

According to Scripture...

"God is 'not' in Control"

&

"God is 'not all' Sovereign"

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"God does 'not' tempt/test us"

(SHORT BOOKS SERIES)

www.foryourgood.net Written by Abraham Vos of...



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Forward

This short book has transformed my thinking! I was unclear on whether God was in control. I lacked understanding of the Sovereignty of God. I was unsure of whether God tested us. A lack of this clarity caused a measure of hesitancy in my walk and relationship with God.

I so enjoy the loving boldness and clarity with which Abraham writes on The Word. I so appreciate that he uses Scripture after Scripture to do his writing. Abraham shares what God says about a matter. He does not suppose his thinking and thereby elaborate down a rabbit hole.

Reading this short book will transform your thoughts towards God and give you clarity on how you can redirect your life to the blessed desire God has for you!

This short book carries with it the power to radically change your life and view of God.

This is a book you want to read.

Enjoy it. Read it over and over and send it on to as many of your family and friends.

Blessings my brother Abraham. May God continually and progressively use you to impact the whole world through all you and your Ministry are doing for the Kingdom.

James Thorburn

- For Your Good Ministries International.

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Introduction

If God were in control, we would need to conclude that ‘He is not doing a very good job of it.’ Our world, and many people’s lives, are spinning out of control. There are catastrophes of a horrendous nature around every corner. These do not represent our loving, caring, merciful, grace-filled, God. These too, do not represent a perfect and good God’s heart and nature.

Surely God’s control would result in His nature, heart, and Christ’s purposed motive if He were in control – *John 10v10b* “*I am come that you might have life and that you may have it more abundantly.”*

If God were in control the earth would look and behave like heaven for Jesus expressed His desire when He said “*Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, ‘as it is’ in heaven.*” – *Matthew 6v10*.

Accordingly, if God were in control, the earth would look and behave like heaven; IE the earth, and all its situations, would emulate heaven 100%.

If God is not in control, then who is??

If God is ‘all’ Sovereign, does that mean that He can chop and change His Word at His will and decision to do so; IE that God can and would override, contradict, His Word?

Does God tempt/test us?

This short book will present Scripture to ‘find our/God’s answers’ to the questions above.

Who is in control?

Who is sovereign?

Who/What is testing us – What is being tested?

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Chapter 1 - **God has given man a Will – Our Choices.**

The below Scriptures define a primary aspect of the ‘Sovereign Will’ God has determined for Himself and mankind.

Genesis 1v26-28

*26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let **them** have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and **subdue it; have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

The very first thing God ‘gave man’ was dominion/authority; IE a will to determine his path. God ‘gave/delegated’ His authority over all the earth to mankind. God expressed His desired intent for the will He had for mankind – *“Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and **subdue it; have dominion...**”*

At the same time that God gave man this dominion/authority, a will, God did not attach any conditions to it; IE God did not say that if mankind did not use this will in a certain way, He would take it back. God gave mankind this dominion/authority, will, unconditionally.

Psalms 8v4-6

*What is man that You are mindful of him,
And the son of man that You visit him?*

*5 For You have made him a little lower than God,
And You have crowned him with glory and honour.*

**⁶ You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands;
You have put all things under his feet – (IE the feet of mankind).**

Psalm 115v16

*The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's;
But the earth He has given to the children of men.*

The Scriptures above reinforce the very same; God gave mankind dominion and authority over 'all' the work of God's hands and over all the earth.

There is a vital principle in interpreting all Scripture – This principle is called 'The Law of First Reference.' Whenever we are seeking to find an answer, or solution, to any matter we are to go to where Scripture first refers to it.

In 'first reference' we find that God 'unconditionally' gave man dominion and authority. Accordingly, God 'could not/would not' take back what He had given. We serve a God of integrity. If He gives something He does not take it back.

We have been given dominion and authority in and over our lives – "We, therefore, are in 'control of the outcomes of our lives', and not God."

Of course, we can invite the 'control' that The Word brings in and through our lives by putting faith in The Word and doing life accordingly; but that is our choice to make and 'not' God's.

[As a side note – In that, God had given mankind; a human being dominion and authority Jesus 'had to' come as a man; as a human being. A human being was given dominion and

authority and so only human beings could exercise it over the enemy!!]

Deuteronomy 30v19

*¹⁹ I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against **you**, that I have set before **you**, life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore, **choose life**, that both **you** and **your** descendants may live.*

God has 'set' before **us** the choice options of life and blessings, or death and cursing. We choose and get what we choose; life and blessings, or death and cursing.

