

## Who Holds the Reins? – Nov. 2, 2022

Reins. Used strangely in the Bible:

**Psalm 7:9:** “Oh let the wickedness of sinners come to an end; and then thou shalt direct the righteous, O God that searchest the hearts and **reins.**”

**Psalm 16:7:** “I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel: **my reins** also instruct me in the night seasons.”

**Jeremiah 17:10:** “I the LORD search the heart, I try the **reins**, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.”

**Rev. 2:23:** “all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the **reins** & hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

Hebrew for “reins” is **kilyah**, 31 times in the Bible.

KJV translates this to “kidneys” 18 times and “reins” 13 times.

In English, “Reins” is derived from French “**reins**”; which comes from Latin **rēnēs** meaning “*kidneys, loins.*” Today, medical terms reflect the Latin, French, and English etymologies - **renal failure**—when the kidneys malfunction.

Is God concerned with our kidneys? Searching the reins?

In ancient times, kidneys believed to be seat of our emotions & feelings, so literally - “Reins” refers to our kidneys, but figuratively – it refers to our innermost component - emotions, feelings, affections; mind.

- **Psalm 26:2:** “*Examine me, O LORD, & prove me; try my reins and my heart.*”
- **Psalm 73:21:** “*Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.*”

### 7 Biblical Truths:

#### **1) Only 1 person can hold the reins**

1) If multiple people hold, it causes confusion. Inaction.

- i) When 3 people tell you what to do... you stop.
- ii) **Matt. 6:24** – “No one can serve two masters.”

#### **2) God needs to be the one holding the reins.**

- i) To “*hold the reins*” means - in control / directs the path.
- ii) **Gal. 1:10** – “Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? ... If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.”

#### **2) The holder of the reins is unseen, only felt.**

God is the same way. Unseen, but felt.

- We must become sensitive to His guidance. (H.S.)

**Rom. 8:14** – “For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.”

### 3) Reins apply pressure so horse knows to go that way

God sometimes applies pressure, so we get uncomfortable, and move.

- We have to pay attention. God tugs on our hearts.

**Jer. 10:23** – “LORD, I know that people’s lives are not their own; it is not for them to direct their steps.”

### 4) The Bit is in the mouth.

1) Control the mouth, control the horse

- **Prov. 18:21** - “What you say can preserve life or destroy it; so you must accept the consequences of your words.”

2) Focus on the words we say. Speak positive words

3) We need to “**rein in**” our speech. Rein in means: pull back the reins.

- i) We destroy our confidence... peace... And **hurt God** in process.

- **Psalms 141:3** – “LORD, set up a guard for my mouth; keep watch at the door of my lips.”

### 5) If reins held too tight, horse’s head is pulled down.

1) God doesn’t want us living with heads down, defeated. Overcomers!

**Psalms 3:3** – “But You, O LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, and the One who lifts my head.”

2) God also doesn’t control us. We have **free will**.

### 6) Fighting for loose reins?

1) Horse shakes head fighting for freedom. Loosen reins, go own way.

2) We fight the same way. Shaking our head “no” at God. No Surrender.

3) We want “**free rein**” – freedom of our own actions.

**Isa. 48:18** - “If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your well-being like the waves of the sea.”

- God gives us freedom. His reins are loose.

- We must **choose** to follow. We must **hand over the reins**.

## **7) Wrapped around someone's finger?**

**1)** We fall in love and get “wrapped around her finger.”

i) Babies wrap us. Boyfriends get wrapped up. Sometimes spouses.  
Friends . . .

ii) Who has you wrapped around? You do everything they want...

**2)** Are we wrapped up with God? Doing all He wants?

**3)** To “take the reins” means to “take control.”

i) Maybe it's time to give God the reins in your life.

Stay positive. Test negative. “I Will Follow” by Chris Tomlin

**Time change** – this Sunday.

Thanksgiving – 21 days away.

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