



When we lose touch with a God centered reality:

- We create a future without God's activity.
- We imagine threatening circumstances without God's presence to deliver us.

7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

2 things to remember:

- Courage and faith are not responses in the absence of fear, but how we respond in fear.
- Inadequacy is how we see ourselves when we look through the lens of guilt and shame.
- Sin is our desire to have control.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth. 1 John 1:8 (TLB)

- Faith is our willingness to surrender to God.
- You can have faith or you can have control, but you cannot have both.

24 Then Jesus said to the disciples, "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Matthew 16:24 (TLB)

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5 (NLT)

8 It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going. Hebrews 11:8 (NLT)

2 If you do, I will cause you to become the father of a great nation; ...3 I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you;... Genesis 12:2-3 (TLB)

Abraham's Control Issues...

11 As he was approaching the border of Egypt, Abram said to his wife, Sarai, "Look, you are a very beautiful woman. 12 When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife. Let's kill him; then we can have her!' 13 So please tell them you are my sister.

Then they will spare my life and treat me well because of their interest in you." Genesis 12:11-13 (NLT)

- Control can be an expression of questioning God's abilities.

Sarah's Control issues...

2 So Sarai said to Abram, "The LORD has prevented me from having children. Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have children through her." And Abram agreed with Sarai's proposal. Genesis 16:2 (NLT)

- Control can be an expression of questioning God's timing.

Things to remember when you're waiting on God:

- God's delays are not necessarily denials.

31 But those who wait upon GOD get fresh strength. They spread their wings and soar like eagles, They run and don't get tired, they walk and don't lag behind. Isaiah 40:31 (MSG)

- A waiting season is never a wasted season.

Developing Faith:

- Faith does not ignore reality, it just adds God into the equation.
- Be honest about your faith struggles.
- Act on the faith you have.

3 ...God has given to every one a measure of faith. Romans 12:3 (BBE)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Have Questions? Text them to: (559)-464-5754

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Why?
- Would people say you are a control freak? In what way do you think you might be a control freak?
- How does our desire for control create greater problems in our lives?
- Why do we fear losing control? Why do we feel like we need have control?
- Dave mentioned on Sunday that "Sin is our desire to have control". What does that mean to you?
- How does faith get expressed in surrendering to God?
- Do you agree with the statement: "You can have faith or you can have control, but you can't have both." Why?
- Do you think Abraham's control issues were an expression of questioning God's abilities? Explain.
- Do you think Sarah's control issues were an expression of questioning God's timing? Explain.
- How do you handle the emotional tension when you're waiting on God?
- Talk through the points under "Developing Faith".
- How can developing faith correct our control issues?

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