



## Control # 6

Hello everyone. Welcome to “Notes from the Presence.” In today’s article we are going to continue talking about how many of us believe that God created us so He, could in turn, control us. We will begin by talking about one of my favourite subjects - the subject of desire.

I love scripture verses that speak of the desires of our heart, and there are many of them we could look at. One thing that has always amazed me about God is how *our* desires matter to Him. It seems like the moment when we have laid down our lives and wills on the altar of submission, our heavenly Father turns to us and says, "So now what do *you* desire?" He has never wanted robots, and, as mentioned in previous weeks, He is not a control freak. His will is not a method by which He can control us, as many of us think. Instead, it is a place where we are free to be who we really are. Here is one of my favorite "desire" scriptures:

*Psalm 37:3-5 Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and cultivate (feed on His) faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the **desires** of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He will do it. (emphasis mine)*

There are at least two ways this scripture can be interpreted and I believe both of them contain vital truths. First, the Lord actually places desires into our hearts. When each one of us was born, God put in us the seeds of life and destiny. As we delight ourselves in Him, these seeds are watered and dormant desires begin to spring to life, fueled by the destiny God has deposited in us. Second, once these desires are awakened by His love and we commit our way to Him in trust, He brings them into fulfillment in our lives. The most mysterious and delightful part of this process is: our heavenly Father is so good, He lets us think these desires were our idea right from the start. In a way they are, yet they proceed straight from His omnipotent heart in a way that gives us dignity and

fulfillment in life. What an amazing heavenly Father we have! Here is another "desire" passage:

Psalm 103:2-5 NIV *O my soul, bless God, don't forget a single blessing! He forgives your sins—every one. He heals your diseases—every one. Who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your **desires** with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.* (emphasis mine)

Here we see that our Lord satisfies our desires with good things. It is interesting that fulfilled desire can have a "renewed-youth" effect on us.

My point in all of this discussion is this: God does not want to control us with His will. He wants to release dreams and desires in us that lead to destiny and the ultimate fulfillment of the purposes of our lives.

There is one other aspect of God's will that I would like to discuss before closing this subject. Many times God's will is mentioned in the New Testament, it is actually in the context of inheritance rather than God desiring to exert an unwelcome set of circumstances on our life. Here are two of numerous scriptures that support this claim:

Ephesians 1:5 *Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.*

Ephesians 1:11 *In Him, also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the council of His will.*

Here we find the concept of God's will contained in the ideas of both "adoption" and "will and inheritance" rather than a life's direction. This is a stunning thought. God has written a "will and inheritance" document for each one of us. It contains His "good pleasure" towards us rather than something manufactured to control us and it is a legal document, written and signed with blood - the blood of Jesus. In essence, we get what Jesus deserved, because Jesus got what we deserved. Now that thought boggles my mind. Our Heavenly Father is all about securing our release into freedom, destiny, and blessing!

God took a lot of risks in fashioning us like He did. He must have known that it would eventually cost Him everything. However, the joy to be found in a relationship with creatures of His own kind somehow outweighed the eternal risks. He created us free; so free that He trusted us with a decision to eat from a tree that He knew could eventually

destroy us. But, even in this decision, He did not interfere. Instead, God watched from a distance as we chose a path that would take us far from Him.

And so I pose the question to you: where in this scenario do you see a God who wants to control His children? Instead, I see a Heavenly Father that is willing to risk everything to avoid dominating, controlling, or interfering with the choices, thoughts, and actions of those He loves.

He then sent His only Son to model leadership with an absence of control. In doing so He offered us protection from ourselves, and released us into a marvelous destiny that only eternity will be able to fathom.

With these statements, we close out the subject of control. Thanks for reading. Here's to living free and setting others free. Cheers.

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real – and whom the Son has set free, is free indeed!