

# Running Light: Control

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When we try to manage and control of our lives, we are not letting God control our lives.

Areas of control (modern idolatry): Money, power, sexuality, guilt and shame.

**Question:** What area of control have you seen most?

Another area of control is religion: an attempt to control our lives and actually control God.

“Christianity is not primarily a plan of protection against the brokenness of the world but a relationship with Christ in the midst of it.” Jon Tyson

When our image of God gets distorted, our image of people is distorted as well.

**Questions:** What does it look like to relate to God as a genie in a bottle, granting our wish? Have you ever looked at God this way? What changed?

1 Samuel 13:10-14

Ultimately Saul was trying to control God but specifically he was controlling God’s timing.

A couple of areas God often says to “wait”:

1. finances
2. relationships

**Questions:** What are some other areas God says to wait? What are the consequences of not waiting in these areas?

When we take things into our own hands, we take them out of God’s hands.

Galatians 6:9

God wants to bless us but He has a plan and timing.

1 Samuel 15:20-23

“Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams ...”

Worship is easy. Submission is hard.

**Questions:** Is this statement true? How has your experience in life supported this or how it hasn’t?

Going through the motions of worship is dangerous. It creates the illusion of discipleship without the cost of obedience. (Paraphrase of Jon Tyson)

Matthew 6:10; Luke 22:42 Jesus’ teaching and example in prayer shows submission.

Luke 1:38 Mary exemplified surrender.

**Questions:** What do you need to put back into God’s hands? What justifications and excuses do you need to kill? What ideas, plans and opinions do you need to surrender?

