

Good Morning Grace Hills. I'm glad you're here. Glad you made it in. We have been in this series called Healing. We're into our fourth message. I've been just delighted and amazed at watching God work and listening to stories of people facing things, overcoming things, experiencing change. When I think back to the beginning of the message series, it's one of those series where we're really dealing with brokenness, we're dealing with messiness. We started out by saying that if you're going to deal with that stuff in your life, you first have to admit it that all of us struggle with it, that all of us have brokenness, all of us have messes to take care of, all of us have hurts, habits and hang ups and I have to get real about that.

We also talked quite a bit about just having the right attitude, believing the right truth, believing the right doctrines, the right things about God and about His word, believing the right things about ourselves, what God says about us, and even believing the right story about what our pain means. We talked quite a bit about that last week. Just how we sometimes misinterpret and assign a false meaning to our pain, but that God has better plans.

Today I want to talk about something that's maybe a little more personal. It's our step three, if you will. The third big choice that we have to make. I want to talk about a question. The question is simply this, are you really in control? Are you really in control? Now, I'm just going to throw this out there. I have a theory that all of us in this room and that everyone I've ever met is indeed whether they know it or not, a control freak. Now, if you're just willing to admit that, raise your hand. Those who didn't raise their hand, you are the control freaks, okay? Not really.

We're all control freaks. What I mean by that is we all feel better and safer when we're in control. If you don't believe me, teach a teenager to drive. Now I'll say right up front, I got a great teenage driver. But in those first few days of teaching a teenager to drive, you do a lot of gripping of the door handle and saying things like, "Stay away from the ditch, stay away from the children." Just things like that. "Keep it in line. Not so close. Hit the brakes." So, this feeling of being out of control. I like being in the driver's seat. I find that even my wife who's a great driver, but I get nervous when I sit in the passenger seat. We'll go on a trip and she'll like, "You sleep a while." I can't sleep over there. I can only sleep in the driver's seat.

So it's this feeling of I'm not pointing this thing in the direction I would go. It's not the distance between us and the car in front of us that I would normally keep us at. I'm not in control right now. But you blow that up and I think we do that in life in some really big ways. I think we believe that we control ourselves. That I can just live life by willpower. That if I want to accomplish something, I'll just do it. If I want to stop doing something, I'll just stop. When we start talking about things like addiction, this gets really dangerous, but we all tend to believe that I can just control myself, that I'll just make some decisions, make a list of what I'm going to do, make a list of what I'm not going to do and I'll just live perfectly by that the rest of my life.

Then we find ourselves doing things we said we wouldn't and not doing the things we said we would. So apparently I'm not as in control of myself as I thought. I think we also like to control our circumstances. When things go wrong, we begin to fix things. We begin to go to work. When something goes wrong and we enter into a crisis, a lot of times what we do is hit the panic button. We start to try to come up with a plan, come up with a way out, try to work our way through this and figure it out. In that moment of panic, I'm just going, "If I just could find the answer, if I could just find the plan, I could fix this circumstance." But I don't get to control a lot of my circumstances.

Now I do get to make decisions and a lot of my decisions will create some of my circumstances, but I don't always control everything about my health or the weather or the economy or government or any of those kinds of things. They're beyond my control for the most part. Then I think most dangerous of all is we believe we can control other people. That I can control my spouse. That if I just say it enough, they'll change into what I want them to be. If I could just lay it out there enough, I could change the people near me. I could make them behave in a certain way. There's a word for that. We use the word manipulation to describe controlling other people.

Yet to one degree or another, obviously not all the same degree, but to one degree or another, we all tend to try to control and manipulate our world. We try to control and manipulate people around us and relationships. Maybe you struggle a lot with that. Maybe you only struggle a little with that, but I think all of us have to face this answer to the question, am I really in control? The answer is, not exactly. Or, at least I'm living under the illusion of control. I want to come back to that illusion in just a second and talk about a variation, a different way to live life that's a whole lot less stressful in the long run.

