

WHEN LIFE FEELS OUT OF CONTROL

SERMON NOTES:

Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping.

— **Matthew 26:38-40 (NIV)**

The Illusion of Control: The cognitive bias that leads us to believe we have control over outcome when in reality we don't.

He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

— **Matthew 26:42 (NIV)**

You don't always have the power to control, but you always have the power to surrender.

Moralistic Therapeutic Deism

Moralistic—Equates religion with being good, moral, and nice

Therapeutic—Faith is a means to improve your life

Deism—God is real but not involved unless you really need him

Hope City

A mostly uninvolved God exists to make our lives better.

What are you trying to control that you need to surrender?

“My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

— **Matthew 26:39 (NIV)**

Real faith starts between the IF and the YET.

If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.

— **Matthew 10:39 (NLT)**

God can do way more with your surrender than you can do with your control.

DISCUSSION GUIDE:

1. Do you struggle with control? Explain.
2. What areas of your life do you need to surrender?
3. How can you pray more dangerous prayers?
4. Do you struggle with total surrender? Explain.
5. What practical steps can you take this week to surrender what you need to surrender to God?