

6 control

Control is an illusion. What we really want is an understanding on how to be free. When our internal self-control is missing our external control takes over. **Hope replaces control.** Not talking about healthy control or self-control. Unhealthy control is manipulating people or situations. Manipulating is a pretty good indication I'm feeling helpless, insecure and not trusting God. **You're not created to control. Faith, hope, love and worship all replace your need for control.** They support a healthy internal structure for self-control. We're going to briefly look at these 4 areas, but focus on hope. **You're created to worship and to love.** They replace control and position you to trust. Putting your hands up high to God is a child like posture that says, "God I want You to hold me." Living in love and without fear means living like a secure, contented child who truly trusts his parent. The wonderful thing about God is that even when we couldn't trust our parents, we can be healed experientially through our relationship with Jesus. He loves us like a mother hen! ***How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings.*** **Luke 13:34 NLT.** God is as feminine as He is masculine. He cares about you.

You're created to walk in faith. Faith is like a muscle. It needs to be exercised. The paradox of faith is that although you need to exercise it, faith is not a struggle. It is a rest. Keep pressing through the doubts and obstacles that cause unbelief. How many of you know that sometimes you have to press through conflicting emotions before entering that place of rest? Don't let the devil keep you in deceit. The only power he has over you is a lie. ***Matt 11:28-30 Message: "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."*** God is in control but He doesn't exert control because it's not His nature. He just creates the rhythms of life by His nature of Love.

You're created to hope. Hope and faith work together, but they are different. I was dealing with an issue with my husband that was causing me to feel helpless and really hopeless. It's not even that I wanted to control anything, but I sure didn't feel like God was in control. I was feeling like my husband was in control

and I was mad about it. Putting ourselves at the mercy of other people and not God is idolatry. I was separating myself from God. Whether you're controlling or being controlled, both lead to idolatry. Because they both say, "God I know better than You."

I knew my attitude was bad and I didn't care. Then I felt badly that I felt bad. My badness 'felt' greater than God's goodness. I knew I was hurting God by doubting His ability to come through. I felt so separated from God. I knew He was grieved by what I was going through. He was hurt for me and by me. He felt badly I didn't trust Him. Although this process was painful, I want to be in constant communion with God even when it meant conflict. **Don't stay stuck in an issue, but stick with the issue and stay with God until you have resolve.** Let stumbling blocks become stepping stones to your breakthrough.

Push through prayer. Pastor Jürgen wrote a book called PUSH – pray until something happens. The change that happened for me was not in my circumstances but what was in my heart. He restored my hope. Not in the circumstances but in Him. I had to press into the storm of my pain to reach God. He was with me all along. The very nanosecond that I confessed, God happily forgave me and restored me to Him. He is so happy when we see, understand, confess and come back to Him.

God restored my hope. The real issue wasn't the issue, but rather my lack of hope. I was letting in a spirit of hopelessness and had to see it and stop it. When you open the door to one spirit, it always has other friends. Along with hopelessness, in walked defeat, despair, depression, and anger. Admit it, quit it, beat it. Hope has friends, too. In walked peace, joy, confidence and trust. My hope is in Him, not my emotions or circumstances. ***"Faith is the confidence that what we HOPE for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see."* Hebrews 11:1 NLT.** Faith is trust while hope is desire. Now replace this verse with these words: ***"Trust is the confidence that what we DESIRE will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see."***

I had to walk through a huge spiritual storm to really get clarity and hold on to my hope. I realized that I needed to define my surroundings and not let my surroundings define me. By faith we inherit promises. Don't be passive. Be pro active. Don't let your surroundings define you. You define your surroundings by Godly hope. Hope against hope that has joyful expectation in God.

Restoring my hope restored my internal well-being and self-control. I got my power back. . Bill Johnson pastor of Bethel Church in Redding says, "Often we don't understand the process God is bringing us through. Sometimes the anointing for the breakthrough of a spiritual solution is found in a natural answer to prayer. We don't understand the process. We can't be trusted to dissect our life well enough to know how God is going to bring us into the breakthrough we long for. All of God's answers to prayer, all of His fulfillment of dreams and desires, all of the satisfaction we receive in life that we were actually born for... they all reveal God. That's the big cry in the earth: that the Father would be known for Who He is. We owe people a life that is extreme in hope."

This is the kind of hope that breaks down every stronghold that control has in your life. Worldly hope is a wish. Biblical hope means the joyful anticipation of God's good. I'm sitting on the edge of my seat beside myself with joy! This hope creates an atmosphere that faith grows in. It is an atmosphere that actually attracts the promises of God. **Heb 6:12 NLT: "Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance."** This doesn't mean faith helps you to have promises fulfilled. Abiding faith attracts promises from God you wouldn't get otherwise. Because God's a good steward. He wants your soil to be fertile with hope so seeds of faith produce promises and miracles you'd never expect. He plants into healthy environments. A heart of hope is a healthy environment. It's hope against hope.

Bill Johnson continues, "Divine hope consumes natural hope. It's hard to keep natural hope alive with so many negative situations around. You have to constantly psyche yourself up emotionally and mentally to stay positive about so many negative situations. But when you've heard God speak, when you have a word from God, holding to that Word becomes a life source. Get alone with God with the promise, with the crisis, with the situation. Sometimes you need to pray, sometimes you need to listen, sometimes you need to just do a lot of worshipping. It's gathering together over this that God desires to be birthed in the earth. Hope becomes the womb that a legacy is born out of. You are here for more than just yourself."

"And so, Lord, where do I put my hope? My only hope is in you."
Psalm 39:7 NLT. Hope against hope is when natural hope that has limitations

gets swallowed up by divine hope that knows no limitations. It is moving from a positive attitude on life to seeing prophetically the purposes and plans of God and I am one of the instruments that helps to bring about what God is planning to do on this earth. You are God's instrument that brings about God's plan on this earth. Get rid of the hopelessness. You define your surroundings. Define your surroundings by your hope in God. My prayer is that God, give you a Word today that becomes a Life source.