

## PART 4: Will You Relinquish Control?

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### START

Let's not fool ourselves...we like to be in control. It might not necessarily be in control of other people or organizations, but we at least like to be in control of our own lives. Our schedule, our goals, our dreams, what we do in our free time, and the list goes on. When we are not in control we become anxious and frustrated, and many find discomfort in not being in control.

- What do you like to be in control of?
- Why does not being in control make us uncomfortable?
- Have you ever twisted God's words to help fit your narrative?

### READ

Genesis 15:5-6 (NIV)

He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

### THINK

We can easily twist God's words to fit our narrative. We do this by blaming others or God. Once we start with the blame game it always ends the same way. Hurt, betrayal, and relational pain. When we choose to rely on our own control and not on God's control it always makes a mess of things. We must be patient and wait on God's timing.

- What are you blaming God or others for in your life?
- What are you waiting for God to do in your life?
- Instead of blaming, what do you need to own in your life?

Chris said, "A growing faith leads you to stand in the place and go at the pace God has designated."

- When has God's plan for you not been something you wanted to do?
- When have you made a mess of things and God still worked through it?
- When have you experienced God seeing you and meeting you where you are?

### PRAY

"God, it's hard for me to give up control. I'm filled with anxiety when I can't see what is coming. Give me peace and allow me to rely on your timing and pace. Lead me in your plan and help me to avoid writing my own narrative."

### ACT

This week, identify what you need to relinquish control of. When you have the urge to control stop and take a moment to give your control to God and allow Him to have control over your life.

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ONE CHURCH. RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE.