

Let God Be God

The Problems We Face Today

One of the challenges followers of Jesus face is being able to let God be God in their lives.

- We want to be in control of circumstances and situations and we get frustrated if things don't go the way we want.
- We don't really know what God's role is in our lives and we find ourselves stepping into His role without realizing it.
- Self wants to be in the driver's seat. This is self-dependence and is in direct conflict with God's rule in our lives.
- We don't really know God and therefore we cannot trust Him to manage our lives.

We must learn how to let God be God in our lives and allow Him to manage our lives so we can experience the blessings and promises that accompany submission to Him.

Lesson Truth

We want to be in control and we want things to be the way we want them to be. In short, we want to be God over our own lives. We don't consciously try to play God; we do it more out of ignorance. We don't realize the blessings that we are missing by not allowing God to be God.

We often do much more than God expects. If we can learn how to let God be God and let Him manage our lives, we will find more peace and joy and our lives will not be so dominated by fear, worry, doubt and stress.

Lesson Goal

The goal of this lesson is for you to learn how to let God be God in your life and to begin living this truth more consistently.

Lesson Discussion

As disciples of Jesus Christ we have no right to try and manage our own lives. We are not our own because we have been bought with a price. We must submit to God and let Him be God if we are to enjoy the kind of relationship with him that brings peace and joy.



1 Corinthians 6: 19-20 ESV "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own for you were bought with a price."

We live such hectic lives: so many expectations, so many responsibilities, and so many things that need to get done. It is easy to stay so busy with our lives that we forget to let God be God.



Luke 10:42 ESV "But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are anxious about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.'"

When you made the decision to follow Jesus, you gave up the right to yourself forever to Him. This means you no longer have the right to direct your own path.

You must learn to let God direct and rule over your life. You must learn to take up the yoke of Jesus, for His yoke is easy and His burden light. Then you will find rest for your soul and you will find stress melting out of your life.



Mark 8:34-35 ESV "And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow

me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.”

Letting God be God means you accept everything that comes into your life as being from God. Both the good and the bad are allowed by God for His purpose. As you follow Jesus in obedience you no longer have to be concerned with managing your own life.

As you give up the right to yourself to God you are allowing Him the complete and total right to be God in your life. God wants to be God over your life because He knows that is the only way to make you into what He wants you to be.

Events, situations, circumstances, and people will come into your life exactly as God chooses. Often we want them to be the way we want them to be and we will try to push and pull to get things the way we want.

We must know when to step back and let God take over, when to let things go, and when to push forward. If we find ourselves getting stressed it is likely we have overstepped our role and have stepped into God's role.

The only right you have is to follow Jesus Christ and go where He says to go, do what He says to do, and associate with whom He wants you to associate. Getting to this point is not easy. As a matter of fact, it may be the most difficult thing you ever do.

One of the things you will discover as you give up the right to yourself to Jesus is that God is very good at being God. He perfectly engineers all the situations, circumstances, and people in your life in perfect harmony with His will. This means you must trust Him in everything.



Romans 8:28 ESV “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,^[a] for those who are called according to his purpose.”

You don't have to have any worry, fear, doubt or stress about how things are going to turn out. Because God is God, it will always turn out exactly as God chooses. It will always work to your good no matter how much suffering or pain is involved. You just continue trusting Him.

It is one of the greatest freedoms to know that you are not responsible for the outcome of your obedience to God. Forever more God is responsible for the outcome and He will make it happen exactly as He wills. As you hang on to that promise you will realize you never need to be fearful, worried, doubtful or stressed again.



John 10:10 ESV “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

Decide That He Is Worth It

Is God worth your giving up the right to yourself completely to Him so He can be God in your life in every area? Of course He is worth it! The problem is you might not really believe that in your heart yet.

Unless you know for sure that He is worth it, you will not give up the right to yourself for very long. If you do not or cannot trust God, you will find it very difficult to let Him manage your life.

God is worthy of your trust and He is completely faithful to take care of you in every way. Being God is what he does best. He is a lot more qualified to be God over your life than you are. Just let Him be God and be thankful and grateful the He is willing to do that for you.

There are many good reasons why we would happily want to give up the right to our selves to Him and let Him be God over our lives. Here are some of the reasons:

Reason #1: God loves you with an everlasting love. He created you for His pleasure and He always wants the best for you. His great love for you was demonstrated through the sacrifice of His Son to save you and give you a life that is abundant and eternal.



John 3:16 ESV “For God so loved the world,^[a] that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Reason #2: You are no longer your own because you have been bought with a price, the precious blood of Jesus Christ. You belong to Him now. Since He owns you, He must be allowed to do whatever He wants with what is His and He takes complete responsibility for the outcome.