To reinforce, and make this clear, God says that He calls heaven and earth as witnesses to this truth – It's for you to make your choices mankind.

All of the Godhead, all of heaven, and all of earth, are witnesses to the option of choice God gave to mankind. 'God Himself' is aware of all the witnesses He put in place to honour mankind's choice – If God dishonoured the choice, He gave to mankind all of heaven and earth would 'call Him out!'

We get what we choose; God does not choose, or pre-determine what we get. We, as mankind, pre-determine by making our choices. Accordingly, we get the results of what we chose.

Joshua 1v8

*⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from **your** mouth, but **you** shall meditate in it day and night, that **you** may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then **you** will make **your** way prosperous, and then **you** will have good success.*

In this progress towards a prosperous way, and good success, we see the words **you** and/or **your** used a total of six times; IE

the determining factor to a prosperous way and good success is 'up to me'; up to my choice/s.

John 8v31-32

*³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If **you** abide in My word, **you** are My disciples indeed. ³² And **you** shall know the truth, and the truth shall make **you** free."*

Want to be free? It's up to you or me – Let me rewrite this Scripture in a personal way. Let me write it to myself:

*³¹ Then Jesus said to **Abraham** who believed Him, "**if you**, **Abraham** abide in My word, **you**, **Abraham** are My disciple indeed. ³² And **you**, **Abraham** shall know the truth, and the truth shall make **you**, **Abraham** free."*

How will Abraham be free?

1. Abraham is to choose to believe in Jesus.
2. Abraham is then to choose to abide in The Word.
3. By Abraham's choice, he now becomes a disciple.
4. Abraham then gets to know the truth because of Abraham's choice.
5. Abraham now starts to live his life by the truth.
6. Abraham's result is that **he** becomes free for Abraham decided/chose to walk the road, or steps, to this/his freedom.

The above two Scriptures clearly show the integrity of God; the honouring of His law of first reference; IE that He gave man dominion and authority, a will, to determine his life's results/outcomes.

In these Scriptures we too see, that a prosperous way, good success, and freedom are the results of the choices we make - If **you** follow their course, **you** will make **your** way prosperous, **you** will have good success, and **you** will be free.

- **Let's look at the choice of government we make:**

Hosea 8v4-6

“They set up kings, but not by Me;

They made princes, but I did not acknowledge them.

From their silver and gold

They made idols for themselves—

That they might be cut off.

Again, the option of choice. **They, the voters**, made choices for the ‘curse’ and not for the ‘blessing’. God goes as far as to say – “But not by me, I did not acknowledge them”; IE we made the ungodly choice and got what we chose; what we voted for.

Proverbs 29v2 – Two translations below.

² ***When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice;***

But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.

² ***When the righteous are in authority, the people prosper;***

But when a wicked man rules, the people suffer.

Rejoice or prosper? – Groan or suffer? – We, the voters, make the either-or choice and get what we voted for – Not what God desired, pre-determined, or voted for. God did not go to the polls and cast a vote – We did.

Romans 13v1-4

*Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. ³For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. ⁴For he is God's minister **to you 'for' good**. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger **'to' execute wrath on him who practices evil**.*

A godly government is there 'for your good/for the good', and against the evil/those who do evil.

If **I/we/you** vote for a government that punishes what is good and lauds what is evil then **I, we/you** put him/them there and we will reap the corruption and destruction they will bring to bear on us.

This was not God's choice – This was our choice.

1 Peter 2v13-15

*¹³Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, ¹⁴or to governors, as to those who are sent by him **'for' the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good**. ¹⁵For **this is the will of God**, that by **doing good** you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.*

The concept of authority, dominion, and government is of God **but who we put into office is up to us** – This is the option of choice that *Deuteronomy 30v19* teaches:

Deuteronomy 30v19

*¹⁹ I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against **you**, that I have set before **you**, life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore, **choose life**, that both **you** and **your** descendants may live.*

Again, we get what we choose – God ‘is not in control’ of our choices. Accordingly, it is more accurate to say **‘We are in control’**; and not **‘God is in control of our lives.’**

- **Let’s now look at ‘our choice’ of who ‘we choose’ to yoke ourselves to:**

2 Corinthians 6v14-16

*¹⁴ **Do not** be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. **For** what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God.*

In the above Scripture, God gives us rather emphatic counsel for our good. He says we should not be yoked with an unbeliever for then we are endeavouring to join light with darkness; Christ with the devil – These cannot coexist!

