



Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

Sharing the gospel & Christ's love

with those in corrections since 1982

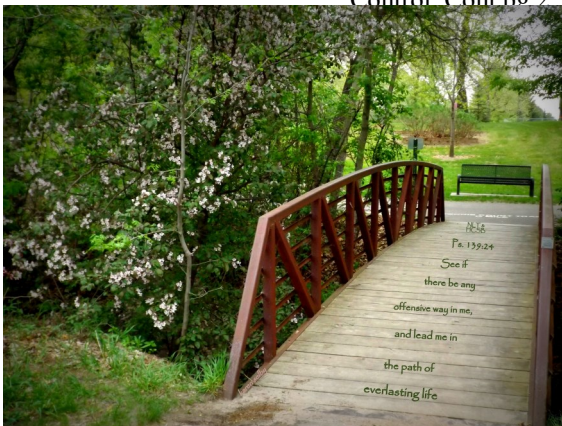
Problem Thinking & the Lord's Healing: Who is in Control?

Control is an interesting aspect of life. It seems a nebulous concept, yet it affects everything, impacting almost every situation and relationship in life. People in charge make decisions which affect others' lives and their decisions. Reviewing scriptures on it opens up our understanding of what it means to come under or to be in control. Who or what controls situations, and how we can choose to come under the control of God's love are two main concepts we will discuss here.

Because the Holy Spirit is in control but not controlling, He gives what is wonderful and allows us to accept or reject it. Rejecting it leaves us empty and operating under negative influences; accepting it allows us to see and operate in light and truth with results producing fruits of the spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control.

Sometimes His presence is shown to us in a strong way, feeling heavy like a warm blanket, or physical peace or energy with visible results such as healing. Some-

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February 29, 2016 Newsletter

MEC Spotlight

We say "Thank You" to **Leon Jaynes** for his years of ministry in the jails. Leon has been a volunteer with MEC for over ten years, active at the Anoka County Jail and the Workhouse/Workrelease.



He has found favor with the correctional officers who have allowed his services to run long several times. This is unusual and we know it is the work of the Holy Spirit.

When asked to share what he learned or what meant the most to him, Leon related this, "One time I was driving a coach bus and stopped at the Anoka County Court house. I opened the door and a young lady, Jackie, came running up to me and hugged me. She said, "Thank you, it was you and people like you who taught me to live for Christ instead of myself." Jackie was going to receive the one year medallion-for being free of alcohol. ...She gave the credit to all the volunteers who faithfully come in to the jails, to teach people there how to apply the Word of God to make life changes. That one report made the whole year worthwhile for me!"

Another story from Leon is this.

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times it is slower, with-gradual realizations where learning develops and allows us progress in our spiritual and emotional development.. In the long run what counts is walking with Him, agreeing, believing, cooperating, continuing making changes and living with and in Him so that goodness and love result. As we do our desires change and more of them are granted. "If you abide/remain in me and my words abide in you, you can ask what you will and it will be done onto/for you.

(Jn. 15:7)



Learning to Abide in Him brings rest and peace.

To help us understand what control means there are several words from different Bible versions which we can look at. Here are a few. Give, take,

authority, submit, master, composure, rule, restrain, continence, endurance and possession.

A survey of the verses shows several options for who is in control at various times. Some of these names reflect the same force.

The negative or life draining forces who want to control are Enemies (Matt 22, Ps 110, Acts 2, I Cor. 15), demons or no one (Mk. 5, Rev. 15), evil spirit (Lk. 8), satan (Acts 26) dark spiritual forces (Eph. 6), people's possessions, words, or lies (Ananias & Sapphirah Acts 5) shameful passions, immoral minds, (Rom. 1) sin, (Rom. 6, Gal. 3 & 4,) sinful nature (Rom. 8), human nature (Rom. 8), anything (I Cor. 6) so called or false believers/brothers – spies who want to control and take away freedom, (Gal. 2) and spiritual forces, (Eph. 6) selfish desires, (Jas. 4).

