

God is... in control!

October 14, 2007

"From eternity to eternity I am God. No one can oppose what I do. No one can reverse my actions." *Isaiah chapter 43 verse 13 (678)*

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. Everything in the heavens and on earth is yours, O LORD, and this is your kingdom. We adore you as the one who is over all things.

1 Chronicles chapter 29, verse 11 (332)

I create light and make the darkness, I send good times and bad times. I, the LORD, am the one who does these things.

Isaiah chapter 45, verse 7 (552)

1. ***Because God is in control... nothing can change His plans for me.***

When Joseph's brothers saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance. As he approached, they made plans to kill him. "Here comes that dreamer!" they said. "Come on, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns. We can tell our father, "A wild animal has eaten him. Then we'll see what becomes of all his dreams!" Genesis chapter 37, verses 18-20 (31)

- ✓ God had made great promises of blessing to Joseph's ancestors and his family.
- ✓ When God allows evil or chaos it does not mean he has lost control or abandoned his plan for your life.
- ✓ Faith is the bridge between what I see happening around me and what I know God has promised me.

2. ***Because God is in control... it does not mean he will always rescue me from danger.***

So when Joseph arrived, his brothers ripped off the beautiful robe he was wearing. Then they grabbed him and threw him into the cistern.

Genesis chapter 37 verses 23-24 (32)

- ✓ *The Bible is full of examples of people who served God well but experienced tragedy.*
- ✓ God promises to never abandon us no matter what.
- ✓ God loves me even if he chooses not to rescue me.

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels can't, and the demons can't. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, and even the powers of hell can't keep God's love away.

Romans chapter 8, verse 38 (863)

3. ***Because God is in control... his grace is present in every situation.***

But when Reuben heard of their scheme, he came to Joseph's rescue. "Let's not kill him," he said. "Why should we shed any blood? Let's just throw him into this empty cistern. Then he will die without our laying a hand on him." Reuben was secretly planning to rescue Joseph and return him to his father. *Genesis chapter 37, verses 21-22 (31)*

- Most of us believe that if God was truly in control he would remove the chaos.
- A great evidence of God's control is his grace in the middle of chaos.

4. Because God's in control... his approval should be my only concern.

Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man, and Potiphar's wife soon began to look at him lustfully. "Come sleep with me," she demanded. But Joseph refused. "Look," he told her, "my master trusts me with everything in his entire household. No one here has more authority than I do! He has held back nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How could I ever do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God."

Genesis chapter 39, verses 7-9 (33)

- When I am fully trusting God I realize that the temporary pleasure of sin can never be compared to the blessing of God.
- When I am fully trusting God his approval becomes my highest priority!
- I keep myself from sin not because it violates a rule but because it violates a relationship.

5. Because God is in control... I don't need all the answers.

So Pharaoh asked his officials, "Can we find anyone else like this man so obviously filled with the spirit of God?" Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you, clearly none else is as intelligent or as wise as you are.

Genesis chapter 41, verses 38-39 (35)

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians chapter 4, verse 7 (NIV)

6. Because God is in control... I realize that there are no wasted experiences in life.

- Every circumstance in Joseph's life had a purpose.
- The good and the bad are both from God and are well within his plan for your life.
- Live by sight all you see are circumstances, live by faith all you see is God.
- God uses misery often times to bring the opportunity for ministry.

But don't be angry with yourselves that you did this to me, for God did it"

Genesis chapter 45 verse 5 (38)

Furthermore, because of Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us from the beginning, and all things happen just as he decided long ago.

Ephesians chapter 1 verse 11 (895)