But let me give you the big truth for today. The big choice for today, and it's simply this, the only way to have God's healing and God's best in your life is to give up the controls of your life to God. So we said step one in this healing series was to get real about my brokenness, my hurts, my habits, my hang ups. Step two was to get the story straight about who God is, who I am and what my pain means. So we get real. We get honest. We start to get the story straight.

This one is the third big step and it's the toughest one so far. It's the hardest step for us to take because as long as I feel like I'm in control, there's a sense of safety, stability and security. Even if I'm trapped in something that's hurting me, sometimes it still feels more stable, more secure and more predictable than reaching out for help, letting go, giving up the controls, taking my hands off the wheel and expecting God to step in and rescue me. That is scary, but it's the way to live life.

Jesus put it this way. He said, "God blesses those who are humble, those who are meek, those who are gentle," depending on what translation you're reading, humble or meek or gentle, "For they will inherit the whole earth. Blessed are the meek." Now again, when Jesus starts out these beatitudes, he catches us off guard. When I started out saying, "Happy are those who admit that they are spiritually bankrupt." That doesn't seem to make sense, but it's what Jesus said. Or last week we said, "Blessed. Happy are those who mourn. Those who grieve." To grieve means to embrace my pain. Not to ignore it or escape it, but to bring it near and embrace it, and let that pain shape and teach me, and let God use it in my life for a positive result.

This one doesn't seem to make sense either. Happy are those; not those who demand they're way, happy are not those who control everything about their life, their world, their economy and all their relationships, but happy are those who are meek, those who are humble, those who are gentle.

I think that in our culture we sometimes forget the virtue of humility. We forget the power of meekness because we don't quite understand it. We automatically assume that meekness is weakness, that what Jesus was encouraging us to do was to give up all the rights to protecting ourselves or give up all the rights to protecting our interests. I don't think His goal was to get us to not be protective of ourselves in basic human ways.

He's not telling us to be unsafe necessarily, but He is challenging this tendency that we have to live under the illusion that I'm actually in control. To live under the illusion that I've got it all down pat. He's asking us instead to step back from that and follow a pathway of meekness.

Now I need you to understand what meekness means before we go any further before this message is going to make any sense. A few years ago, I've ridden one horse in my life and that horse remains the boss to this day of our friendship together. It was in rural Missouri, somewhere at a retreat. Got on this horse and the horse, they said ... they put me on this horse and everybody else got on a horse. Then the owner of all the horses looked at me, he goes, "Oh, you got her." I thought, "That's not a great sign. I've never ridden a horse."

So we get just a little ways out on. I'm on this trail kind of on a hillside, and she jerks the reins out of my hand. So I'm sitting there on this horse and my hands are, the reins are hanging down. Then she starts climbing up the hill sideways into this thicket to get me off of her. So I realized in that point that I need to become the boss in this situation, which didn't happen ever.

Thankfully one of the guys who knew what he was doing, he comes over and reaches down and grabs reins, hands them to me. He says, "Don't let that happen again." He said it just like that. "Don't let that happen again." We made it back safe. I'm still alive today, and the horse is alive and we're all good. Best friends but you know. In that situation, either the horse was going to be meek and I was going to be in control or I was going to be meek and the horse was going to be in control.

What needed to happen was for me to assert control and the horse to be meek. It didn't happen, but that's the way it should happen, right? That's why we break horses and then you can direct them where you want them to go. Now how many of you would look at that horse and remembering that we measure engines in horsepower, right? So horses are strong and powerful.

When they work together, one horse has the strength of one horse, but two horses have the strength of 18 horses because of the synergy of them working together. So these are powerful animals. How many of you would look at the horse underneath the cowboy and say, "That horse is weak. It'll go anywhere you direct it to go. That's just weakness." No. Instead, what we would say is, "That is strength in submission." That is strength in submission. That is meekness the way Jesus taught it.