The positive life giving forces that overcome the darkness are the here: The LORD (Matt. 22, Ps. 110, Acts 2, I Cor. 15), Christ, (Eph. 1) Messiah, (see vs for LORD), Jesus, (Jn.12), God (Acts 26), Forces which control the heavens, celestial powers (Matt 24, Lk 21, I Cor. 15), servant entrusted to control the household, (can act positively or negatively

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Spotlight from page 1

"During a Bible study, there was an inmate present who was so big and wide he looked like he could be a professional football player. He just glared at me throughout the study, until I started to explain the power of the blood. [When I talked about what Jesus shedding His blood meant for us, what it accomplished for buying our sin, forgiveness, redemption and the power to change], Then his whole countenance changed. Afterward, he came up to me and gave me a big hug and told me to keep on preaching it like it is!"

Leon feels that doing jail ministry gave him "a greater sense of sharing the gospel in a small group setting and on a one to one basis." He mentored Joe Edgarton who has become a volunteer through MEC, and brought Debra Nelson on board.

The Jaynes ask for prayer for healing for his wife, Earlene and to be able to start a Bible study in his new home in the MacGregor area. They want to open their home to those who want to seek God's love in a deeper way.

Sandy Hanson



Ministry Friends

We know that we are not alone in Ministry.

This month MEC's shout-out is to

Arise Ministries

Faith, Hope & Direction for At Risk Teens.

<http://www.ariseministriesinc.org/ss/live/>

Arise provides incarcerated teens with Bible studies and Sunday worship services, mentoring, and follow up.

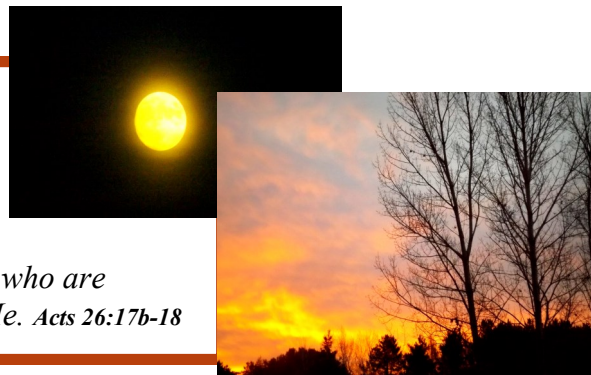
P.O. Box 9130 St. Paul, MN 55109

Phone: 651-332-1042

◇ *In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." - Luke 15:10 HCSB*

◇
◇ We are rejoicing with the angels today. Jim (name changed) was very heavy in the meth world, dealing, causing harm and being in danger for many people for many years. While incarcerated his sentencing has dragged out. He has been considering leaving the operations of darkness and following Jesus for many weeks, saying he does not want to go back to that ◇ world, and expressing doubt that he could be free from it. We have seen growth in his Spirit and attitude. In the last few days he encountered Christ through the Holy Spirit in a new way. God then sent two strong trials, one involving a relationship that needed to be severed and another when someone living a life reflecting his was housed in the same cell. This man's influence could have helped him if Jim returned to the old places. Just as soon as he recognized that he realized he did not want it. Thank God for that, the relief of that and protection that he needs being around others who are not following Christ. Pray for him in the battle for his life. Younger men are looking up to and listening to Jim. Even though two weeks ago he did not want to, today Jim was willing and prayed out loud to our Lord. Pray that the lies of the world are dispelled and that the Goodness of God is known to him and other inmates

I am sending you to them to open their eyes that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God's people who are consecrated and purified by faith in Me. Acts 26:17b-18



Control Cont from pg 2 Matt. 24), Righteousness (Rom. 6), The [Holy] Spirit (Rom. 8), God's power to raise both the body and the spirit from death (Rom. 8) free from human control, the law and people but then able to subject himself for good, (I Cor. 9, Gal 3 & 4) God's natural laws, (both + & -), faith (Gal. 3) Belief in Jesus, freedom and heirs as His children, Gods laws (Gal. 4) Spiritual forces, armor of God (Eph. 6), peace of the Messiah (Col.3)

Giving control to someone is often viewed as a negative, but knowing God's love makes it a positive. Christ's redemption allows us to replace the control of our old nature with the new. 2 Cor. 5:17 says, "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! (NLT) Next month we will be discussing ways to come under God's control and experience more of His love. *In Him, Karen Selby*

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