

Who is at the Controls?

By Allen Webster

If life is a flight through time, who is in the cockpit?

If life is a joyride, who is behind the wheel?

If life is a voyage, who is at the helm?

Decisions determine direction (Joshua 24:15). Direction determines destiny (Matthew 7:13–14). Will we ascend or descend at the judgment? It depends on who makes our decisions.

ME

Frank Sinatra's song "I Did It My Way" is often requested at funerals. From the beginning of adult life to the end of it, many say, "I make my own choices—nobody tells me what to do."

Bible examples abound of those who had self on life's throne. Note the personal pronouns of a certain rich man:

What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops? So he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry' " (Luke 12:17–19).

God called him a fool (Luke 12:20). Another rich man had the "me" philosophy and awoke in torments (Luke 16:23).

Self-will took Nebuchadnezzar from his throne (Daniel 4:30–37) and kept Moses from Canaan (Numbers 20:8–12). Felix trembled at the thought of giving control to Christ (Acts 24:25); Agrippa came close to handing over the reins, but not close enough (Acts 26:28). The prodigal is not the only young man who has let such thinking take him to the far country and into the pigpen of sin (Luke 15:11–32).

We will never be able to pull ourselves from the mire into which sin has sunk us. The man who says he is in control of his life is mistaken. The devil allows him to think so, but serving self is sacrificing at Satan's altar. There are no free men in sin's death camp (Romans 6:17, 23).

When we were young, our fathers may have allowed us to "drive" in the driveway while sitting in their laps. We felt we were in control, but if the car veered, Dad quickly took over. Many are sitting in Satan's lap, "steering" their lives to a lake of fire. "Me" is not a safe guide for life (Proverbs 14:12; Jeremiah 10:23).

MEN

Others allow public opinion to make their decisions. How many should make Saul's confession? "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice" (1 Samuel 15:24).

Adam gave in to Eve and let forbidden fruit get him into a jam (Genesis 3:6). Abraham feared Abimelech enough to tell a lie (Genesis 20:11). Aaron made a golden calf at public demand (Exodus 32:21–24).

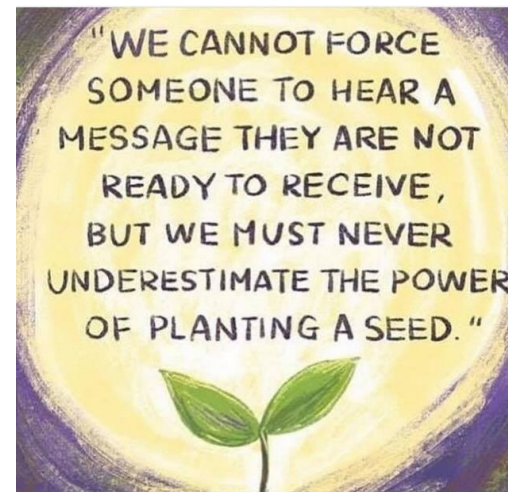
(continued next week)

Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Melinda Abraham is seeing a neurologist in Branson about her health problems. He thinks it is her thyroid that has a nodule. She will have an EEG test and wear a heart monitor.
- ◆ John and Melinda will move Dylan to Harding University Wednesday.
- ◆ Ricky Langston had successful surgery to remove his thyroid. He will take cancer treatments for it.
- ◆ Cadyn Deakins will have her second hip surgery September 3rd.
- ◆ Lyndell Strong fell again last week and had to go back to rehab.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Larry Butler, Aleta Collins, Lloyd Ellis, Ruth Strain, Coe Hamm, Vicki Boland.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Dale Strong, Terry Pennington, Pat McKaig, Ricky Langston, Tiffany Pleasant, Donna Shipley, Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Jana Crisp, Sharon Fox, Bill Agee, Dan Harvey.
- ◆ GHCC: Virginia Hambelton, Delphia Holmes, Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Wilbern Uchtman at Brook Haven.
- ◆ Homebound: Vernon James, Steve Siebels, Mary Piepergerdes.

Blessings

- ◆ Lisa Goodnight's brain tumor was benign and was removed successfully. She is out of the hospital staying with a friend in Arkansas.
- ◆ Bill Cockrum has less pain after back surgery.



Birthdays		Anniversaries	
8-9	Paul Wade	8-29	Bill and Aleta Collins (66)
8-10	Lisa Goodnight	8-29	Chuck and Amy Myers (34)
8-12	Gunner Hambelton	8-30	Hope and Corey Hillhouse (23)
8-18	Marsha Crisp		
8-22	John Hill		

Date	Event	Details
Sunday, Aug. 16 after service	Basket Dinner before Nursing Home singing and devotional 1:30	Stay to eat first then meet in GHCC party room, 200 hall.
Sunday, Oct. 18, after service	Basket Dinner before Nursing Home singing and devotional 1:30	Stay to eat first then meet in GHCC party room, 200 hall.



August Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

8-2	David Stevens
8-9	John Abraham
8-16	Mark Lane
8-23	Don Luna
8-30	David Stevens

Communion & Closing Prayer

Dana Crisp
Matt Kyle
Titus Smith
Halbert Smith
Waylon Strong

Song Leader: Dylan Abraham
Greeters: Don and Barbara Luna

The Family News

August 9, 2026

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: ***The Sermon of All Sermons***

Wednesday

7 p.m. Bible Classes for all ages

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up front

#774, *Hide Me, Rock of Ages*; #548, *The Lily of the Valley*

#315, *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*; Communion Service

#587, *Sing and Be Happy*

Sermon and Invitation

#915, *Trust and Obey*

#490, *It Is Well with My Soul*; Closing Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

Elders

Mark Lane	417-679-4835
Don Luna	417-712-1945
David Stevens	417-679-4700
John Abraham	870-421-5632

Deacons

Dana Crisp	417-331-5090
James Langston	870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith	417-257-3880
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Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us