He's not talking about being weak. We like to use the word doormat. Does Jesus want me to become a doormat? I don't think that's what He has in mind. I also don't think that we reject that entirely and go, "No, I'll do whatever I want to do. I'm not going to be anybody's doormat." I don't think that reflects meekness either.

I think that in between is this ground where I get to say, God has given me power, strength and ability. He has motivated me. He has energized me. He has brought me back to life. But all of that strength, all of that power, all of that ability, all of the direction that I can walk in, all of the strength that I have, all of that needs to be in submission. It needs to be surrendered. It needs to be given over to the control of one who does a better job than me at navigating life, at one who can lead me faithfully.

Now, most of us live under the illusion of control. That is we believe that we're in control of our lives. We believe that when we've got it under control, things will be better. We get into this habit of trying to control all the factors, all the variables and all the circumstances. If I can just get people to do the right

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thing and if I can just make things go the way I want, then my life will go in a big direction. What we wind up doing is scrambling, grabbing, seizing and trying to get control, get life, just tuck it all in and get life where I can handle it.

So, I'm trying to get what I need. I'm trying to gather to myself all the resources that make me feel safe. I'm trying to create and establish a life that makes me feel like everything is okay. In all of my scrambling, all of my grabbing and all of my striving, all I'm really doing is feeding the illusion that being in control is the pathway to health, holiness and healing.

Jesus gave us an alternative plan. Elsewhere, in scripture in chapter 16 of the same book He says this. He says, "Then Jesus says to the disciples, if any of you wants to be my followers, you must give up your own way. Take up your cross and follow me. If you try to hang onto your life, you will lose it. If you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. What do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?"

So Jesus says, "If you want to be a disciple of Jesus, you want to be my follower," He says, "you have to lay down the rights to your life. Take up your cross and follow me." Now we use phrases like bearing my cross to describe things that really don't fit with the biblical picture of what the cross is all about. Like maybe we've got someone in our family that is hard on us and they nag us a lot, so we'll say things like, "Oh, that's just my cross to bear." I don't know that that's really a cross to bear in the way Jesus intended it or, "I got to work. I have a job. I don't really like that much, but I get up and go. It's just my cross to bear." I'm not so sure we've caught the full imagery of the cross.

The fact is when Jesus was laid down on the cross, nailed to it, then was dropped, the cross was dropped into that hole. He was affixed there in a way that He couldn't do anything physically speaking to get out of that situation. He had laid himself down upon it. Other hands had nailed Him there and He was completely out of control in that moment.

To take up a cross is ultimately saying, "I am no longer going to be in full control of my life. I'm not going to direct my own steps. I'm not going to just pick my own path. I'm not just going to do what I think is best or safest or smartest or most stable. I am not going to live in control. I'm going to lay down control and let God have the full say over who I am and over what I do."

So that's cross bearing the way Jesus practiced it and invited us to practice it, but then he went on to say, "If you hang on to your life, you will lose it." In other words, if you demand control, if you look at your life and you're just constantly scattering, you're seizing, grabbing and trying to get control, and it's sort of this obsession in your mind that if I could just fix it all, if I could just run my life my way by my rules and do my thing and I don't need God's authority and I don't need your advice and I don't need help from anybody, I've got this, then ultimately you will live the illusion of life, the illusion of control. Meanwhile, you are losing it. You're losing it.

So we have to move away from that. We have to repent of that. You have to change in some way. I have to realize this big, hard truth and it's simply this, my broken condition is the result of me living life fully under my own control. My broken condition is the result of me living life under my own control.

In other words, if you and I are facing brokenness, if we're facing a mess, if I'm addicted to something, if I've wrecked some relationships, if I have damaged some people, if I've damaged myself, if I have ruined

a career or two, if I have messed up my life in some way, and we've acknowledged already in the series that healing is rooted in our acknowledgement that we're all broken, we all have messes.

