is pointless. How open and real are you in prayer? Do you utter words of faith, yet harbor doubt in your heart?

- 11) It's easy to give sound advice and Scriptures to others. When faced with your own life's storms, do you ever stop and ask what your advice to another in a similar situation would be?

- 12) Have you faced trials that you ultimately learned were perfectly suited for you, that you were *the* called (Romans 8:28) one for His purpose in that situation? Give an example.

Believe that God has a plan, even when it isn't evident.

- 13) It only makes sense that an easy road for others creates ease for us. Heart Check: Review your current prayer list. Do any of the answers you seek have your own ease as their basis?

- 14) What if your prayers as a parent or a friend were focused on the other person's ultimate best and not their ease? How can you pray for people in your life differently?

- 15) Read Job 13:15. God can only live through you once you're slain. An alive _____ will always fight for control.
your name here

UNDER CONTROL TAKEAWAY

Key Point

Tame the tongue. Speak when you should and don't when you shouldn't.

To offer wisdom to others, it must be attained through walking closely with Jesus and reading His Word. Being intellectual isn't wisdom. Having street smarts isn't wisdom. Wisdom is having God's mind on a matter.

- 1) How can you know when to speak or when not to speak?

- 2) Good advice isn't necessarily godly advice. Read James 3:17. How can you obtain these traits of wisdom from above so that you are able to share true and godly wisdom?

- 3) Do you have issues with taming your tongue? If yes, when is it most difficult for you?

- 4) Do you consider yourself non-confrontational, or are you easily able to speak up? Can you think of a time recently when you had to speak a hard truth to someone you care about?

Key Point

Be Helpful. Love is action.

- 5) Do you have a heart to help others, or, if you're honest, do you find it hard to get outside of yourself and notice others' needs? If you find you're often self-absorbed, write your prayer below asking God to help you be more willing to engage in the lives of others.

- 6) With global needs so overwhelming, how and where to act can be paralyzing. Start in your today. Who and what has God brought into your path, and how can you help? (Matthew 25:40)

- 7) Is there a specific love-in-action that you know God has called you to?

Key Point

Love Them. Love can be inaction.

- 8) Are you often guilted into helping others? List a recent example below. Read Proverbs 3:27. Not every need is yours to meet. Ask yourself: Is God truly inviting me in, or will my help interfere with the work He is doing in their life?

- 9) Share a time when tough love was needed even though you knew the consequences would be hard, both on them and you.

- 10) What about a time when you helped, only to discover you made the situation worse? It could be something as seemingly insignificant as bailing out a child who didn't complete their homework or as big as giving money to the one who needed to feel the sting of burning through their own.

- 11) Is there a current situation in your life where you want to help but are powerless to do so?

Key Point

Go Home. Live life knowing God is in control.

- 12) How do you "go home," meaning that you go about your daily life while knowing the ones you love are in turmoil or pain? How can fixing your eyes on Jesus rather than the situation help you?

- 13) Any activity that stands in the way of God's progress in your life or another's is a lie, no matter how right it feels at the time. Don't play God. How can creating boundaries, like not stepping in when you want to or think you should, protect you as well as them?
