

“Who's In Control?”

I was going to subtitle this one “Let’s talk about death” because that’s what initially inspired my writing this week. I have a very dear friend who is losing a parent due to an aggressive form of cancer, and one evening last week as we texted back and forth, I had a divine (I think) thought. I said “Isn’t it supernaturally interesting that we as Christians still fear death, and do all we can to pray it away, but when we realize it’s going to happen, God’s grace allows us to see it as a natural progression in our life cycle, and He helps us walk through it?”

As I’ve thought about it since sharing it with my friend, I realized that maybe what it boils down to is we don’t like to deal with problems or situations where we don’t have total control of the outcome. I did something several years ago as I went through a deep dark valley that has really changed my perspective about whatever “giants” I might be facing. I knelt before my “altar” at home and abdicated control of every area of my life, giving all control of my life to the Lord.

Within a week, I was confronted by what was to me a huge giant, and my initial reaction was PANIC! But God... He very quickly reminded me I had given Him control, so in that moment, I experienced that “peace that passes all understanding,” believing that He would help me confront and conquer this giant - and HE DID! Romans 8:9 says: *“You, however, are controlled not by the flesh, but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you.”* (MSB)

I will be the first to admit that I have in no way mastered being led and controlled by the Spirit - more often than not, my initial reaction to negative situations is to be led by my flesh, but when He quickly reminds me He is in control, then I can relax and say “Okay Lord, what would You have me say or do,” and I can gladly tell you that His way or His timing is absolutely right 100% of the time!!

Galatians 5:16-17 says: *“So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.”* (NIV) It might be easier to follow the desires of our flesh, to please ourselves, but it is so much better to follow the leading of the Spirit and please our Abba Father! Amen! (Let’s talk about death next week)