So I have to look at life the way it is, in its brokenness, in its mess and I have to go, that is the result of me living life under my own control. When I'm in charge, when I have my say, I result in, I wind up with the life that is broken and in need of healing.

So the only way to find healing, the only way to recover from that brokenness is to begin to give up control and to try something else. It's that Doctor Phil question, "How's that working for you?" Right? It's not working so well for me to manage my own life. In alcoholics anonymous, they talk about, I have to acknowledge that my life has become unmanageable. That's scary, isn't it? For us to come to a place where we go, "I can't fix this."

But until I come to the place where I say, "I can't fix this. I can't heal this. I can't change this on my own. I need help from somewhere else. I need help from a source outside of myself." That's when real healing starts and starts to begin. So I have to give up control.

Now, thankfully we're not just giving up control to the universe or some kind of impersonal force or just hoping for the best. I don't even have to entirely trust the people around me. I do believe you need good relationships and you have to build trust with people, but it's ultimately not up to someone else to do all of the healing work in my life. It's not up to me to do that work because I've already proven I can't do it. Instead, we have a source of healing that is beyond ourselves that is extremely powerful, infinitely powerful, infinitely able to do more than we could ever begin to imagine.

The Bible describes it in Galatians 5 in this way, "The sinful nature," that's me on my own, "the sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other."

Now let me stop right there. Don't read the rest. You just read the rest. You just trust me. So my sinful nature and the Spirit of God don't agree, and we're always combating, fighting one another. So I can't tell you how many times I've been in a conversation with someone who reaches out and needs help and almost always, I've been here myself, I have told other people this at times that it just feels like there's a war going on inside me and I don't understand it.

Why can't I win? Why can't I defeat this? You ever felt that war on the inside. That tug of war back and forth. I want to get this right. I want to do the right thing and yet I keep messing up. I keep coming back to this place. Well that's exactly what Paul is describing and he says these two forces are constantly fighting each other. We feel that, we know that. We understand that. Yes, I've got this war inside, I want to be a good dad. Yet sometimes I get so frustrated with the noise level in the car, I get upset, I lose my cool little bit. I want to be a good husband.

Then there are those moments where we just can't. I just, what I'm perceiving as something like criticism, and it may or may not be but I'm reacting to that in the moment is, why am I here again? I want to get this right, I want to do this well, and then I mess up again. Or, the person who says, "I don't want to go to alcohol anymore, just I don't want it. It doesn't fit in my life. I'm done with it." Then the weekend comes and everybody else is having fun and I'm alone and I don't understand what's going on.

So what I do in that moment, but go buy some more alcohol, or drugs, or look at pornography, or whatever else it might be that we fill that void with.

So I have the best of intentions sometimes and yet the war goes on. So he finishes. He says, "So you are not free to carry out your good intentions." That phrase right there is one of the most important phrases you will hear in this entire series because I can't tell you that my biggest fear about this healing series, about every message we're preaching is that there will still be people who walk out the door and ultimately say, "But I don't need this because I have good intentions. I don't need this because I intend to go and do better."

I have been intending to do better for 41 years. I have intended to do better for most of my life. We intend to do better. We think that we will do better. We want to do better. We plan to do better. We come up with strategies to do better. We read books on how to do better. We go through counseling to do better.

There's nothing wrong with any of that. There's a lot of healthiness about reading the books and seeing the counselor and talking to friends. There's even something good about having good intentions. The problem is we sometimes walk around deceived living under the illusion that good intentions are the same as good actions. That wanting to do well is the same as having done well. That wanting to do well is enough. That yeah, I know I've messed this up. I've destroyed this. But you don't understand. I wanted to do the right thing. I thought about doing the right thing. I intended to do the right thing. Yet here I am in my mess again.

So look back at the verse again. He says, "The sinful nature wants to do what is evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants." Then he says, "And the Spirit gives us desires. The Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires."