Reason #3: He knows you better than you know yourself. He created you and knit you together in your mother’s womb. He knows exactly what you need any moment of the day. He already knows all the days of your life. His purpose for your life will be fulfilled as you let Him be God.



Psalm 139:13-16 ESV “For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.”

Reason #4: He knows everything that has happened and what is going to happen. He knows the end from the beginning. He is in the best possible position to guide and direct our lives. Nothing ever catches God by surprise and

He never makes any mistakes. He deserves your trust because He is completely trustworthy.



Isaiah 46:9-10 ESV “Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose’”.

Reason #5: He owns all the riches of the universe. He has all the knowledge and wisdom that exists or will ever exist. He has power to change and rearrange anything in this universe that He chooses. He engineers and directs all things according to His will. Why would you not want to let Him be God over your life?



Psalm 50:9-12 ESV “I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds. For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine.”

Reason #6: He is the only One who can keep you safe, keep you healthy, and provide for your every need. Nothing can ever get past God to harm you in any way. Nor can anyone ever do anything to you or take anything from you without God allowing it. See every event, situation, and circumstance as coming from God to teach you and make you into what He created you to be.



1 Timothy 6:17 ESV “As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.”

Reason #7: He is the only one that has a plan for your life. His plan is perfect and will allow you to experience the maximum joy in what He calls you to do for Him. Learn to wait on Him, not get impatient, and allow Him to engineer all the circumstances and situations in your life.



Jeremiah 29:11-13 ESV “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare^[a] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.”

Reason #8: God expects your complete loyalty and obedience. If you reject His authority, you are willfully rebelling and disobeying. Either blessings or a curse are in store for us, depending upon whether we choose to obey God or not. As you submit to Him as God and let Him be God over your life you will find that everything will work out in a way that honors Him and fits His purpose for your life.



Deuteronomy 28:1-6 ESV “And if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God. Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out..

Deuteronomy 28:15-19 ESV “But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his

statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field. Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.”

These are several of the reasons why we would want to give up the right to ourselves completely to Jesus Christ and why we must learn to let God be God in our lives continually.

Understanding What It Means

Giving up the right to your life to God so He has freedom to be God over every area of your life is really a simple concept. Yet it is the most difficult thing for a follower of Jesus Christ to do. What does it really mean?

When one person gives up the right to themselves to another person, they no longer have the choice to do as they please. They can be treated in any way the other person chooses. It is very much like the life of a slave. You have no rights.

That does not sound like a desirable state to be in, but it is exactly what the Lord has called us to. The only difference in being a slave to Jesus is that He is the most wonderful master we could ever have.

As we let God engineer each situation, event, and circumstance, we no longer have to feel like we are responsible for the outcome. Whatever the outcome, good or bad, we trust God in it and just do the next right thing He shows us to do.



Jeremiah 10:23 ESV “I know, O LORD, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps.”

Proverbs 16:9 ESV “The heart of a man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.”

If we are going let God be God, we must learn to step back and let Him go before us. Often we want to jump in and start planning and doing, but God wants us to wait on Him. We must resist the temptation to move ahead of God.

When we get ahead of God, we get in His way. We think we have the answers and we think we have it figured out, but we really don't. We just think we do. We have to learn to step back and let God do what He is best at—being God and directing our every step.

Just about the time we run ahead of God, he will mess up our plans and let things go haywire. We will know this when we lose our peace and we begin to worry, be fearful, doubtful or get stressed.

Pride, ego, and an elevated sense of our own gifts and talents will push us to want to do things our own way and in our own timing. If we trust God to unfold the plan, there will be no place for stress to have its way and things will unfold exactly as God intends.

You should frequently review the eight reasons why we want to let God be God in our lives. Letting God be God is a discipline that you must develop if you are to follow Jesus and be successful in God's eyes.

God does not define success by how well you do ministry or get things done. He looks at how well you allow yourself to be His and how obedient you are to Him.

What It Looks Like

What does it look like when a disciple lets God be God in his life? First of all, there's an absence of fear, doubt, worry, and stress. When we trust God and let Him be God, we know we are succeeding when those negative emotions are not having their way in our lives.

When you allow God to personally direct each step, you will no longer be concerned with the outcome. God takes complete responsibility for the outcome. You will find yourself being less worried about outcomes in your life.

As you let God be God you will be amazed how He works through people and situations. You will see Him opening doors and giving you favor with people that you would not have had doing it your own way.

As you give up the right to yourself to Him in everything, you will see God altering your personality and character. You will begin to reflect more of His glory and characteristics.

When you do things God's way, you will find yourself unconcerned if the outcome appears bad from your perspective. If you have been obedient to God, things will turn out just how God intended. All you have to do is trust Him and focus on doing the next right thing.