Should ‘I choose’ to yoke myself in marriage, business partnership, government, financial partnerships, etc with an unbeliever then by my choice I get the results of struggle, pain, failure, even destruction – I did not heed the sound counsel of God. I chose contrary to God’s good counsel.

So many of us ‘blame God’ for the choices ‘we made’.

So many of us cry out – “God, what are ‘You’ doing in this situation? – Why is this not working out? - Why are ‘You’ doing this to me?”

We then invent doctrines such as – God is in control – God is Sovereign – God allowed this - God is teaching me a lesson – God must have a greater purpose in what and why ‘He is’ putting me through all of this heartache, failure, struggle, and destruction.

The right question to ask most all of the time is – “What choices did I make that are not the sound counsel of God’s Word? Did I choose life and blessings, or death and cursing?”

- **Let’s now look at our choice for the longevity of the lives of our children.**

Ephesians 6v1-4

*Children, obey **your parents in the Lord**, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: ³ “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”*

⁴ **And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.**

Let’s look at the sequence that leads to long life on the earth for our children. This long life includes eternal life, abundant life, and length of days on the earth:

1. Children are to obey **their parents who are ‘in the Lord.’** – Parents who are not **in the Lord** will raise children who will dishonour and disobey them.

2. Because a parent is **in the Lord** so it is right for children to obey them – It is ‘not right’ for children to obey parents who are ‘not in the Lord’ for this would be wrong – This is a/the primary reason why children get into rebellion – They are rebelling at something that is **not in the Lord**. They are resisting being ‘**outside the Lord**’; and ‘rightly’ so.
3. When children obey their parents who are **in the Lord** a God-commanded promise is released – Things will go well with the child, and they will live a long and abundant life on the earth that will have an eternal destination to it. This is because the life and protection of God are released through the parents who are **in the Lord**.
4. Fathers are the primary voice and example to a child. Accordingly, verse 4 says that ‘Fathers’ are not to provoke their children unto wrath, IE consequences, hardships, struggles, hurts, failures, destruction, etc. Fathers do this **by not training** their children ‘**in**’ the **admonition of the Lord**.

As Parents, primarily we as Fathers, determine the long and abundant outcome of our children’s lives, and/or not.

It’s our choice – It is not God doing, or bringing about a struggled life.

It is not God who gave us a ‘difficult, rebellious, or strong-willed’ child – Our not being **in the Lord** determines such a product.

For the most part, it would be correct to say that ‘we determine’ the behaviour of our children – **In the Lord** = good behaviour – **Outside of the Lord** = Bad behaviour.

This is why we often exasperate our children when we discipline them for the behaviour 'we caused'. We are often 'disciplining' the wrong person.

When we, as Parents and particularly as Fathers, are **in the Lord**, we are releasing the abundant and long-life God intends for our children. By being **in the Lord**, we 'permit' God to fulfil His desire for protection and an abundant and long life for our children.

(Of course, an exposed, challenged child, who had a Parent, Father, who is not **in the Lord** can turn to their **eternal Father** and walk a road of restoration! – That said, the ideal is to have Parents, particularly Fathers, who are **in the Lord** from the get-go!)

[As a side note – I am writing a book on Fatherhood – I believe and teach from Scripture that the primary pandemic in the world is Fatherlessness - 80-85%% of all children go home to absent, or abdicating, Fathers – This is the primary reason for struggling children and the deformed society we have].

Chapter 2 - **Who's Who?**

John 10v10

*¹⁰ The **thief** does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

In my journey with the Lord, I have noticed that many Christians do not know 'Who is who?' Many have a very poor view of who God is and who the devil is.

John 10v10 makes it abundantly clear as to who is who!!

The thief, satan, comes only to steal, kill, and destroy. So many Christians think Jesus came to steal, kill, and destroy. They believe Jesus gave them sickness, caused their accidents, caused them to lose their jobs to 'teach them a lesson'. Some even believe that God took their loved one to punish them or teach them a lesson, etc, etc.

The thief, satan, comes with that agenda. It is he who comes 'only' to steal, kill, and destroy – Not Jesus!!

Jesus came that we might have life and that we may have it more abundantly!!

- Jesus is good - Satan is bad.
- Jesus only does good – Satan only does bad.
- Jesus gives – Satan steals.
- Jesus releases life and blessings – Satan releases death and cursing.

It is very important to know who is who, and who is doing what!!!

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