In other words, there may be times when you want the right thing and God wants that same right thing for you. You're in luck because your desire lines up with God's desire. We're all a go in those moments. Then come the moments of war. Then come the battles. Then comes the temptation. Then comes the moment of weakness, the moment of loneliness, the moment of discouragement, the moment of I'm not sure who I am anymore, I'm not sure if I'm worth it anymore. In those moments, my desires change.

Now my big desire, I might still say, "No, no. I still want to be a good husband, a good dad. I don't want to drink. I don't want to do drugs. I still want to do the right thing. I still want to live on the straight and narrow path and turnover new. I still want to put down all the right habits." But let's face it in the moment, in the moment I want the other thing. We want the alcohol, we want the drugs, we want the pornography, we want to lust, we want the gossip, we want the drama, we want the mess. In that moment, healthy or not, as crazy as it might sound in that moment, I start to want to do the wrong thing because doing the wrong thing, that's predictable.

I've done that before and I got through it. I don't know if I can get through doing the radically hard right thing, but I know I can do the wrong thing and life will go on at least for another day, at least for the moment, which is again a deception. It's an illusion because sometimes life ends because of those decisions, right? But in that moment, I want the wrong thing. So if I ultimately in those moments of sin, if I want the wrong thing, I know that my good intentions are now not enough. They're not enough. I

might have intended it when I woke up, but now it's four o'clock, my blood sugar's low, everybody's mad at me, I'm tired, I just lost a bunch of money and nobody seems to care.

In this moment I'm just going to go do my thing. I give up all my good intentions and something else is winning the war. But notice he says, "The Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires." In other words, in that moment, I have a choice to make. I can do what I want to do. I can be in control. I can do what I want to do. Is it healthy? No. Is it holy? No. Is it helpful? No. It's actually destructive. It's actually harmful. Harms my mind. Harms my relationships. Harms my body. But I'm going to make that decision in that moment. That's where my desire is. In that moment I can choose to do that or I can make a different choice and the different choice is the hardest choice you'll ever learn to make, yet it's the healthiest and the holiest choice as well. It's the choice to surrender.

It's the choice to surrender, to say, "I cannot be trusted to be in control in this moment. I need the voice, the influence, the power, the enablement of the Spirit of God to give me an alternative desire in this moment." Surrender is not something that just happens one time, happens throughout my life. I believe that every single one of us in this room can look back on our lives and we can see that life has been a series of decisions that put us on a trajectory to exactly where we are right now. It doesn't mean I chose all my circumstances, but I did always choose my reaction to my circumstances, right? I always chose the story I told about my circumstances. Always chose the meaning I attached to those and so I made a series of decisions that have brought me to this stage right now.

In certain moments of my life had I chosen differently, I might not be standing here right now. I can tell you I might not be alive right now because of some of those moments of temptation and indecision in those moments. Or my relationships might be in shambles. Or my life, my body might be just in a place where it's being destroyed by an addiction of some kind and because of the choices, the trajectory of those choices, all strong and align, they trace themselves from where I started to where I am right now. So here's the big truth about that. If life is a pathway, then the secret to living on the pathway of healing and healthy growth is to give full control to the Spirit of God.

The pathway, the choice that I make over and over and over, it isn't to drink or not, or to eat or not, or to ... whatever particular thing it is that I'm struggling with, it's not the yes or the no, or eat those cookies or don't eat those cookies because usually I'm just focused on the cookies, right? Eat them or not that's my focus. That's where my eyes are zeroed in. That's what's on my mind. That's what's filling my attention. So my willpower is broken because of sin and depravity. So I'm not strong enough on my own, but I always have this choice to choose the spirit of God. To choose to submit Him, to surrender to Him, to give Him control.