Romans 8:28 ESV “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

Letting God be God does not necessarily mean you will be perfect and always do the right thing. Sometimes you will make mistakes simply because it takes time to discipline every part of your life.

When trials and tribulation come into your life you will find Him there going with you through it. He will not leave you alone. These events are like gold being refined in a fire as He works out the impurities and our lives begin to look more like His life.

Over time you will find yourself with a greater desire for God to be God in your life, more and more. It is a joy that is beyond comparison. You will find yourself amazed at how God will minister to others through you. The more you

let God be God, the more your life will become bread for others.

Here are some examples from ordinary everyday events that illustrate how to let God be God.

Illustration #1: Your teenage daughter has become rebellious and has begun associating with other teenagers that are of questionable character. You have no idea what they might be doing when they are together. Yet you know that you cannot control every aspect of your teen's life. You can only have impact over what you see and know.

How do you let God be God in a situation like this? First you must commit your teen's life into His hands and trust Him to intervene as He chooses in those situations you know nothing about (out of your direct control). Next, seek God regularly and pray until you have peace before confronting irresponsible or rebellious behavior.

As you spend time with God in prayer, the Holy Spirit is faithful to give you the words to say so that you are calm, yet are able to hold your teen accountable. When your disposition is Holy Spirit-controlled, your emotions will not control your behavior.

Before confronting your teen, you must pray, read God's Word, put the situation totally in God's hands, and trust Him for the outcome no matter what happens. Then you will have the spiritual resources to do what God shows you to do and say.

The next step is to simply do the next right thing that God shows you to do. Even though you may have expectations of how you want the circumstances to turn out or how you expect your teen to behave, the outcome is no longer in your hands.

Therefore you don't have to worry, or be fearful, doubtful or stressed once you have done what God showed you to do. It is in God's hands now. You must leave it there because it is no longer your responsibility.

You have no right to take responsibility for the outcome and you must allow the outcome to be what God chooses, whether or not you like it or agree with it.

That is how you let God be God in this situation. You must spend time with God, understand the next right thing God would have you to do, and just do it. Then you let it go.

Learning to let God be God takes time and discipline. But with practice you get better at it and you experience more peace as you stop trying to play God yourself.

Illustration #2: You are experiencing marital difficulties. You find out that your husband has been spending his time looking at pornographic websites. After you get over your shock, you have to confront him about this because you know it is wrong.

How do you let God be God in this situation? If your husband is a professed believer, he already knows what he is doing is wrong. Somehow he has justified to himself that it is not that bad; besides, he knows that lots of other male believers do the same thing.

The approach here in allowing God to be God is very much the same as in the first illustration. Before confronting your husband, you must pray, read God's Word, put the situation totally in God's hands, and trust Him for the outcome no matter what happens. Then do what God shows you to do and say what He would have you to say.

The Holy Spirit does not always direct people in the same manner in similar situations. So don't try to seek advice from others first; instead seek God first and He will show you what you should do next. We must allow God to be God in every situation and seek Him first before taking action. He knows the truth about every circumstance.

Just because God showed you what to do in your situation does not necessarily mean it will work for someone else. They must also get

before God as you did and let Him direct their actions and words for their situation.

Once God shows you what to do, you just do it. Don't question Him and don't argue with Him. If you don't do what God shows you the outcome will not be what God would have chosen and things may end up unresolved or worse.

You are not responsible for the outcome for any circumstance or situation that you have turned over to God. God is responsible for the outcome. Therefore you have no right to worry about possible outcomes when He shows you what to do. You step out in faith and just do it.

Follow this same pattern for each challenging situation you encounter in life. You must disengage from your emotions and not let them control your mind or behavior. This is why you must pray and read the Word first. You must get to the place of peace before you move forward.

You must spend enough time with God until your emotions are out of the way and you have the peace of God. It does not matter if you have to pray and be in the Word for the whole day. Stay with it until you have peace.

Illustration #3: You are in your last year of high school and don't have a clue what to do when you graduate. You could go to college, but you don't know what you want to do for a living. You are thinking maybe you will just get a job, move out on your own and see what happens.

How do you let God be God in this situation? Well, if you have given up the right to yourself to Jesus, you know that God has a definite, specific plan for you. If His plan is not clear to you then you first need to spend time in prayer and in the Word until it is clear and you know the next right thing to do.

God will never leave us without direction. He wants to guide our every step toward His will and purpose for our lives. The question to ask yourself is "Have I been listening to and

following His direction?" Am I letting Him be God?

God prepares us and makes us fit to carry out His plan. If you circumvent His preparation by doing things your own way, you will eventually hit a spiritual brick wall. You will be out of His will and you will experience the consequences of that spiritual state.

