

The Illusion of Control

Scripture: Proverbs 3:5-6, Colossians 1:16-17, Psalm 139:1-6

1. **The illusion of control tells us we can trust self, more than God – Proverbs 3:5-6**
 - *Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

2. **The illusion of control tells us we are more powerful than God – Colossians 1:16-17**

3. **The illusion of control tells us we know better than God – Psalm 139:1-6**
 - a. **His Knowledge –**
 - *Psalm 139:1-6 You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.*
 - b. **His awareness –**
 - *Psalm 33:13-15 From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind; from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth—he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.*
 - c. **His involvement –**
 - *Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

ONE THING

Memorize Romans 8:28:

1. And **we know** (all things contribute to working our salvation) that
2. **in all things** (triumph's and trials)
3. **God** (All powerful most high)
4. **works for the good** (the process of making us like Jesus) of
5. **those who love him**, (heart, soul, mind and strength)
6. **who have been called according to his purpose** (appointed according to His purpose)

At Home Study Guide

For the week of February 28, 2021

It's tough to live an eternally focused life in a world that's not the way it is supposed to be. There is an honest tension between what we already have in Christ, and what we hope for in the new heavens and new earth. Through this series we hope you will gain confidence in God live strong through the difficulties of this world.

1. Do you know what's going to happen tomorrow? James asks that question in James 4:13-17. Read that passage, reflect on and talk about whether you make plans with God in mind or not.
2. James seems to say that planning is a form of boasting when we forget that our lives are brief and not under our control, but only under God's control. How have you been challenged by your lack of control and the brevity of life?
3. What would change in your perspective on life if you thought or said "God willing" before you spoke about any plans that you made? What does God want you to do that you haven't done?

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