The New Testament uses this phrase over and over about being filled with the Spirit. The word filled with, the phrase filled with literally just means to be controlled by. To be controlled by. So when the New Testament describes someone as being filled with the Spirit, it means they are under the control, under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

It's the reason why Ephesian 21 says, "Don't be drunk with wine, be drunk with the Spirit." That sounds really strange to us because we've got some cultural stuff going on when we use the word drunk, but in Biblical language he's saying you can be controlled by a substance or you can be controlled by a Spirit. By the Holy Spirit of God and it's your choice.

You can be controlled by food. You can be controlled by money. You can be controlled by debt, by gambling, by the thrill of that. You can be controlled by the thrill of an affair, of cheating. You can be controlled by the feelings of that moment of the illusion of security or stability. You can be controlled by all kinds of unhealthy things or you can be controlled by and under the influence of the Spirit of God.

The only way to live on a trajectory, on a pathway of decision, after decision, after decision stringing together toward a life of health and healing, the only way to do that is to decide today and tomorrow, the next day and the next day, moment by moment to give up control to the Spirit of God. In other words, to put it a different way, stop trying to take control of your life. Instead, take responsibility for your life by letting God have control.

I want to point out a very clear difference that when I talk about control and being in control of my life, I want to be really careful because some of us will go, "Okay, I'm not in control of my life anymore." Then we do something that's destructive or something that's dangerous and we look back and we blame God. We go, "Well, God messed up. I gave him control. I surrendered, I got saved, I trusted him, I signed the card, I made a decision and now here I am and this is where following God has gotten me." We make a confusion between being in control, taking control, and taking responsibility. There's a difference between the two. I believe strongly that we should take responsibility for our lives.

I have had to learn that the hard way because my tendency over the years has often been to be a blamer. Things go wrong. Who's to blame? Well, it's sure not me. It's the people who did something to me. It's the people who said something about me. It's the people who around me. It's someone else's fault. It's something else's fault or it's just the universe's fault. Things just happened this way and I don't know how. But the end of the day I need to take responsibility for my own life, but taking responsibility is not the same as taking control. There's a difference.

Taking responsibility is saying the consequences that I am experiencing right now are on me. They are on me. The life that I have created thus far is on me. The patterns of thinking, the things I've filled my head with the, the people that I've connected with, the people I've chosen to do life with, the people I've called close friends, the decisions that I've made along the way, those are on me and excuses are not going to help me. They're not going to help me. I need to take responsibility.

But the most responsible thing I can do is not to just try harder, is not to continue to give myself over to my own flesh and decide, "Well, I can handle it this time." It's not to trust one who's broken my trust again and again and again. I'm referring to myself. It's instead to trust one who's always been trustworthy. It's to trust one who's always been trustworthy.

It's like if you went outside right now with your kids, pretend you have kids if you don't, and there's an ice cream truck. It's broken down and it's got some graffiti on it, but there's also a picture of some ice cream and a price, so it must be legit. Right? You go up to the ice cream truck say, "My kids would love some ice cream." There's a guy that leans out and goes, "Great. Can I have your kids for a few hours?" How many of you would just go, "Sure. Get in the truck kids." No. You'd be a little creeped out, right? Now this is not a sermon against ice cream truck drivers. If that's your living, that's awesome. You serve the community well, I'm just saying it wouldn't be smart to take our children and give them over to the control of someone that we don't know, or trust, or have a lot of faith, or confidence in yet.

Because I don't know this person, they're not family and so forth and so on. But we do that all the time in life. I take my biggest decisions and I give those decisions entirely to the control of someone who has not proven to be entirely able to be in control well and that's me. In other words, I don't need to trust myself without God anymore. I no longer trust myself without God. Instead, I want to stop taking control. I want to take responsibility because the responsible thing to do is to trust one who is trustworthy. To give my life to one who has proven by His very essence, being, past action, His revelation of himself, His word and all that I can possibly look to for verification points to a God who can be trusted. The responsible thing to do is to give up control to Him.