God may not want you to move out on your own just yet. He may show you some areas in your spiritual life that need to line up with His Word. Once your life is submitted and you are willing to do whatever He shows you, then His direction will unfold one step at a time.

You might not see the next step until you take the first step. The steps you take are the actual fulfilling of His plan for your life. Life is just a series of steps, each one being taken according to God's direction for the moment.

Hindrances

What are some of the common hindrances to letting God be God? I believe the most common is the inability to trust God. You can't let God be God if you don't really trust Him.

You may think you trust God, but if you find yourself stepping in and taking things into your own hands when things happen or when you are unsure, you don't really trust Him.

Resist with all your might the temptation to be God over your own life. That is what Satan wants you to do. God has a lot of experience at being God and He does it perfectly, so let Him be God! Don't take matters into your own hands. Be patient and seek the Holy Spirit's guidance for the next right thing to do.

After you obey God, if you become filled with fear, doubt, worry, or stress, you are not trusting God with the outcome. If you have a trust issue with God, read the lesson "Trusting God" and be sure you are living that truth.

A second common hindrance to letting God be God is pride. We think we can handle events ourselves, so we don't need to bother God except when we face really difficult situations.

We want to show God and others that we can do it ourselves; that we have what it takes to do whatever we put our mind to; that we can make things happen and we like the feeling and satisfaction that come as a result of taking control.

God wants to be God in everything, not just the difficult situations. We must let God manage every area of our lives, every day, all day. Then we can be assured we are constantly in His will.

You may have handled a similar situation before, or maybe you have read about it or talked to so-and-so. Either way, God will often see to it that He upsets your little program or plans so that you learn to depend on Him entirely. Anytime you receive ideas from other resources or other people, make sure you bring those before God and He will show you if that is the right way.

Always look to God first so that He has the freedom in your life to direct your steps and be God over all in your life. Stop leaning on your own understanding and learn to lean on Him entirely.



Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Another hindrance is spiritual laziness. We often do not make time to spend with God in prayer and in His Word. We can be extremely busy from a worldly perspective and still be spiritual slugs.

There is no other way to communicate with God outside of prayer and His Word. You will find yourself outside His will often when you don't spend time with Him. You will have a hard time letting Him be God in your life.

You will never find time for God, you must make time. You must take time away from other things. If you say God is the most important thing in your life, but you don't make time for Him, you are living a lie.

This discipline of prayer and reading the Word is critical. Without it you will soon stop following Jesus. Make time for God, not excuses.



One Step for Living This Truth

Next we will suggest the specific action steps you can take to allow the truth taught in this lesson to be lived in your own personal life.

You only have to do these steps to master this lesson. Your focus and effort should be to make sure you consistently and persistently do the steps as directed. The goal is to make sure you are living this truth before you go on to the next truth.

It is very important that we begin to learn how to let God be God in our lives in every situation and event that comes our way. This discipline is one of the hardest to learn to live, yet it is the one that will bring the greatest spiritual transformation in your life.

ACTION STEPS

Spend at least 30 minutes each day with God in prayer and in His Word, focusing on giving up the right to yourself and letting Him be God in your life.

Read these action steps daily to remind you of what you need to do. They will help keep you on track.

Keep a watch on your behavior and emotions throughout the day. Whenever you begin experiencing stress, fear, doubt or worry, take a prayer break. See if you are letting God have His way and that you are trusting Him.

When you find yourself in these situations, reaffirm your trust in God and your desire for Him to be God. Then let it go and give it to Him completely until your peace returns.

If something seems to be standing in your way or things are not the way you think they should be, pull back and let God step in and engineer in that situation. Take a prayer break.

When you have peace in the situation, ask the Holy Spirit to show you what to do next and just do what He shows you to do. No questioning or debating with God.

Trust God with whatever the outcome is, no matter what. If you do not have peace about the outcome, you need to stop and spend whatever time is necessary to receive His peace and trust Him through that situation.

You will have completed this lesson when you are finding yourself more and more letting God be God. If you are experiencing more joy and peace and less fear, doubt, worry and stress, you can move on to the next lesson.

If after completing this lesson, you find yourself falling back from letting

God be God, just come back to this lesson and work on this truth.

Continue to read a chapter in the Gospels and the Letters each day.

As you continue to practice living this truth, you may need to come back to this lesson often. Don't be in a rush to start the next lesson.

Remember, the most common problem with Christians today is that they know many truths about the Christian life, but are not living them consistently. Make sure you are solidly living this truth before attempting to tackle the next one.

Bumper Sticker Summary

Learn to trust God and let Him be God in your life. Acknowledge Him and He will direct your steps. Don't be concerned about the outcome. The outcome belongs to God. Just do the next right thing He shows you to do and trust the outcome to Him.