It's also the hardest thing you'll ever do. It's the hardest thing you'll ever do. It's like in those moments where we're teaching our kids a new skill and they're not doing it quite right, so we grab it out of their hands, right? Whatever it may be; video game, fishing pole, bike, whatever it is, we grab it out of their hands. They know, let me. I've done this. I can do better. So let me. We sort of grab at control. At the end of the day, I need to begin to do the scary thing and let go of the controls believing that God can handle me. Believing that God can handle my life. It's easy to acknowledge here, it's harder to acknowledge when you leave. So while it's easy to acknowledge, let's acknowledge that God is a way better manager of life than I am. Amen.

So knowing that, let's try it. Knowing that let's give Him control. Knowing that in the moment when the moment of temptation comes, let's trust Him. Let's say, "God, I'm not going to grab control, not going to live under the illusion that I can fix this. I'm going to trust you." Now I believe that this is a single decision as well as a repeated decision. I can look back in my life at the moment when I surrendered my life to Jesus Christ for the very first time. I repented of my sins. I trusted in Him, I received Him, and He received me and we, I was saved. I was born again. I became brand new in moment. It's also a moment by moment decision the rest of my life.

I can also point back to turning points, crises, moments of pain in which I made a single decision in those moments to alter the trajectory of my life, to do something different than what my current pattern told me to do. Those moments I would call moments of surrender. Big moments of surrender. Moments where I faced the reality, I've messed this up and I need help. If I'm going to get help, it's going to come from God because He can be trusted. So I'm going to invite you to do two things today. One is this, ask yourself, "Is this a moment in my life where I need to make a radical commitment to surrender? Is my life messed up and I'm desperate and I can't fix it on my own. I realized that I can't save myself. I can't heal myself. I can't fix myself. I can't do the right thing. I can't switch patterns in my own control and in my own power and I need help from God. So I will give control to Him."

This might be a day where you need to do that either for the first time or just make it a monumental moment driving a stake in the ground. This is the place, this is the time I am surrendering. For some of you in the room, maybe that's happened in your life recently or in the last few years or decades ago, and it's gone fairly well. In other words, you surrendered to God and He has been faithful to you and you've remained faithful to Him. Whether that's for a season or for a great length of time, you know that He can be trusted and you're walking in a healthy relationship with Him. That's great and that's awesome, but you still need to have the mindset of surrender.

You still need to decide moment by moment to keep on surrendering because what happens is that we slowly drift back into the cockpit again, right? We slowly work our way back over into taking control again. So question one is do things need to change for you right now here today in a powerful way? I

want to invite you to surrender your life to God's control. Or secondly, have you drifted back into control where it isn't some major crisis? Your life isn't necessarily falling apart, but you're starting to realize I've taken back the controls from God a little at a time in my life.

I want us to just bow our heads right now and for you to look at your life and go, "God, is this a moment where I need to change all at once? Is this a go all in moment? I'm facing the pain. I'm facing the chaos. My life is a mess. It's a wreck. My decisions have led me to a place that are a crisis and I need help. I need God. I need hope. I need salvation. I need Jesus. I need redemption. I need change. I need to surrender and I need you to do it now. I need to take my stand in this moment before the moment passes, I need to surrender and hold up my hands and say, here I am God. I give my life to you. I give my life to you."

If that's you, raise your hands in the air and say, "God, I give my life to you. I receive you. I trust you, and I am changing. I'm turning. I am trusting in the hope that you can manage my life better than I can. I turn it all over to you Jesus." If you're a believer and you realize I've drifted. I've just, I've taken some missteps. I've taken back the controls a little of the time. You pray, "God, I take my hands off the wheel again today. I want to be responsible, but I want to be meek. I want to be strong, but I want that strength to be in submission. I give my life, my heart back to you. God a surrendered it to you again. We trust. We praise you. We thank you that you can be trusted. It's in Jesus' name we pray. Amen."